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Memorial Day Weekend

FARM BILL

Congress left town for the Memorial Day recess with a long list of unfinished business awaiting when the House and Senate return to action on June 2. Of major importance to agriculture and forestry and NAUFRP institutions, the House and Senate voted to override President Bush's veto of the Farm Bill prior to adjournment. The Farm Bill veto override was the second of the Bush presidency and was another indication of the growing number of Republican lawmakers who are putting distance between themselves and President Bush on key domestic policy issues.

The Farm Bill conference agreement, totaling some 673 pages, sustains commodity support programs, and puts major focus on energy production from agricultural waste products, particularly production of biofuels from cellulosic feedstocks. The bill also enhances various conservation programs, and expands the food stamp program. Of particular interest to NASULGC universities is the creation of the new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to provide greater coordination and resources for the various research programs of USDA. This new program was part of the Create-21 Initiative pursued for the last three years by NASULGC, http://www.create-21.org/. Authority is provided for a major increase in USDA research dollars for university programs with an emphasis on competitive grants and collaborative efforts across disciplines and state boundaries. The agreement and summaries of individual titles of the Farm Bill can be found at http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/FarmBill.html

The Farm Bill extended the authorization for RREA and approved language including 1890 institutions within the McIntire-Stennis program. Several titles of the Farm Bill contained provisions regarding forestry. Below you will find a chart developed within USDA summarizing the major forestry provisions in the Farm Bill.

FY 09 APPROPRIATIONS UNCERTAIN

Before leaving town, the Senate passed its version of the Supplemental Appropriations bill to provide additional funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Also included in the Senate bill was new funding for educational benefits for veterans, an extension of unemployment benefits, and other domestic spending not requested by President Bush. The House will consider the

Supplemental when it returns in June and the House Democratic leadership will have a difficult task passing a bill that has opposition from both sides of the aisle. Many House Democrats oppose additional war funding unless the bill also contains provisions regarding troop withdrawal and specific benchmarks for progress to be made by the Iraqi government. President Bush opposes the inclusion of such language and also opposes adding domestic spending in the Supplemental. The President will encourage Republican House members to oppose any such spending.

The House and Senate hope to finish a FY 09 Budget Resolution in early June. Final passage of the Resolution was delayed this week because of the glitch in the Farm Bill conference report (the entire trade title of the bill was left out of the printed version sent to the White House). Resolving the Farm Bill situation delayed House floor action on the Budget Resolution and the House leadership opted to adjourn and take up the Budget Resolution in June. Until a Budget Resolution is in place, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will not meet to establish the so-called 302(b) allocations for each of the various appropriation subcommittees. Until both the Supplemental Appropriations bill and Budget Resolution are completed, no mark up of FY 09 Appropriations bills will begin.

Most Congressional insiders now say that markup of the Defense and Homeland Security appropriation bills might begin in mid-June with the hope of taking those bills to the House floor before the July 4th recess. The fates of other appropriations bills, including the Agriculture Appropriations bill, are much less certain. It seems highly likely that we will begin the new FY 09 fiscal year October 1, operating under some type of Continuing Resolution and that such a CR will likely be left in place until after the November elections and perhaps until after a new President takes office next January. Stay tuned!!!!

Randy Nuckolls, NAUFRP Washington Counsel

DATES TO REMEMBER

2008 NAUFRP Regional Meetings North Central-Midwest
St. Louis, Missouri
June 16-17 Crowne Plaza
http://www.cpclayton.com/home/
Contact: Peg Gale, Regional Chair mrgale@mtu.edu

2008 NAUFRP Regional Meetings Western
University of Alaska, Fairbanks
June 18-20
Contact: Doug Piirto, Regional Chair dpiirto@calpoly.edu

NAUFRP Executive Committee and Reception
Reno, Nevada
November 4, 2008

NAUFRP Executive General Assembly
Reno, Nevada
November 5, 2008

AF&PA - Dean's Tour
Amelia Island, Florida
November 19-21, 2008

FINAL--Title VIII: Forestry	
Section Number and Description	**Current Law**
SubTitle A: Amendments to Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978	
Sec. 8001 National Priorities for Private Forest Conservation Establishes three priorities for allocation of funds: 1. Conserving and managing working forests for multiple values and uses. 2. Protecting and restoring forests from a range of threats and restoring appropriate forest types in response to such threats. 3. Enhancing public benefits from private forests.	No existing provision
Sec. 8002 Long-term Statewide Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources • Requires states, to be eligible for funding under CFAA, to develop and submit to the Secretary of Agriculture (1) a statewide assessment of forest resource conditions, trends, threats; (2) a strategy for addressing threats to forest resources; and, (3) a description of resources needed from all sources to address the strategy. • Assessments are to be coordinated among state forester or equivalent, state forest stewardship coordinating committee, state wildlife agency and state technical committee. An annual report on use of funds is required. • Authorization of appropriation of up to $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.	No existing provision
Sec. 8003 Community Forest and Open Space Program • Establishes a grant program to provide federal matching grants to help local governments, tribes, or NGOs acquire private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and are intended to provide public benefits to communities. • Authorization of such sums as may be necessary.	No existing provision
Sec. 8004 Assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau • Amends CFAA to reflect trust territory status.	No existing provision
Sec. 8005 Changes to the Forest Resources Coordinating Committee • Establishes the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee at Secretary level to coordinate private non-industrial forestry activities within the Department of Agriculture and with the private sector. • The coordinating committee includes the chiefs of FS and NRCS, administrators of FSA and CSREES, and a representative from a State technical committee. • Non-fed reps with 3-year terms include State Foresters, State Fish and Wildlife agency, NIPF owner, Industry, Conservation Orgs., consultants, others.	No existing provision
Sec. 8006 Changes to the State Forest Stewardship Committee • Replaces requirement for a statewide Forest Stewardship Plan with ***Statewide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources.*** State committees make recommendations on the Statewide assessment.	No existing provision

