

# Federal Parks & Recreation

Editor: James B. Coffin  
Subscription Services: Gerrie Castaldo

Volume 31 Number 15, July 26, 2013

In this issue. . .

**House DoI panel seeks deep cuts.**

*FY 2014 money bill would chop 14 percent off FY 2013, net, net. Conservation programs zeroed out. NPS operations about the same. Fire receives major boost... Page 1*

**Senate debates future NPS money.**

*Panel members suggest LWCF reform, endowment. Coburn says no new parks without money..... Page 5*

**Blueways program at a 'pause.'**

*In face of fierce GOP criticism Jewell calls a temporary halt. No consultation charged..... Page 7*

**House bill backs state LWCF share.**

*Bipartisan measure would require at least 40 percent to state side. Most money now goes fed'l... Page 8*

**Jewell endorses outdoor programs.**

*In first meeting with House she backs LWCF, FLREA extension and renewal of FLTFA..... Page 9*

**Ike Memorial: Up two and back one.**

*House subcommittee would cut off money, following two events that support existing proposal... Page 11*

**Sportsmen's access bill revived.**

*Murkowski would give fed land edge to hunting, fishing..... Page 13*

**Mead criticizes park haze rule.**

*Says EPA proposal for Class I areas could cost millions... Page 13*

**Notes..... Page 14**

**Boxscore of Legislation..... Page 17**

## House DoI subcommittee money bill takes ax to outdoors

Despite a threatened Democratic boycott, the House subcommittee on Interior appropriations July 23 approved a fiscal year 2014 money bill that would reduce spending overall on natural resource programs by 14 percent. That is compared to a fiscal 2013 appropriations bill that includes sequestration reductions.

The subcommittee bill, which has next to no chance of enactment as is, would eliminate spending for many conservation programs, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and state wildlife conservation grants. And it would greatly reduce spending for the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

A subcommittee staff member said the bill "could possibly" go to the full committee next week.

The House Appropriations Committee says the measure, prepared by subcommittee chairman Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), would allocate enough money to Park Service operations to "ensure that every National park will remain open and operational next year." The bill would do that by appropriating \$24 million more than the fiscal 2013 level for NPS operations, counting sequestration.

Despite the survival funding for the parks, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) said the bill would harm the system. "The subcommittee leadership deserves credit for highlighting the critical need for operations funds," said Craig Obey, NPCA senior vice president for government affairs. "But the facts are inescapable that the funding level provided is

barely sufficient to maintain the parks in their present, budget-depleted state."

Ranking subcommittee Democrat Jim Moran (Va.) led the threatened boycott and refused to participate in the committee mark-up in protest. He said the spending ceiling for the bill set by the full appropriations committee was too low.

"As a result of that allocation, the bill before us today is unacceptable," he said in opening remarks. "How can we take seriously a document that zeros out many important programs? By our count 20 programs and agencies are zeroed out. Coming on top of the fiscal year 2013 Sequester this bill, if enacted, would do real damage to scores of programs." (*See the list of eliminated programs below.*)

But Moran said some users of the public lands were well taken care of. "One area there seems to be no shortage of in the bill is the special interest riders and funding limitations. The polluters, grazers, and snowmobilers are taken care of. These sorts of provisions have become the new earmarks. By our count there are 31 such special interest provisions in the bill, with 13 of them being new this year, and all of them harmful to our environment."

But Simpson said the fiscal year 2014 Congressional budget gave him no wiggle room. "In order to fund critical 'must-do' priorities, like human health, public safety, and treaty obligations and responsibilities, we've had to reduce and even terminate some programs that are popular with both Members of Congress and the American people," he said. "Within challenging budget constraints, we've focused on providing adequate funding to fight and prevent wildfires, making sure our national parks stay open, and meeting our trust responsibilities to American Indians."

Simpson acknowledged he would be criticized, but blamed the national budgetary squeeze on mandatory federal spending, i.e. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. "I fully expect to take a lot of heat over some of these

decisions," he said, "but my intent is to show what happens when Congress allows mandatory funding to grow and grow and places the burden of cutting solely on the discretionary side."

He was right about taking the heat. "You can't question the math," said Frank Hugelmeyer, president of the Outdoor Industry Association. "The spending bill proposes more than \$5 billion in cuts to our nation's public lands and waters. However, consumer spending on outdoor recreation directly generates \$80 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue. It simply does not make sense to cut funding for programs that generate a return for the local and national economy."

The subcommittee did come up with an extra \$1.5 billion in emergency fire-fighting money by rescinding a stimulus program called Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing. The \$1.5 billion is in addition to the \$24.3 billion in regular spending in the bill.

As always the Interior bill is being considered late in the appropriations cycle because of disputes over EPA regulations, offshore energy development, potential riders on everything from snowmobiles to federal grazing permits, and, finally, conservation spending.

At bottom lies a spending cap disagreement between House Republicans and Senate Democrats. The House Appropriations Committee has allocated \$24.3 billion to the Interior bill, or \$5.8 billion less than the \$30.1 billion the Senate Appropriations Committee has set aside.

Given the great disparity between the House and Senate and the number and size of controversies in the legislation, neither body is likely to pass an appropriations bill this year. If so, a continuing resolution would be required to generate money to keep the government in money.

As for the Senate Appropriations Committee, it is faced with the same climate change controversy as the House committee. That is, Republican

senators will almost surely use the bill as a vehicle to attack the Obama administration's aggressive climate change policy that consists primarily of tough new regulations.

So subcommittee on Interior chairman Jack Reed (D-R.I.) is expected to at most follow his strategy of last year and simply post a discussion draft bill in September and hope a continuing resolution keeps his agencies in money.

**SPENDING:** Here are a few of the numbers in the House subcommittee bill compared to fiscal 2012, the last year a detailed spending bill was completed (fiscal 2013 spending levels roughly track fiscal 2012, minus 5.5 percent for sequestration. The following numbers don't account for sequestration):

\* LWCF FEDERAL: For federal acquisition the subcommittee would provide no money. Fiscal 2012, \$186.7 million (BLM \$22.4 million, Fish and Wildlife Service \$54.7 million, NPS \$57 million and FS \$52.6 million).

