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Subject: Congressional Affairs Update
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Attachments: [5.5.17.docx](#)

Good afternoon,

The Congressional Affairs Update for this week is attached.

The FY 2017 omnibus appropriations bill passed the House and Senate this week with an \$11 million increase from FY 2016 enacted levels for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There were a few hearings of interest this week, including on the Antiquities Act; environmental review and infrastructure; and hydropower. Next week there are also a few hearings of interest to the Service, including on the Endangered Species Act and water issues.

Have a good weekend,

Angela

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CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Division of Congressional and Legislative Affairs U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May 5, 2017

2017 Congressional Recess Schedule

Senate	Holidays & Special Days	House
		May 8 – May 12
May 29 – Jun. 2	Memorial Day May 29	May 30 – Jun. 2
Jul. 3 – Jul. 7	Independence Day Jul. 4	Jul. 3 – Jul. 7
		Aug. 1 – Sep. 1
Jul. 31 – Sep. 4	Labor Day Sep. 4	Sep. 4
Sep. 21 – Sep. 22		Sep. 18 – Sep. 22
Oct. 9 – Oct. 13	Columbus Day Oct. 9	Oct. 9
		Oct. 16 – Oct. 20
Nov. 10	Veterans Day Nov. 10 (Observed)	Nov. 10
Nov. 20 – Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day Nov. 23	Nov. 20 – Nov. 24
Dec. 18 – Dec. 29	Christmas Day Dec. 25	Dec. 25

UPDATE ON LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

Congress Passes Omnibus Spending Package for Fiscal Year 2017

H.R. 244, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2017 passed the House and Senate by large bipartisan majorities on Wednesday May 3 and Thursday May 4, respectively (309-118 in the House and 79-18 in the Senate). The bill has been sent to the President for his signature. The omnibus contains a net \$11 million increase from FY 2016 enacted levels for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

HEARINGS AND MARKUPS OF INTEREST

House Subcommittee Discusses Intent and Scope of the Antiquities Act

On Tuesday, May 2, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held an oversight hearing titled, “Examining the Consequences of Executive Branch Overreach of the Antiquities Act.” Subcommittee members spoke to many issues of interest to the Service, including:

- **Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA-4), Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM-2), and Rep. Bruce**

Westerman (R-AR-4) discussed the limited original intent of the Antiquities Act to protect archaeological artifacts and memorialize important events.

- **Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-1)** suggested concerns with the Antiquities Act hinge on the size of recent designations.
- **Ranking Member Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI-1), Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA-5), and Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)** discussed the broad, bipartisan support among past presidents and the public for monument designations.
- **Chairman McClintock, Full Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT-1), Rep. Tsongas, and Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-ID-1)** discussed the role of input from states, tribes, and local communities prior to monument designations under the Antiquities Act. **Rep. Pearce** and **Rep. LaMalfa** suggested that executive action leads to monument designations that are not supported by local communities.
- **Chairman McClintock, Rep. Westerman, Chairman Bishop, Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20), and Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA-5)** asked about the economic impacts of monument designations. **Rep. Tsongas, Rep. Grijalva, and Rep. Huffman** suggested that monument designations economically benefit local economies with increased tourism.
- **Rep. Westerman, Rep. Thompson, and Chairman Bishop** asked about the limitations monument designations place on managing for wildfire risk.
- **Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-4), Rep. LaMalfa, and Chairman McClintock** discussed the impacts to grazing and water rights, road maintenance, and recreational access from monument designations. **Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-8)** asked whether opponents of monument designations were worried about too little access for recreation or the damage that could result from too much access.
- **Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA-35)** asked about the impact of rescinding monument designations on the Department of Interior's tribal trust responsibilities.
- **Chairman McClintock and Rep. Pearce** proposed potential reforms to the Antiquities Act, including limiting the number of acres allowed to be set aside and requiring state and local governments to be part of the decision process. **Rep. Labrador** shared plans to reintroduce legislation that would require states to approve monument designations.
- **Ranking Member Grijalva and Rep. Beyer** asked about the impacts of climate change on national monuments.