• Adds State Technical Committee representative.	
Section Number and Description	**Current Law**
Sec. 8007 Competition in Programs Under Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 • Requires a portion of CFAA funds, as determined by the Secretary, be available competitively to State Foresters. State Foresters are the only eligible entity. • Secretary to consult with new Forest Resource Coordinating Committee to determine competitive allocation of funds.	No existing provision
Sec. 8008 Competitive Allocation of Funds for Cooperative Forest Innovation Partnerships • Secretary is authorized to competitively allocate not more than 5% of CFAA funds to support innovative national, regional, or local education, outreach, or technology projects that would increase the ability of USDA to address national priorities outlined in Sec. 8001.	No existing provision
Subtitle B - Tribal-Forest Service Cooperative Relations	
Sec. 8101. Purposes Itemizes the purposes of each of the subsections in Subtitle B.	No existing provision
Sec. 8102 Definitions Provides definitions for 'adjacent site', 'cultural items', 'human remains', 'Indian', 'Indian Tribe', 'lineal descendant', 'National Forest System', 'reburial site', 'traditional and cultural purpose'.	No existing provision
Sec. 8103 Authorization for the Reburial of Human Remains and Cultural Items on National Forest System Lands Authorizes the Secretary to allow use of NFS land for reburial of human remains or cultural items in possession of an Indian tribe or lineal descendant that have been disinterred from NFS land or adjacent site.	No existing provision
Sec. 8104 Temporary Closure of National Forest System Land for Traditional and Cultural Purposes Authorizes the Secretary to allow, to the maximum extent practicable, for the shortest period and minimum area, access to National Forest System land by Indians and Indian tribes for traditional and cultural purposes	No existing provision
Sec. 8105 Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes Allows the Secretary to provide Indian Tribes forest products form NFS lands used for traditional and cultural purposes as long as those forest products are not used for commercial purposes.	No existing provision
Sec. 8106 Prohibition on Disclosure Exempts the Secretary from FOIA disclosure of information relating to burial sites (including the quantity and identity of human remains and cultural items on the sites and location of the sites) and the confidentiality of certain information, including information that is culturally sensitive to Indian tribes provided in the context of forest and rangeland research activities.	No existing provision
Sec. 8107 Severability and Savings Provisions Preserves all existing tribal rights, all existing agreements among tribes and the Forest Service, existing trust responsibilities, and any other outstanding rights to use of NFS lands.	No existing provision
Subtitle C: Amendments to Other Forestry-Related Laws	
Section Number and Description	**Current Law**

Sec. 8201. Rural Revitalization Technologies Reauthorized through 2012.	Current expiring authority
Sec. 8202. Office of International Forestry Reauthorized through 2012	Current expiring authority
Sec. 8203 Emergency Forest Restoration Program Authorizes the Secretary to make 75% cost-share payments to an owner of non-industrial private forest land who carries out emergency measures to restore the land after it is damaged by a natural disaster. Authorization of such sums as may be necessary.	No existing provision
Sec. 8204. Prevention of Illegal Logging Practices Amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to require USDA and other agencies to enforce foreign and state laws regarding the illegal taking of plants (primarily trees and their products), require an import declaration for any plants, conduct a review of the declaration requirements and report to Congress.	No existing provision
Sec. 8205 Healthy Forest Reserve Program Reauthorizes the program through 2012. CCC funds made available are $9.75 million in each of fiscal years FY09-FY12.	Current expiring authority
Subtitle D: Boundary Adjustment and Land Conveyance Provisions	
Sec. 8301 Green Mountain National Forest Boundary Adjustment Authorizes modification of the boundary of the GMNF to include 13 designated expansion units.	No existing provision
Sec. 8302. Land Conveyances, Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, New Mexico and George Washington National Forest, Virginia Provides for conveyance without consideration of (1) 983 acres of land in Dona Ana County, NM from the ARS to the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park Inc. and (2) 8 acres encompassing a cemetery from the George Washington National Forest to the Central Advent Christian Church of Alleghany County, VA.	No existing provision
Sec. 8303 Green Mountain NF Land Exchange/Sale Authorized the Secretary to sell or exchange five specified parcels on the Green Mountain National Forest to the Bromley Mountain Ski Resort, Inc.	No existing provision
Subtitle E: Miscellaneous Provisions	
Sec. 8401 Qualifying Timber Contracts Options Authorizes the Secretary to cancel or re-determine qualifying timber contracts; also provides for time extension of existing qualified contracts.	No existing provision
Sec. 8402 **Hispanic-Serving Institution Agricultural Land National Resources Leadership Program** Competitive grants to Hispanic serving institutions for undergrad Forestry scholarships.	No existing provision

FINAL--Title VIX: Energy	
Section Number and Description	**Current Law**
Sec. 9001. Definitions Includes definition of renewable biomass that is broadly inclusive of materials from federal lands. This definition applies only to Farm Bill Energy Title programs. This definition DOES NOT amend definition under the Renewable Fuels Standard in HR6.	No existing provision
Sec. 9012 Forest Biomass for Energy	No existing

Directs the Secretary, through the FS, to conduct a competitive research and development program to encourage the use of forest biomass for energy. Authorization of appropriation of $15 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.	provision
Sec. 9013. Community Wood Energy Provides for a Forest Service administered matching grant program for both community wood energy systems and woody supply feasibility studies. The intent of the program is to assist communities in both conversion of public buildings to wood-based power generation and in development of sustainable wood supply plans to meet the needs of the wood energy systems. Authorization of appropriation of $5 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.	No existing provision