\* LWCF STATE: For state grants the subcommittee would provide no money, compared to a fiscal 2012 appropriation of \$45 million.

\* STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS: The subcommittee would provide no money, compared to a fiscal 2012 appropriation of \$61.3 million.

\* HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND: The subcommittee would provide \$45.3 million, or almost \$11 million less than the \$56 million in fiscal 2012.

\* NPS OPERATIONS: The subcommittee would provide \$2.121 billion, or almost \$20 million less than the \$2.240 billion of fiscal 2012.

\* NPS REC AND PRES: The subcommittee would provide \$48.5 million, or \$11 million less than the fiscal 2012 appropriation of \$60 million.

\* NPS CONSTRUCTION: The subcommittee would provide \$106.3 million, or \$53.3 million less than the fiscal 2012 appropriations of \$159.6 million.

\* FWS: For operation of the Fish and Wildlife Service the subcommittee would provide \$999.1 million, or \$227 million less than a fiscal 2012 appropriation of \$1.226 billion.

\* FOREST SERVICE: For the National Forest System the subcommittee would provide \$1,495,484,000, or \$59 million less than a fiscal 2012 appropriation of \$1,554,137,000.

\* BLM LAND AND RESOURCES: For management of BLM lands the subcommittee would provide \$893 million, or \$67 million less than a \$960 million appropriation in fiscal 2012.

\* FIRE FIGHTING: Because of emergency spending and other contingencies it is not clear what the final fiscal 2012 number is. What is clear is the subcommittee in fiscal 2014 would appropriate a substantial amount of money for fire fighting, a total of \$4.08 billion.

Among the breakouts for the Forest Service are \$1.613 billion for fire suppression and prevention and \$315 million for an emergency account called FLAME. For the Interior Department the subcommittee would provide \$493 million for suppression and prevention and \$92 million for the emergency FLAME account.

**RIDERS:** Here are a few of the riders in the House subcommittee bill:

\* FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS ACT (FLREA): The subcommittee would extend the existing recreation fee law one year through Dec. 8, 2015. That presumably would give authorizing committees time to prepare legislation to extend or replace FLREA for an extended time. Section 430. (See *related article page 9.*)

\* STATUE OF LIBERTY ACCESS: The subcommittee would authorize NPS to acquire lands in New York and New Jersey to use for providing transportation to the Ellis, Governors and Liberty Islands in New York Harbor. Section 105.

\* OCEANS: The subcommittee would block implementation of a National Oceans Policy proposed by the Obama

administration. House Republicans argue the administration policy would lead to zoning of the ocean and a decrease in recreational fishing opportunities. Section 131.

\* WETLANDS: The Interior bill is but one of many pieces of legislation that House Republicans are using to try to block implementation of a proposed administration wetlands policy. Republicans argue that the policy would require a permit for nonnavigable waters, in violation of Supreme Court decisions. Section 127.

\* HUNTING: The bill would declare public lands open to hunting unless specifically closed. This proposal enjoys some Democratic support and is being proposed by House and Senate Republicans and Democrats in several other bills. Section 129. (See related article page 12.)

\* EISENHOWER COMMISSION: The bill would provide no money for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission. (See related article page 11.)

\* SNOWMOBILES: The bill would authorize the Forest Service to write new oversnow vehicle regulations. Section 454.

The text of the fiscal 2014 Interior and Related Agencies bill is available at: <http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/BILLS-113HR-SC-AP-FY2014-Interior-SubcommitteeDraft.pdf>.

Here's a summary of three non-Interior spending bills with outdoor implications.

**Transportation:** House cap, \$44.1 billion. Senate cap, \$54 billion. The House Appropriations Committee approved its bill (HR 2610) June 27 with \$44.1 billion in discretionary spending, or \$7.7 billion below the fiscal 2013 level. And it is \$4.4 billion below the fiscal 2013 level counting sequestration.

The full Senate approved its bill July 24 with \$54 billion. The Senate panel is far more generous to rail and mass transit than the House. Also the

House committee would reduce spending for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is included in the Transportation bill.

**Energy and water:** House cap, \$30.4 billion. Senate cap, \$34.8 billion. The House approved its bill (HR 2609) July 10 with \$4.9 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, a decrease of \$104 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. It is also \$700 million below the fiscal 2013 level when sequestration is counted in.

During consideration of the Energy and Water bill the House voted 177-to-237 to retain in the measure a provision that bars the Obama administration from issuing guidance on wetland permits. The same provision is in the Interior bill.

The guidance, proposed in January 2012, would expand the definition of a project requiring a Section 404 Clean Water Act wetlands permit beyond just a navigable water.

The sponsor of the losing amendment that would allow the guidance to proceed, Rep. Moran, said, "The draft guidance provides a more predictable and consistent procedure for identifying waters and wetlands protected under the Clean Water Act. It focuses on protecting smaller waterways that keep downstream water safe from upstream pollutants and on protecting adjacent wetlands that filter pollution and store waters and help keep communities safe from floods. The guidance also maintains all of the existing exemptions for agricultural discharges and identifies specific types of water bodies to which it does not apply, areas like artificial lakes and ponds and many types of drainage and irrigation ditches."

But Rep. Simpson said the proposed guidance would impinge on state and local authority. "Deciding how water is used should be the responsibility of State and local officials who are familiar with the people and local issues. If all intrastate waters are regulated by the Federal Government, the language could be broadly interpreted to include everything within a State,

including groundwater," he said.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its energy and water bill (S 1245) June 27 with \$34.8 billion. The Senate bill does not address the navigable waters controversy.

**Agriculture:** House cap, \$19.5 billion. Senate cap, \$20.9 billion. The House Appropriations Committee approved its bill (HR 2410) June 13 with \$19.5 billion, or \$1.4 billion below the fiscal 2013 level before sequestration and about on a par with fiscal 2013 counting sequestration. The measure was pending on the House floor at press time.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its bill (S 1244) June 20 with \$20.9 billion.

