



River Crossings

Volume 5

January/February 1996

Number 1

A New Year - A New Look

Starting with this issue, *River Crossings* has a "new look". We hope the new format will make it more "reader friendly".

Sixth Annual MICRA Meeting

Chairman Mike Conlin, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, has announced the scheduling of the 6th Annual MICRA meeting. As in past years it will be held in conjunction with the Spring meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Fisheries Administrators' Section.

The meeting will be held at Spirit Lake, Iowa on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday April 21, 22 and 23. Meeting times are as follows:

• AFS Fish Administrators meeting will begin on Saturday evening (April 20) and end at noon on April 22.

• MICRA's Paddlefish/Sturgeon Subcommittee meeting will be held concurrently with the AFS Fish Administrator's, beginning at 1:00 P.M. on April 21 and ending at noon on April 22.

• MICRA's 6th Annual meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. on April 22 and end at noon on April 23.

Meeting place will be the Village East Resort, P.O. Box 499, Okoboji, IA 51355, 1-800-727-4561.

MICRA Bill Introduced

Congressman Steve Gunderson (R/WI) introduced the "Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement Act of 1996" (H.R. 2939) on February 5th. Douglas Bereuter (R/NE) and James Leach

(R/IA) have both signed on as co-sponsors. Gunderson is currently seeking additional co-sponsors, as well as someone to introduce a companion bill in the Senate.

No funding is provided with the bill. Instead the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to use available funds to assist MICRA in carrying out a three year pilot test of its program in order to evaluate MICRA as a "model for the development of long-range strategic plans for the management of interjurisdictional river fishery resources".

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Persons interested in additional information about the bill should contact the MICRA office or Ms. Dana Wolfe, Representative Gunderson's Legislative Director at (202) 225-5506 in Washington, D.C.

The Endangered Species Act and Religious Philosophy

"A wolf's green eyes, a sacred blue mountain, the words from Genesis, and the answers of children all reveal the religious values manifest in the 1973 Endangered Species Act". These words are taken from a recent speech by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt entitled, *"Between the flood and the rainbow"*--OUR COVENANT: TO PROTECT THE WHOLE OF CREATION. What follows are additional excerpts from Secretary Babbitt's speech.

"I began 1995 with one of the more memorable events of my lifetime. It took place in the heart of Yellowstone National Park...I had been given the honor of carrying the first wolves back into that landscape. Through the work of conservation laws, I was there to restore the natural cycle, to make Yellowstone complete."

"I then returned to Washington, where a new Congress was being sworn into office, and witnessed power of a different kind...Attack on water, land, creatures...the Act they have most aggressively singled out for elimination --one that made Yellowstone complete-- is the 1973 Endangered Species Act...Never mind that this Act is working, having saved 99 percent of all listed species; never mind that it effectively protects hundreds of plants and animals..., never mind that it is doing so while costing each American 16 cents per year."

"For the new Congress...while allowing for...charismatic species...can find absolutely no reason to protect all species in general...Who cares, they ask, if

the spotted owl goes extinct? We won't miss it...Over the past year that is, I think, a fairly accurate summary of how the new majority in Congress has expressed its opinion of the Endangered Species Act."

"They are not, however, the only Americans who have expressed an opinion on this issue...Recently I read an account of a Los Angeles "Eco-Expo"...where children were invited to write down their answers to the basic question: 'Why save endangered species?'... One child, Gabriel, answered, 'Because God gave us the animals.' Travis and Gina wrote, 'Because we love them.' A third answered, 'Because we'll be lonely without them.' Still another wrote, 'Because they're a part of our life. If we didn't have them, it would not be a complete world. The Lord put them on earth

to be enjoyed, not destroyed."

"Now, in my lifetime I have heard many, many political, agricultural, scientific, medical and ecological reasons for saving endangered species...But none of their reasons moved me like the children's. For these children are speaking and writing in plain words a complex notion that has either been lost, or forgotten, or never learned by some members of Congress, and indeed by many of us. The children are expressing the moral and spiritual imperative that there may be a higher purpose inherent in creation, demanding our respect and our stewardship quite apart from whether a particular species is or ever will be of material use to mankind. They see in creation what our adult political leaders refuse to acknowledge. They express an answer that can be

River Crossings

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River Crossings is a mechanism for communication, information transfer, and coordination between agencies, groups and persons responsible for and/or interested in preserving and protecting the aquatic resources of the Mississippi River Drainage Basin through improved communication and management. Information provided by the newsletter, or opinions expressed in it by contributing authors are provided in the spirit of "open communication", and do not necessarily reflect the position of MICRA or any of its member States or Entities. Any comments related to "River Crossings" should be directed to the MICRA Chairman.

reduced to one word: values."

