



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION REPORT WWF Board Meeting - December 8th, 2007

FARM BILL STUCK IN THE MUD

Just before Thanksgiving, by a vote of 55-42, the Senate failed to invoke cloture on the Farm Bill. The cloture motion, which required 60 votes, would have allowed debate and votes on relevant amendments to the Farm Bill without further delay.

After two weeks of discussing the Farm Bill, without voting on any of the nearly 300 amendments proposed to the bill, Democratic and Republican leaders in the Senate could not reach agreement on which amendments to allow to be voted on during Farm Bill consideration.

The Farm Bill that was advanced by the Senate Agriculture Committee would make very important strides in addressing key conservation issues and programs, but we believe the full Senate needs to adopt amendments that improve both the policy and the funding provisions with respect to conservation and energy.

The Senate will have only a few weeks left before year-end when it returns. Continued delay of the Farm Bill will make it difficult to complete action on the Farm Bill by the end of this year, because the Senate Farm Bill -- when finally passed -- must be merged with the House Farm Bill passed in July.

Delay will likely lead to calls to simply extend the 2002 Farm Bill, and NWF believes that would be bad news for wildlife.

NEW REPORT SUGGEST WATER COMPACT NEEDED TO SLOW DOWN CLIMATE CHANGE

A new report by NWF and sponsored by seven affiliates, including WWF, synthesizes the latest peer-reviewed science on climate change impacts to the Great Lakes and examines current legal framework for protecting the Lakes. The report finds that the swift passage of the Great Lakes Water Compact is essential in light of the threat climate change poses.

The report comes as water shortages around the United States are increasing due to both insufficient water conservation policy and drought conditions, and as the specter of water diversion out of the Great Lakes has propelled the issue into the 2008 Presidential campaign. Please contact me if you would like a full copy of the report.

WRDA ENACTED

A few weeks ago, the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 was enacted through a veto override by Congress. WRDA provides new and amended authorities to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for water resources projects and studies. Below are a few items included in WRDA that are of interest to the Great Lakes:

- Asian Carp Barrier - authority to complete permanent barrier and retrofit the demonstration barrier as a single project operated at federal cost
- Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration - amends authority for \$100 million of projects to restore fishery habitat and beneficial uses
- Great Lakes Tributary Model - reauthorizes program to develop watershed models to assist planning of soil conservation and pollution prevention
- Sault Saint Marie, MI - authorizes construction of a replacement lock at the Soo at full federal cost

It must be emphasized that WRDA only provides the authority to do projects or studies. Funding for projects must also be provided through the annual Energy & Water Appropriations.

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