**Programs eliminated in the Interior bill:** According to Rep. Moran these programs would be eliminated by the subcommittee:

1. Bureau of Land Management Land Acquisition (-\$22.3 million)
2. Fish and Wildlife Service Construction (-\$19.1 million)
3. Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition (-\$54.6 million)
4. North American Wetlands Fund (-\$35.4 million)
5. Neotropical Migratory Birds Conservation Fund (-\$3.7 million)
6. State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (-\$61.3 million)
7. National Park Service Land Acquisition and State Assistance (-\$101.8 million)
8. Forest Service Land Acquisition (-\$52.5 million)
9. Forest Service Special Acquisitions (-\$0.9 million)
10. Forest Service Land Exchange Acquisitions (-\$0.2 million)
11. Forest Legacy Program (-\$53.3 million)
12. Forest Service Planning (-\$39.2 million)
13. Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (-\$7.7 million)
14. Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts (-\$8.5 million)
15. Woodrow Wilson Center (-\$10.9

million)

16. Eisenhower Memorial Commission (-\$1 million)
17. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields (-\$90 million)
18. Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Native Villages Water Infrastructure (-\$9.5 million)
19. Environmental Protection Agency US Mexico Border Water Infrastructure (-\$4.7 million)
20. Environmental Protection Agency Smart Growth (-\$1.7 million)

## **Coburn against new parks spending; LWCF may be source**

Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) argued to the Senate Energy Committee July 25 that the country can't afford new National Park System units as long as the system faces an \$11 billion maintenance backlog.

But Coburn and other senators said money may be in the offing in the form of a revised Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) formula and an endowment.

Coburn and ranking committee Republican Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) recommended rewriting LWCF to authorize the use of three-quarters of the annual allocation for maintenance, instead of land acquisition.

Said Coburn, "I think LWCF funds ought to be reallocated. It's going to continue to grow as oil and gas offshore continues to grow. These funds are going to increase. I know we are in competition with other desires for land acquisition. But it seems to me if we were to take 75 percent of that fund and put it into parks maintenance over the next 10 years we could meet the obligations to the American people and get caught back up."

Said Murkowski, "I'd like to work with you Mr. Chairman, Dr. Coburn and director Jarvis in reforming the LWCF. This could be a tool that NPS and other agencies can use to address deferred maintenance."

One leading Democrat, Sen. Mark

Udall (D-Colo.), sounded interested in the idea because Congress doesn't appropriate the full \$900 million authorization each year.

"Last year we appropriated something on the order of \$200 million," said Udall, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on National Parks. "You can argue we left \$700 million in limbo in the hands of appropriators. There may be a sweet spot here."

Coburn also promoted the idea of an influential person championing an endowment for the parks, an idea that has been around for a decade. "If you think about an endowment, an endowment is doubly saving," he said. "It means you have income coming off the endowment that you can apply today and also you don't borrow money against the future."

Coburn called for a champion to campaign for the money, "a retired senator, retired Congressman or a retired vice president.")

Senate Energy Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) jumped at the idea and said he was already working on it. "On this endowment you basically had me at hello," he told Coburn. "This is an idea where I'm convinced there won't be one champion but lots of champions. We're going to pursue that. I've already begun some of that discussion."

At the start of the hearing Wyden framed the problem his committee faces in the demand for new parks at a time of an \$11 billion maintenance backlog. "Despite budget challenges senators from both political parties continue to push for new and expanded parks in their home states," he said. "Already in this Congress are bill to study seven new parks, to establish seven new parks and to expand six already-existing parks."

Other witnesses at the hearing represented the Association of Partners for Public Lands, Park Service concessioners and the National Parks Conservation Association.

That the full committee is holding the hearing places special emphasis on efforts to boost funding for the

National Park System in anticipation of the system's Centennial in 2016.

At the hearing the National Park Hospitality Association said concessioners alone could contribute an additional \$50 million per year to the Park System, with a few changes. The concessioners now pay \$100 million per year into the system.

Testifying on behalf of the association, Gerry Gabrys, chief executive officer of the Guest Services, Inc., said, "We are confident that increases in visitor services, including lengthening operating hours at units like Alcatraz and Statue of Liberty, adding appropriate services and allowing dynamic pricing of services, could increase franchise fees to the NPS by 50 percent within three years."

But the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition, a critic of commercial campgrounds in parks, said just before the meeting that Gabrys "is expected to testify in support of adding more development to campgrounds inside National Parks in order to attract rv campers who currently stay in privately operated campgrounds outside the Parks. In order to finance hookups, wifi, and other developed facilities for rv owners, everyone would have to pay higher fees."

Leading senators from both parties in early June backed public-private partnerships as a means of providing significant new revenues for the system. Most specifically, Sen. John Portman (R-Ohio) said he and Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) are seeking support for legislation to establish an endowment with matched dollar-for-dollar public-private contributions to the parks. Past such proposals recommended as much as \$1 billion per year.

Short of actually writing legislation to establish an endowment program, Portman and Udall June 11 were the lead signatories on a letter to President Obama asking for his help in upgrading the National Park System in anticipation of the Centennial.

Fifty-one senators and 171 House

members signed the letter to Obama that said: "Past presidents and congresses have worked together at key times to repair, improve and enhance parks and facilities, to develop creative ways of connecting the American people with our national treasures and to better preserve our parks for future generations. The national park centennial provides an opportunity to reinvigorate the national parks for their second century of service. We look forward to working with you and your staff to build on momentum from the 100th anniversary of the National Parks System to find a sustainable path forward for our national parks."

The three senators are following up in a way on both a private Second Century Commission report that advocates regeneration of the park system and a Centennial blueprint written by the Park Service itself, *A Call to Action*. Among other things *A Call to Action*, published on Aug. 25, 2011, recommended a \$1 billion endowment program.

As a follow-up to the Second Century Commission of 2008 sponsored by the National Parks Conservation Association and *A Call to Action*, major organizations backing NPS are attempting to identify possible new sources of unconventional revenues for the parks.

The National Park Foundation, the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Hospitality Association have come up with some 16 recommendations.