For more information, please

visit: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401854>

Senate Committee Discusses Environmental Review and Infrastructure

On Wednesday, May 3, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held an oversight hearing titled, "Infrastructure Project Streamlining and Efficiency: Achieving Faster, Better, and Cheaper Results." Committee members spoke to many issues of interest to the Service, including:

- **Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)** discussed legislation he plans to introduce that would change how environmental reviews occur under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- **Senator James Inhofe (R-OK)** discussed streamlining review and permitting for

construction projects.

- **Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE)** urged members of the committee to focus on ensuring implementation of existing legislation passed in previous Congresses (such as the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act) before proposing additional reforms. Carper also discussed how additional delays in environmental reviews could result from funding cuts to federal agencies.

For more information, please

visit: <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=E75F4F45-47F6-4876-BBF4-83C27A18A0D3>

House Committee Discusses Challenges to Hydropower Development

On Wednesday, May 3, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held an oversight hearing titled “The Challenges of Keeping Hydropower Affordable and Opportunities for New Development.” Subcommittee members discussed the timeframe for environmental reviews, costs of mitigating impacts to fish and wildlife, and potential legislative reforms.

For more information, please

visit: <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=401856>

House Committee Holds Legislative Hearing on Hydropower Bills

On Wednesday, May 3, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing on ten bills addressing hydropower and pipeline infrastructure, including a discussion draft of the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017. The bills seek to extend dam construction deadlines, revise licensing requirements, and address agency coordination on environmental reviews, among other things.

For more information and the list of bills discussed, please

visit: <https://energycommerce.house.gov/news-center/press-releases/subenergy-examines-legislation-related-pipeline-and-hydropower>

UPCOMING HEARINGS

Senate Committee to Hold Hearing on Endangered Species Act

On Wednesday, May 10, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold an oversight hearing titled, “Conservation, Consultation, and Capacity: State Views on the Need to Modernize the Endangered Species Act.” The hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building. For more information, please

visit: <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=AD42E30A-0C01-454A-B82C-ADDC6320817C>

Senate Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Water Resources

On Tuesday, May 9, the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure will hold an oversight hearing titled, “Water Resources: The Role of the Public and Private Sectors.” The hearing is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building. For more information, please

visit: <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=0F8E9A5F-9EEA-4DEF-927F-AAF59CA6D08B>

Senate Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Water Bills

On Wednesday, May 10, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power will hold a legislative hearing on a number of water bills, including:

- S. 440: To establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota;
- S. 677, the Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act; and
- S. 1012, the New Mexico Drought Preparedness Act

The hearing will be held at 2:30 p.m. in 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Scott Cameron, Special Assistant to the Secretary will testify on behalf of the Department of the Interior. For more information, please visit: <https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=06934274-2C3A-4B4D-B654-13DB07144318>

Senate Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on Law Enforcement Data

On Wednesday, May 10, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism will hold an oversight hearing titled, “Law Enforcement Access to Data Stored Across Borders: Facilitating Cooperation and Protecting Rights.” The hearing is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building. For more information, please

visit: <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/law-enforcement-access-to-data-stored-across-borders-facilitating-cooperation-and-protecting-rights>

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

S.1058 — A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to terminate certain contracts on the basis of detrimental conduct to the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA] (Introduced 05/04/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Latest Action: 05/04/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S.1046 — A bill to facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to fully implement the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act.

Sponsor: Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV] (Introduced 05/04/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/04/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.1033 — A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for stewardship contracting projects, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: Senate - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

S.1030 — A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to submit to Congress a report on certain hydropower projects.

Sponsor: Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.1029 — A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to exempt certain small hydroelectric power projects that are applying for relicensing under the Federal Power Act from the licensing requirements of that Act.

Sponsor: Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.1023 — A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes

Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Foreign Relations

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S.1012 — A bill to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM] (Introduced 05/02/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.1009 — A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Secretary of Energy to consider certain factors in making a public interest determination under that Act, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] (Introduced 05/02/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural

Resources.

S.1007 — A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop a strategy to relocate the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management from Washington, DC, to a western State in a manner that will save the maximum amount of taxpayer money practicable, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO] (Introduced 05/02/2017) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: Senate - Energy and Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.Res.155 — A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership to address the causes and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] (Introduced 05/04/2017) Cosponsors: (9)

Committees: Senate - Foreign Relations

Latest Action: 05/04/2017 Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R.2374 — To facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to fully implement the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act.

