FY 2010 Senate Interior Bill Floor Summary

Summary: The Senate passed the Interior appropriations bill on Thursday, September 24 by a vote of 77 to 21. The Senate adopted numerous amendments to the Committee version of the bill, which are summarized below. The Senate appointed conferees on the Interior bill, including Feinstein; Byrd; Leahy; Dorgan; Mikulski; Kohl; Johnson; Reed; Nelson NE; Tester; Inouye; Alexander; Cochran; Bennett; Gregg; Murkowski; Collins; Bond. Conference is expected to be held during the first three weeks in October. The Energy & Water Development bill has already passed both House and Senate - conference is expected in the next two weeks.

The amendments to the Interior bill adopted by the Senate include the following:

- An amendment (#2394) by Senator Johanns to prohibit the use of funds in the bill from being distributed to ACORN or its subsidiaries.
- An amendment (#2471) by Mr. Barrasso of Wyoming that would prohibit the use of wildland fire management stimulus funds in the District of Columbia. The amendment applies to Forest Service and DOI.
- An amendment (#2494) by Mr. Reid of Nevada to provide for an evaluation of the aquifers in the area of the Jungo Disposal Site in Humboldt County, Nevada. The amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent. This is a USGS study.
- An amendment by Mr. Risch of Idaho to move $2.0 million from the Henry’s Lake ACEC to the Upper Snake/South Fork River ACEC/SRMA in Idaho.
- An amendment by Ms. Feinstein of California provides discretion to extend a special use permit for 10 years for Drake’s Estero at Point Reyes National Seashore.
- An amendment by Mr. Bingaman provides $834 million for the Flame Fund. Funds would be transferred from the FS and DOI fire suppression accounts to the Fund.
- An amendment (#2463) by Mr. Coburn of Oklahoma that requires any report that, except those provided in subsection B, required to be submitted by a Federal agency or Department to the Appropriations Committees be posted on a public website upon receipt by the Committee. The amendment was accepted.
- An amendment (#2511) by Mr. Coburn of Oklahoma to prevent funds made available by the Act from being used to make payments in connection with a contract not awarded using competitive bidding procedures. The amendment was accepted.
- An amendment (#2523) by Mr. Coburn of Oklahoma to prohibit the use of funds to impede or restrict activities of the Secretary of Homeland Security on public lands to achieve control of the Secure Fence Act over the borders of the U.S. The amendment was agreed to by Senator Feinstein and the Senator stated that she would get the two agencies together with Senator Coburn to discuss resolution.
- An amendment (#2482) by Mr. Coburn of Oklahoma, as modified, which provides private property owners the ability to have land removed from National Heritage Areas. The amendment was agreed to, as modified, by unanimous consent.
- An amendment (#2441) by Mr. Dorgan of North Dakota to address the inclusion and exclusion of private land in the Northern Plains Heritage Area. The amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent as modified relating to the Coburn amendment #2482.
• An amendment (#2504) by Mr. Isakson of Georgia provides funding for the preservation and study of the works and papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in conjunction with Morehouse College. The funding comes from the National Park Service. The amendment was agreed to as modified.

• An amendment (#2535) by Mr. Barrasso of Wyoming to provide $1.5 million for estate planning assistance program within the Office of the Special Trustee. The amendment was accepted by unanimous consent.

• An amendment (#2527) by Mr. Bennett of Utah to amend section 1971(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area), by changing December 18, 2008 to September 20, 2009. The amendment was adopted.

• An amendment (#2445) by Mr. Inhofe of Oklahoma to expedite the cleanup of the Federal land and Indian land at the Tar Creek Superfund Site, directs that any purchase of chat from the site shall be counted at twice the purchase price and eligible to be counted toward meeting the federally required disadvantaged business enterprise set-aside on federally funded projects. The amendment was agreed to.