The recommendations were presented March 19 to a stellar group of past and present Congressmen, cabinet members and other VIPs of the park and rec world at a meeting hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center.

At the meeting two sources of revenue appeared to draw the most interest - diversion of a portion of oil and gas royalties to a new NPS fund of about \$350 million per year and a penny per gallon gasoline tax of about \$1.5 billion per year. (The gas tax would be used for all federal land management agency roads, not just park roads.)

## **GOP attack on Blueways builds; Jewell calls 'pause'**

Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell July 17 called a halt - at least temporarily - to a major Obama administration conservation initiative called the National Blueways System.

For the last fortnight House and Senate Republicans have assailed the program for designating blueway system units without consulting local citizens, local governments or Congress.

At a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee July 17 Jewell said, "This is a program that I'm not familiar with. I have asked the team to pause on it while I better understand it."

At a separate hearing later the same day held by the House subcommittee on Water, Republican members complained the system designates blueways (1) without a public process, (2) without documentation of its impact on regulations and costs, and (3) without Congressional consultation.

The Water subcommittee hearing followed a July 3 action by Jewell pulling a designation of a White River Blueway in Arkansas and Missouri from the system. In a memorandum Jewell said, "Therefore: Based on the foregoing, I hereby withdraw the designation of the White River and its Watershed as a National Blueway and order the National Blueways Committee to advise the nominating stakeholder partnership of the withdrawal of the National Blueway designation."

At the Water subcommittee hearing, chairman Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) said, "The administration designated the White River Blueway with no public testimony and despite widespread local opposition. Although the order speaks of coordination and consultation we have learned there is none."

He said environmentalists are contemplating designation of portions of 3.5 million miles of rivers across the country as blueways. That assertion is based on a May 28 request to Senate appropriators from 79 environmental

groups for a \$3.3 million allocation to the program in fiscal year 2014. Among the requesters was the American Rivers environmental group.

The environmentalists in their letter promoted the economic benefits of such outdoor recreation and said, "With 3.5 million rivers across our country, we have only scratched the surface when it comes to establishing Blueways. There is tremendous potential to expand existing trails and create new ones."

Ranking subcommittee Democrat Grace Napolitano (Calif.) noted that the program was voluntary and designations were not substantive, but, she said, "There are very real concerns about the program."

Some of those concerns were expressed by Rep. Jason T. Smith (R-Mo.) on the House floor July 17. "Though no stakeholders from my district were included in the nomination process, the White River Watershed, of which 14 counties are in my district, was named as the Nation's second National Blueways in January of this year," he said. "Who nominated the White River to become a Blueways?" The answer, Smith said, was the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Of political concern to the Republicans is the role played in setting up the system by Rebecca Wodder, a senior advisor to the Department of Interior and long-time environmental activist. Wodder, a former CEO of the American Rivers conservation group, withdrew her nomination last year as assistant secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. McClintock said the subcommittee invited Wodder to testify but that the department declined.

In its defense the Obama administration says the National System of Blueways does not affect land rights and boosts local economies. Says an Interior Department fiscal year 2014 budget request: "The NBS does not impose use limitations or regulatory requirements, but instead through collaborative efforts with others, recognizes and supports existing local

and regional conservation, recreation, and restoration efforts by coordinating ongoing Federal, State, and local activities."

The removal of the White River from the system leaves just one blueway on the books - a Connecticut River and Watershed National Blueway in New England. Former Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar designated the Connecticut Blueway at the same time he established the system on May 24, 2012.

While the first two blueways are in the East the Western Caucus that represents public lands states is very much involved with, and opposed to, the initiative.

Seven senators and 18 House members of the caucus wrote Salazar February 14 to request cancellation of the program. They object to a provision of Salazar's Secretarial Order 3321 setting up the system that puts a committee of federal officials in charge, without Congressional input.

In their letter to Salazar the Republicans said, "According to the Order, it appears that any watershed in the United States could be designated without any vote in Congress and without proper public notice." The letter was sent by the Western Caucus en masse. Caucus cochairs Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Rep. Stevan Pearce (R-Ariz.) and Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) led the effort.

The caucus asked Salazar to rescind his executive order that set up the system. "We urge you to immediately withdraw Secretarial Order 3321," the members said. "We also encourage you to bring proposals to Congress that are creating new land and water designations so that we may consider them through the normal committee process and with public transparency."

## **Bipartisan House bill backs 40 percent state LWCF share**

In the end there may not be any money to divide up. Nevertheless, four House members introduced legislation



(HR 2727) July 18 to insure that states receive at least 40 percent of the annual appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Congress presently appropriates significantly more money for federal land acquisition than for state conservation grants. For instance, in fiscal year 2012 (the last year with good numbers) Congress appropriated \$186.7 million for federal land acquisition and just \$45 million for state grants.

The division of the LWCF spoils has always been a sensitive spot between environmental groups that champion federal land acquisition and their allies in state and local park and rec offices. The two sides normally don't talk about their differences publicly.

But the chief sponsor of HR 2727, Rep. David B. McKinley, (R-W.Va.), brought those differences out in the open. "Several parks and recreational facilities in West Virginia I've met with expressed concern about the current funding formula for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and how it's distributed to state and local governments," he said. "The current method of funding is not fair."

Cosponsor Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) continued the theme. "Today, states are forced to accept table scraps while the bulk of federal dollars are set aside to buy-up land, usually in the West," she said. "I firmly believe in the states' ability to make the best decisions on spending LWCF dollars for the good of their citizens."

But the larger problem for both the federal and state side of LWCF is the possibility of negligible appropriations in fiscal year 2014. The House subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies July 23 approved its version of a fiscal 2014 spending bill with no money for the federal side and no money for state grants. (See related article page one.)

Still, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which represents in part state and local park and rec officials, lauded McKinley,

Lummis and two Democratic cosponsors - Reps. Gene Green (Texas) and Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.)

"The neighborhood park down the street, open and accessible, and without an admission fee, is the most important public space for average Americans," said Barbara Tulipane, president of NRPA. "Placing the State Assistance Program on a level playing field will enable the LWCF to fulfill its stated mission of helping preserve, develop and assure access to outdoor recreation facilities for the purpose of strengthening the health of U.S. citizens."

Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of senators has sponsored legislation (S 338) this year to guarantee full funding of \$900 million per year for LWCF henceforth, led by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Senate Energy Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

In addition the Obama administration has not only recommended guaranteed full funding for LWCF down the line, it has also proposed a substantial appropriation in fiscal 2014 of \$356 million, compared to the \$186.7 million of fiscal 2012 and \$60 million for state grants, compared to \$45 million in fiscal 2012.

The administration also recommended in its fiscal 2014 budget request that Congress put up \$15 million for the long-moribund Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPAR) program. And it recommended that UPAR be cut in on LWCF money in the long term.

## **Jewell promotes LWCF, FLTFA and FLREA to House GOP**

Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell adhered to the Obama company line on outdoor policy July 17 in her first official hearing with House Republicans who are the administration's biggest critics.

She promoted to the critics on the House Natural Resources Committee such varied administration recommendations

as full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), renewal of a federal recreation entrance fee law and renewal of a federal land sale/acquisition law.

For their part committee Republicans have spoken positively of the land sale/acquisition proposal, are relatively noncommittal on the entrance fee law and are almost universally opposed to full funding for LWCF.

On the administration's proposal to move toward guaranteed full funding of LWCF at \$900 million per year, Jewell attempted to head off the complaint that the federal government just doesn't have the money. She said the proposed budget includes a suite of new energy fees that should provide more than enough money.

"We recognize the challenges in establishing new mandatory programs in the current fiscal environment," she told the committee July 17. "That's why as part of the FY 2014 Budget we have also identified a variety of mandatory savings proposals that, while justifiable on their own merits, could also be used to partially offset a mandatory LWCF proposal."

For the record those new fees include offshore oil and gas inspections, onshore oil and gas inspections, and an onshore oil and gas permit fee. The administration says those energy levies make sense in that LWCF was established in the 1960s as a grand trade-off that authorized offshore oil and gas development. In return a portion of the offshore revenues have been allocated to LWCF.

But in a typical Republican critique, Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) objected to spending additional money for land acquisition at a time when fire-fighting budgets are stretched to the limit. "I question why we are buying more land when we are not managing the land we already have very well," he said at the July 17 hearing.

Western senators make the same point. Senate Energy Committee ranking Republican Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) this spring asked Forest Service Chief

Tom Tidwell how he could justify such a proposal at a time of soaring fire budgets. "We're talking about a fire season that scares us all and we simply won't have the resources to deal with that," she began.

Tidwell responded that the public is requesting acquisitions to provide access to favored recreation areas. And he said the acquisitions consolidate Forest Service inholdings and make large landscapes less expensive to manage.

Jewell of course replaced her predecessor Ken Salazar April 15. Salazar famously jousted with the House Republicans for four years over conservation of the nation's wildlands.

Jewell took the occasion of the hearing to criticize a fiscal year 2013 budget sequestration, and to pressure Congress to head off a fiscal 2014 sequestration. "We will survive these cuts this year by freezing hiring, eliminating seasonal positions, and cutting back on our programs and services, but these steps are not sustainable, as these actions which are eroding our workforce, shrinking our summer field season, and deferring important work cannot be continued in future years without further severe consequences to our mission," she said.

Jewell said the sequestration was also hampering fire-fighting efforts. "Because of sequestration we absorbed an overall \$37.5 million cut to the Department's fire program that resulted in a reduction of approximately 7 percent of the Department's firefighter seasonal workforce, with reduced lengths of employment for those hired," she said.

This was the hearing where Jewell said the administration was calling a "pause" to a new program to establish a National Blueways System much disliked by Republicans. (*See related article page 7.*)

#### **Land sales/acquisitions - FLTFA:**

Jewell recommended renewal of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), which expired in 2011. It authorized the Bureau of Land Management

(BLM) to sell lands identified as excess in land management plans. The money is used to acquire conservation lands.

Jewell says the law "provides a unique opportunity to supplement our LWCF resources to protect additional high-value conservation lands by selling properties that have been identified as better suited to other purposes. The proposal would use the sales revenues to fund the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and to cover the administrative costs associated with conducting the sales. We believe this is a win-win proposal that we hope would have bipartisan support in this Committee."

Two days after Jewell appeared before the full committee the subcommittee on Public Lands July 19 heard bipartisan support for legislation (HR 2068) to renew FLTFA.

Said lead sponsor Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), after noting her reflexive opposition to an expanded federal presence in the West, "It follows the disposal-first land-for-land model, which should result in a decrease in federal land ownership in the West, be it ever so miniscule."

Lead cosponsor Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), newly crowned ranking minority member on the full committee, offered an example of how the program used to work. "I'm intimately involved in that (FLTFA) was used to acquire from a willing seller a substantial inholding including Zane Gray's Cabin on the fabulous Rogue River in my district," he said. "It was done at no net cost to the taxpayers. BLM sold an even larger parcel of surplus land. So I think it is an excellent device to acquire sensitive land."

#### **Federal Lands Recreation**

**Enhancement Act (FLREA):** Jewell also backed an extension of the federal recreation fee law FLREA before it expires on Dec. 8, 2014. "The Department currently collects over \$200 million in recreation fees annually under this authority and uses them to enhance the visitor experience at Interior facilities," she said.

"Surveys show that most visitors believe that the recreation fees they pay are reasonable for the amenities and services provided; . . . The Department encourages the Committee to reauthorize the REA, which sunsets in December 2014."

Of note the House subcommittee on Interior appropriations July 23 approved a one-year extension of FLREA as part of a fiscal 2014 money bill. The extension would run through Dec. 8, 2015.

The House subcommittee on Public Lands June 18 held a hearing on FLREA at which members did not tip their hands as to their recommendations for the next iteration of FLREA.

But Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chairman of the House subcommittee on Public Lands, said Congress must act to extend or replace the old law one way or the other. Several options are on the table:

*Simple extension.* The Obama administration has recommended a one-year extension of FLREA when it expires on Dec. 8, 2014. That's the action the House Appropriations subcommittee took July 23.