Sponsor: Rep. Kihuen, Ruben J. [D-NV-4] (Introduced 05/04/2017) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/04/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2371 — To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4] (Introduced 05/04/2017) Cosponsors: (10)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/04/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2365 — To convey certain Federal land in California to Apple Valley, California, Twentynine Palms, California, Barstow, California, and Victorville, California.

Sponsor: Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8] (Introduced 05/04/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/04/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2335 — To direct the Director of the Government Publishing Office to provide members of the public with Internet access to Congressional Research Service reports, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - House Administration

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

H.R.2331 — To require a new or updated Federal website that is intended for use by the public to be mobile friendly, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

H.R.2330 — To make funds available for fisheries resource disaster assistance for the 2016 Yurok Tribe Klamath River Chinook salmon fishery disaster, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Appropriations

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.

H.R.2329 — To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a transformational infrastructure competitive grant program, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

H.R.2326 — To accelerate reductions in climate pollution in order to leave a better planet for future generations, and to create a bipartisan commission to develop economically viable policies to achieve science-based emissions reduction targets.

Sponsor: Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to House Science, Space, and Technology

H.R.2320 — To direct the Secretary of the Interior to place certain lands in Skagit and San Juan Counties, Washington, into trust for the Samish Indian Nation, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (14)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2316 — To amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest.

Sponsor: Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5] (Introduced 05/03/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/03/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2292 — To extend a project of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission involving the Cannonsville Dam.

Sponsor: Rep. Faso, John J. [R-NY-19] (Introduced 05/02/2017) Cosponsors: (8)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.2287 — To require the Secretary of the Interior to develop a strategy to relocate the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management from Washington, DC, to a western State in a manner that will save the maximum amount of taxpayer money practicable, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3] (Introduced 05/02/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2284 — To amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

Sponsor: Rep. Labrador, Raul R. [R-ID-1] (Introduced 05/02/2017) Cosponsors: (3)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2274 — To amend the Federal Power Act to provide for extended periods relating to preliminary permits and commencement of construction, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52] (Introduced 05/01/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: 05/01/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.2261 — To improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and coastal States to sustain healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems by maintaining and sustaining their capabilities relating to oil spill preparedness, prevention, response, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23] (Introduced 05/01/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: 05/02/2017 Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

H.R.2248 — To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from revising the approved oil and gas leasing program for fiscal years 2017 through 2022.

Sponsor: Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6] (Introduced 04/28/2017) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 04/28/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R.2246 — To repeal the mandatory flood insurance coverage requirement for commercial properties located in flood hazard areas and to provide for greater transfer of risk under the National Flood Insurance Program to private capital and reinsurance markets, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3] (Introduced 04/28/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: 04/28/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.2228 — To provide support for law enforcement agency efforts to protect the mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5] (Introduced 04/28/2017) Cosponsors: (4)

Committees: House - Judiciary

Latest Action: 04/28/2017 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.2221 — To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

Sponsor: Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-16] (Introduced 04/27/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Appropriations

Latest Action: 04/27/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.

H.R.2216 — To provide that certain project works on the St. Croix River, Maine, are not required to be licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Sponsor: Rep. Poliquin, Bruce [R-ME-2] (Introduced 04/27/2017) Cosponsors: (0)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: 04/27/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.2206 — 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps Act

Sponsor: Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9] (Introduced 04/27/2017) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: House - Education and the Workforce

Latest Action: 04/27/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R.2203 — Coral Reef Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Hanabusa, Colleen [D-HI-1] (Introduced 04/27/2017) Cosponsors: (11)

Committees: House - Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology

Latest Action: 04/27/2017 Referred to House Science, Space, and Technology

H.R.2199 — Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large] (Introduced 04/27/2017) Cosponsors: (1)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Latest Action: 04/27/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources

H.R.2183 — Fishing Equipment Tax Relief Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12] (Introduced 04/27/2017) Cosponsors: (2)

Committees: House - Ways and Means

Latest Action: 04/27/2017 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.