"...when I was...growing up in a small town in Northern Arizona. I learned my religious values through the Catholic Church, which, in that era, in that Judeo-Christian tradition, kept silent on our moral obligation to nature. By its silence the church implicitly sanctioned the prevailing view of the earth as something to be used and disposed however we saw fit, without any higher obligation...there was never any reference, any link, to our natural heritage or to the spiritual meaning of the land surrounding us."

"Yet, outside that church I always had a nagging instinct that the vast landscape was somehow sacred, and holy, and connected to me in a sense that my catechism ignored."

"At the edge of my home town (was) a great blue mountain called the San Francisco Peaks...That I was not alone in this view was something I had to discover through a very different religion ...the Hopi Indians. And it was a young Hopi friend who taught me that the blue mountain was, truly, a sacred place...that the land, and that blue mountain, and all the plants and animals in the natural world are together a direct reflection of divinity, that creation is a plan of God, and I saw, in the words of Emerson, 'the visible as proceeding from the invisible.'"

"That awakening made me acutely aware of a vacancy, a poverty amidst my own rich religious tradition. I felt I had to either embrace a borrowed culture, or turn back and have a second look at my own...Is there nothing in our Western, Judeo-Christian tradition that speaks to our natural heritage and the sacredness of that blue mountain? Is there nothing that can connect me to the surrounding Creation? There are those who argue that there isn't. There are those industrial apologists who, when asked about Judeo-Christian

values relating to the environment, reply that the material world, including the environment, is just an incidental fact, of no significance in the relation between us and our Creator. They cite the first verses of Genesis, concluding that God gave Adam and his descendants the absolute, unqualified right to 'subdue' the earth and gave man 'dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.' God, they assert, put the earth here for the disposal of man in whatever manner he sees fit. Period."

"They should read a few verses further. For there, in the account



of the Deluge, the Bible conveys a far different message about our relation to God and to the earth. In Genesis, Noah was commanded to take into the ark two by two and seven by seven every living thing in creation, the clean and the unclean. He did not specify that Noah should limit the ark to two charismatic species, two good for hunting, two species that might provide some cure down the road, and, say, two that draw crowds to the city zoo. No, He specified the whole of creation. And when the waters receded, and the dove flew off to dry land, God set all the creatures free, commanding them to multiply upon the earth. Then, in the words of the covenant with

Noah, 'when the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living things on earth.'"

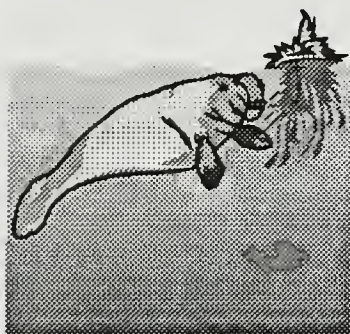
"Thus we are instructed that this everlasting covenant was made to protect the whole of creation, not for the exclusive use and disposition of mankind, but for the purposes of the Creator."

"Now, we all know that the commandment to protect creation in all its diversity does not come to us with detailed operating instructions. It is left to us to translate a moral imperative into a way of life and into public policy. Which we did. Compelled by this ancient command, modern America turned to the national legislature which forged our collective moral imperative into one landmark law: the 1973 Endangered Species Act."

"The trouble is that during the first twenty years of the Endangered Species Act, scientists and administrators and other well-intentioned people somehow lost sight of that value -- to protect the whole of creation -- and instead took a fragmented, mechanistic approach to preserve individual species. Isolated specialists working in secluded regions waited until the eleventh hour to act, then heroically rescued species -- one at a time. Sometimes the result was dramatic recovery, but often the result was chaos, conflict, and continuing long term decline. In the Pacific Northwest, for example, the spotted owl was listed even as federal agencies went forward with clear cutting. Efforts to save the alligator proceeded even as the Everglades shrivelled from diverted waters. They listed California salmon runs even as water users continued to deplete the spawning streams."

"It is only in the last few years that we have recovered, like a lost lens, our ancient religious values. This lens lets us see not human-drawn

distinctions – as if creation could ever be compartmentalized into a million discrete parts, each living in relative isolation from the others – but rather the interwoven wholeness of creation. Not surprisingly, when we can see past these man-made divisions, the work of protecting God's creation grows both easier and clearer."