*Rewrite.* The leading critic of the bill, the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition, so dislikes FLREA that it says Congress should scrap it and write a new law now.

*Multi-year extension, plus.* The recreation industry recommends a three-year extension of FLREA combined with pilot programs to test new fees, such as variable entrance fees to the Park Service that would peak in peak seasons.

### **Eisenhower Memorial takes two steps forward and one back**

A week after a proposed memorial for President Dwight D. Eisenhower moved forward a couple of inches, the House subcommittee on Interior Appropriations July 23 went the other way.

The panel put up no money for a Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission

in a fiscal year 2014 spending bill, even though subcommittee chairman Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) sits on the Ike commission.

Right now the proposed \$142 million project is in suspension because of Congressional criticism of the design. Some \$9 million has already been spent. For work to resume Congress must either reauthorize the Eisenhower commission as is to allow the existing proposal to proceed, or approve a bill calling for a new design.

The existing proposal moved forward July 18 when the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the general concept of a memorial designed by the famed architect Frank Gehry. The vote was 3-to-1. However, members of the Eisenhower family have objected to the proposal.

The Gehry proposal received another boost on July 11 when the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the bill calling for a new design (HR 1126) would be expensive, costing \$17 million.

Using information from the Eisenhower commission itself that generated the Gehry proposal, CBO estimated "that implementing H.R. 1126 would cost \$17 million over 2014-2018 period, primarily to develop an alternative design for the memorial."

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), chairman of the House subcommittee on Public Lands, introduced the substitute bill. The House Natural Resources Committee approved the measure June 12.

The Bishop bill would establish a new commission, with new staff, that would hold a new design competition.

The politics of this becomes complicated because Simpson, the chairman of the House subcommittee on Interior appropriations that oversees the Park Service, could always attempt to extend the existing commission in an appropriations bill. Simpson is also one of the 11 Eisenhower commission members. Simpson joined the 11 other commission members June 19 in voting for

the Gehry project.

However, the Eisenhower commission was one of several programs the House appropriations subcommittee on Interior voted to eliminate July 23. (See *related article page one.*)

In addition to the Eisenhower Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts the Park Service must approve the project. In testimony before Congress NPS said it has worked closely with the Eisenhower commission but has not taken a final position on a proposal.

Congress established the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission in 1999 and has been providing seed money ever since. Gen. Carl W. Reddel, executive director of the commission, said 80 percent of the construction costs would come from Congressional appropriations.

The whole design brouhaha reached Congress on March 20, 2012, at a House subcommittee hearing when Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, objected to the youthful theme of the memorial. She said that it was not in synch with Ike's concrete achievements in World War II and as President.

A year later on March 13 of this year Bishop introduced his bill (HR 1126) that would require a new design of a memorial for the President. Said Bishop on introducing his bill, "We need to reevaluate the current status of the project and find the best way forward toward building greater consensus. This legislation will help address funding concerns and will offer alternative designs for consideration. I am hopeful that these changes will help advance the project toward an outcome upon which all parties can agree."

But the American Institute of Architects (AIA) was furious at Bishop's proposed Congressional intervention into the commission's work. Said AIA Chief Executive Officer Robert Ivy, "Rep. Bishop's legislation allows Congress to exercise governmental authority in a wholly arbitrary manner that negates the stated selection process. It is nothing more than an effort to

intimidate the innovative thinking for which our profession is recognized at home and around the globe. We intend to vigorously oppose it."

## **Fed lands sportsmen's access bill returns to Senate**

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) introduced catchall sportsmen's legislation (S 1335) July 18 that favors hunting and fishing opportunities on federal lands.

Among the dozen provisions in S 1335 is an old proposal that would make Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service lands open to hunting and fishing unless specifically closed. That includes conservation lands.

Other provisions of the bill would:

- \* reauthorize the land sale/acquisition law called the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act,

- \* reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act,

- \* exempt lead ammunition and fishing tackle from the Toxic Substance Control Act,

- \* authorize the use of firearms at Corps of Engineers water projects,

- \* limit fees for filming crews of five persons or more to \$200 per year, and

- \* allocate at least 1.5 percent of Land and Water Conservation Fund money to acquiring access for hunting and fishing.

To the U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance the "open unless closed" provision is the big one. "This language is the top federal priority for the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance because it blocks many potential lawsuits aimed at closing public land to American sportsmen and women," the alliance said in endorsing the bill.

In a separate action Murkowski

and Sen. Joe Manchin D-Va.) introduced January 29 a bill (S 170) that includes just the open-unless-closed provision. Rep. Dan Benisek (R-Pa.) has introduced a House version of the open-unless-closed bill (HR 1825).

Murkowski, ranking Republican on the Senate Energy Committee, said she attempted to limit controversies in the broad new bill. "I've worked closely with a wide range of stakeholders to put together a reasonable, meaningful, and comprehensive bill," she said.

In the last Congress both the House and Senate approved numerous bills that included provisions in Murkowski's catchall bill, but they were not enacted because of opposition on the Senate floor to almost all legislation coming out of the Senate Energy Committee. In addition the House sometimes added provisions unacceptable to the Senate, such as a ban on national monuments.

## **Mead says EPA haze rule would cost Wyoming big bucks**

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R-Wyo.) charged July 17 that a proposed Wyoming-peculiar national parks visibility rule would cost utilities in the state hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars.

"The federal proposal places much more onerous requirements on power plants and yet does not create a noticeable improvement in visibility over Wyoming's plan," he said. "The federal plan would also cost significantly more, a burden that would be passed on to ratepayers - families and small businesses."

Mead's office said a state analysis of the federal proposal indicated it would cost utilities \$1 billion in capital expenses and \$100 million per year after that.

EPA proposed the rule June 10 because it said a Jan. 12, 2011, Wyoming plan for reducing haze over Class I public lands (national parks and major wilderness areas) within the state failed because it did not establish

rigorous controls over coal-fired power plants. EPA did approve the rest of the state plan.

EPA faulted Wyoming's methodology in assessing both the cost of the state regulations and the potential efficacy of the state regulations. Anent the efficacy of the regs EPA said the state had lumped several sources of pollutants together.

"It was not possible for EPA, or any other party, to ascertain the visibility improvement that would result from the installation of the various nitrogen oxides control options because Wyoming modeled the emission reductions for multiple pollutants together in its (plan)," said EPA.

The haze dispute focuses on Section 169 of the Clean Air Act that directs EPA to regulate visibility over Class I federal areas. They include 156 national parks and wilderness areas larger than 5,000 acres. Under the law EPA has directed states to prepare state implementation plans (SIPs) to clean up regional haze that limits visibility over the Class I areas. However, EPA has set repeated deadlines and few states have completed SIPs. Under Section 169 of the act, if states don't complete SIPs by certain dates, EPA is to write federal implementation plans for them.

Western states are addressing the SIP requirement differently. While Mead is rebelling, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) submitted a SIP that EPA approved in September 2012. The entire Colorado Congressional delegation endorsed the plan, including such EPA critics as Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn (R).

One provision in the legislation (HR 3049) would have allowed a state to revoke an EPA-imposed plan, as long as a state developed its own plan within two years. A second provision would have barred EPA from implementing any haze plan that would reduce coal production for power plants or reduce revenues from the plants on Indian lands in Arizona. That includes the Navajo Generating Station in Arizona that

environmentalists have long assailed for the haze it sends over wilderness areas and national parks.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have their own bone to pick with EPA's implementation of the visibility provisions of the Clean Air Act. Mark Wenzler, clean air specialist with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), said this week that under the existing EPA rule haze would not be eliminated over some national parks for centuries.

"Later this summer we (environmentalists) intend to put pressure on EPA to speed up states," he said. "Some Class I parks will not be cleaned up for centuries. We intend to publish a list of the top 10 Class I areas."

## Notes

### **Senators back cabin fee bill.**

Seven influential senators from both political parties introduced legislation (S 1341) July 23 that would establish a new system of fees for the 14,000 owners of cabin inholdings within the National Forest System. The House Natural Resources Committee approved a slightly different version of the bill (HR 1159) March 20. Both measures would establish a multi-tier system of fees to replace the existing law - the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000. Under that law the Forest Service in 2007 began reappraising the value of cabins, based on five percent of the market value. Because some cabins had not been appraised for as much as 30 years the appraisals went through the roof. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) is the lead sponsor of the new Senate bill. Other cosponsors include Sens. Max Baucus (D-Mont), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa). Said Barrasso, "Cabin owners in Wyoming and across the West are speaking out about their struggle with excessive cabin fees. Unless we fix this broken fee structure now, many Americans will soon lose cabins that are so important to their families and their friends." The Senate bill would establish 11 tiers of fees

beginning at \$500 and topping off at \$5,500. The House bill would establish 10 tiers of fees, also beginning at \$500, but topping off at \$5,000. Last year the House approved a predecessor bill but the Senate did not act.

#### **Hearing held on FS overseer.**

The Senate Agriculture Committee held a friendly hearing July 23 on the nomination of Robert Bonnie as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources overseeing the Forest Service. Committee members from both parties treated Bonnie, currently a policy advisor to the secretary of Agriculture, gently. The Senate Energy Committee is also expected to hold a hearing on the nomination of Bonnie, who worked for the Environmental Defense Fund from 1995-to-2008.

**CBO gives bad highway news.** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) laid out grim alternatives for Congress July 23 if it wants to extend surface transportation programs beyond the expiration of the existing law on Sept. 30, 2014. CBO said the lawmakers could cut spending drastically, increase the gasoline tax that pays into the Highway Trust Fund, or adopt a combination of the two. Of the spending reductions Kim Crawley, chief of the natural and physical resources cost estimates unit of CBO, told the House subcommittee on Highways, "If lawmakers addressed the projected shortfalls solely by cutting spending, contract authority and obligation limitations for the highway account would have to be reduced by about one quarter in 2014 and in subsequent years." As for an increase in the gasoline tax Crawley said, "If lawmakers chose to meet obligations projected for the trust fund solely by raising revenues, they would have to increase the taxes on motor fuels by about 10 cents per gallon, starting in fiscal year 2015." The Highway Trust Fund no longer raises enough money to pay for surface transportation programs, so Congress has in the last few years tapped general revenues. Crawley said the borrowing is approaching \$41 billion. The existing surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, is due to expire on Sept. 30, 2014. House and

Senate committees are now searching for new revenues.

#### **SORP lining up rec WEB confab.**

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) has begun accepting applications to participate in a webinar conference on the future of outdoor recreation planning. SORP said it has room for 100 online attendees for the webinar titled, *Collaboration and Public Participation in Outdoor Recreation Planning: Emerging Design and Strategy*. Lead speakers include Cindy Mendoza, project manager with MIG, Inc., and Steve Selin, professor in the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources Program at West Virginia University. SORP is an association of outdoor recreation professionals that has asked the public to recommend improvements to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) law. The act is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2015. Earlier this year SORP began a drive to round up support for LWCF by soliciting feedback on the program. The SORP initiative is one part of a national campaign to revive the venerable LWCF program. To register for the rec planning conference go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1612813485279647488>.

#### **DeFazio wins committee job.**

The House Democratic Caucus July 18 selected Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) as the ranking minority member on the House Natural Resources Committee that oversees much of the nation's park and rec policy. DeFazio had been in a fairly tight contest for the position with Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), but Grijalva withdrew from the contest just before the caucus voted. The House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee had voted in DeFazio's favor 33-to-16. DeFazio replaces former Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), who is now serving in the Senate. As ranking member DeFazio will be pitted against an aggressive, western-dominated majority in the committee. Said DeFazio after his selection, "I will fight to get this committee and Congress moving forward on climate change action. And, I will work with my colleagues to develop sustainable forestry practices that improve forest health, protect irreplaceable

old growth, and prevent catastrophic fires." The committee does have before it a couple of nonideological issues such as extension of the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act and the revival of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (see separate article page 9). DeFazio and Grijalva are cut from the same liberal cloth but DeFazio has in the past worked more closely than Grijalva with commodity users, such as timber companies.

**Going-to-the-Sun EIS astir.**

Taking its good sweet time, the Park Service formally announced July 19 in the *Federal Register* that it is beginning work on an EIS and plan for the Going-to-the-Sun road corridor in Glacier National Park. The decision to prepare the EIS was actually made almost six weeks ago on June 6. Whatever, NPS said several problems plague the road and surrounding park including congestion on the road, congestion on hiking trails and a shuttle system that is not paying for itself. The park said it is now soliciting public comments on the scope of the EIS. Comment by September 6 to *Glacier National Park, Attn: GTSR Corridor Plan, P.O. Box 128 West Glacier, MT 59936* or via the Internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glac>.

**NPCA identifies 157 Hill friends.**

Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) - see above item - are among the 157 House members named Friends of the National Parks July 17 by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). The awards are based on seven votes including a bill to establish a Manhattan Project National Historical Park and a bill to revoke a Cape Hatteras National Seashore off-road vehicle policy. Said NPCA Acting President Theresa Pierno, "As the National Park Service approaches its centennial in 2016, support from our members of Congress is essential toward ensuring places like Yellowstone, Gettysburg, and the Everglades are preserved and protected for our children and grandchildren to enjoy."

**Utah rec conflict continues.** The human-powered recreation industry, which has often been at odds with Utah Gov.

Gary Herbert (R), praised him last week for appointing outdoor industry official Brad Peterson to head a new Office of Outdoor Recreation. Herbert, who has gotten on the wrong side of the industry with his opposition to some federal back-country policies, won industry's favor by establishing a 59-page outdoor policy called, *State of Utah Outdoor Recreation Vision*. Now Herbert has appointed an industry official to implement the visions. Said Outdoor Industry Association Vice President of Governor Affairs Kirk Bailey, "We are pleased that the Governor is continuing to invest in Utah's future with this appointment. Peterson has impressive business and outdoor credentials, and the industry looks forward to working openly and collaboratively with him and Utah leadership to ensure that Utah's natural resources are managed in a balanced way." Salt Lake City hosts the annual outdoor recreation products show called Outdoor Retailer. Outdoor companies have on occasion threatened to take their business elsewhere because of stances taken by Utah elected officials.

**Park advocates fear fracking.** The National Parks Conservation Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club are growing increasingly concerned about the impacts of the oil and gas production technique hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on national parks in the East. The two groups met with Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.) July 15 to discuss the possible impacts of fracking on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Said Cartwright, "I applaud the great work done by both the National Parks Conservation Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club. We must do all that we can to protect our national parks, not only here at the Delaware Water Gap, but throughout our state and country. In Congress I have been working hard to make fracking as safe as possible by introducing legislation to eliminate loopholes provided to the oil and gas industries." At the moment the Delaware River Basin Commission has in place a moratorium on fracking in the basin. However, the commission may enact regulations to allow the practice, the environmentalists fear. The oil and



gas production work would take place on nonfederal lands outside the parks.

## Boxscore of Legislation

### Appropriations Fiscal 2014 (Interior)

No bill number yet. House subcommittee approved July 23. No Senate action. House panel would keep NPS operations about level but cut severely almost all conservation programs.

### Appropriations Fiscal 2014 (Agriculture)

HR 2410 (Aderholt). House committee approved June 13. Senate committee approved June 20. Senate committee would provide more money.

### Appropriations Fiscal 2014 (Energy and Water)

HR 2609 (Frelinghuysen). House approved July 10. Senate committee approved June 27. Senate bill would provide significantly more money.

### Appropriations Fiscal 2014

#### (Transportation)

HR 2610 (Latham). House committee approved June 27. On Senate floor now. Senate bill would provide significantly more money.

### Congressional Budget Fiscal 2014

H Con Res 25 (Ryan), S Con Res 8 (Murray). House approved March 21. Senate approved March 23. Senate anticipates \$6 billion more for natural resources than House.

### Land and Water Conservation Fund

S 338 (Baucus), HR 2727 (McKinley). Baucus introduced February 14. McKinley introduced July 18. Baucus would guarantee \$900 million per year to program in perpetuity. McKinley would guarantee state grants received at least 40 percent of annual appropriations.

### Urban park fund

HR 2424 (Sires). Sires introduced June 18. Would authorize HUD grants and HUD loans to provide assistance to urban parks.

### National recreation commission.

HR 1834 (Grijalva). Grijalva introduced May 6. Would establish a national recreation commission with members appointed by

Congress and the White House.

### National monuments

HR 250 (Chaffetz), HR 382 (Foxx), HR 432 (Amodei), HR 1434 (Daines), HR 1439 (Labrador), HR 151 (Pearce), HR 757 (Stewart), HR 1459 (Bishop), HR 1495 (Gosar), HR 2192 (Nunes), S 104 (Vitter), S 472 (Heller). House hearing April 16. Would require Congressional approval or state approval of national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

### National heritage areas

HR 445 (Dent). Dent introduced February 1. Would establish national policy and national standards for heritage areas.

### Montana wilderness/recreation areas

S 37 (Tester). Tester introduced January 23. Would designate 666,260 acres of wilderness, six recreation areas totaling 288,780 acres and special management areas totaling 80,720 acres.

### Farm bill

S 954 (Stabenow), HR 1947 (Lucas). Senate approved June 11. House rejected June 20. Both would establish new farm policy through 2018, complete with conservation programs.

### Hunting federal lands

S 170 (Murkowski). Murkowski introduced January 29. Would declare BLM and FS lands open to hunting and fishing unless specifically closed.

### WRDA (Everglades)

S 601 (Boxer). Senate approved May 15. Would authorize new projects, perhaps including Everglades restoration.

### Hatteras ORVs

HR 819 (Jones), S 486 (Burr). House committee approved May 15. Senate committee approved June 18. House would rescind a Park Service policy limiting off-road-vehicles on the seashore. Senate panel would compromise.

### National park in Delaware

HR 703 (Carney), S 347 (Carper). President designated national monument February 25. Provides a first national park in the first state to join the union.