"manatee"

"It unites all state, county and federal workers under a common moral goal. It erases artificial borders so we can see the full range of a natural habitat, whether wetland, forest, stream or desert expanse. And it makes us see all the creatures that are collectively rooted to one habitat, and how, by keeping that habitat whole and intact, we ensure the survival of the species. For example, in the Cascades, the spotted owl's decline was only part of the collapsing habitat of the ancient forests. When seen as a whole, that habitat stretched from Canada to San Francisco. Not one but thousands of species, from waterfowl of the air to the salmon in their streams, depended for their survival on the unique rain forest amidst Douglas fir, hemlock and red cedar. Our response was the President's Forest Plan, a holistic regional agreement forged with state and local officials and the private sector. Across three state borders, it keeps critical habitat intact, provides buffer zones along salmon streams and coastal areas, and elsewhere provides a sustainable timber harvest for generations to come."

"That's also the lesson of Everglades National Park...Only by erasing park boundaries could we trace the problem to its source, hundreds of miles upstream, where agriculture and cities were diverting the shallow water for their own needs. Only by looking at the whole South Florida watershed, could state and federal agencies unite to put the parts back together, restore the severed estuaries, revive the Park, and satisfy the needs of farmers, fishermen, ecologists and water users from Miami to Orlando. This holistic approach is working to protect creation in the most fragmented habitats of America..."

"...I'd like to say that the possibilities are limited only by our imagination and our commitment to honor the instructions of Genesis. But more and more, the possibilities are also limited by some members of Congress. Whenever I confront some of these bills that are routinely introduced, bills sometimes openly written by industrial lobbyists, bills that systematically eviscerate the Endangered Species Act, I take refuge and inspiration from the simple written answers of those children at the Los Angeles expo. But I sometimes wonder if children are the only ones who express religious values when talking about endangered species. I wonder if anyone else in America is trying to restore an ounce of humility to mankind, reminding our political leaders that the earth is a sacred precinct, designed by and for the purposes of the Creator."

"I got my answer last month. I read letter after letter from five different religious orders, representing tens of millions of churchgoers, all opposing a House bill to weaken the Endangered Species Act. They opposed it not for technical or scientific or agricultural or medicinal reasons, but for spiritual reasons."

"And I was moved not only by how such diverse faiths could reach so

pure an agreement against this bill, but by the common language and terms with which they opposed it, language that echoed the voices of the children."

- "One letter, from the Presbyterian Church, said: 'Contemporary moral issues are related to our understanding of nature and humanity's place in them.'"

- "The Reform Hebrew Congregation wrote: 'Our tradition teaches us that the earth and all of its creatures are the work and the possessions of the Creator.'"

- "And the Mennonite Church wrote: 'We need to hear and obey the command of our Creator who instructed us to be stewards of God's creation.'"

"And suddenly, at that moment, I understood exactly why some members of Congress react with such unrestrained fear and loathing towards the Endangered Species Act. I understood why they tried to ban all those letters from the congressional record. I understood why they are so deeply disturbed by the prospect of religious values entering the national debate. For if they heard that command of our Creator, if they truly listened to His instructions to be responsible stewards, then their entire framework of human rationalizations for tearing apart the Act comes to nought."



"paddlefish"

"I conclude...by affirming that those religious values remain at the heart of the Endangered Species Act, that they make themselves manifest through the green eyes of the grey wolf, through the call of the whooping crane, through the splash of the Pacific salmon,

through the voices of America's children. We are living between the flood and the rainbow: between the threats to creation on the one side and God's covenant to protect life on the other."

"Why should we save endangered species? Let us answer this question with one voice, the voice of the child at that expo, who scrawled her answer at the very bottom of the sheet: 'Because we can.'"

Religious Groups Following Babbitt's Lead

Calling the Endangered Species Act the "Noah's Ark of our day," the Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN) announce on January 31 a nationwide drive to create a movement of "Noah" congregations pledged to support the ESA. Leaders of the group were to meet in late January with Interior Secretary Babbitt and House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

In addition to EEN's efforts, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment -- a coalition of Evangelicals, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox and black church groups -- is organizing a mass mailing to urge clergy to start letter-writing campaigns. While many devout Jews and Christians reject environmentalism as "nature worship," evangelical Cliff Benzel says he believes many enviros "are people looking for spiritual answers."

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 182

The ESA and Recreational Fishing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have announced (December 12) a draft policy ensuring endangered species recovery while maximizing

recreational fishing opportunities. The policy, recommended by sportfishing advocates and endorsed by President Clinton in an Executive Order earlier this year, is aimed at improving Endangered Species Act (ESA) administration as it relates to recreational fisheries.

"In a few instances, especially in the West, the goals of recovering endangered species and providing recreational fisheries have been, or have been perceived to be, in conflict," explained Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. "While we remain steadfast in our commitment to endangered



species recovery, we are equally committed to ensuring that America's 50 million anglers can enjoy good fishing opportunities. This policy will guide us in doing both."

The proposed policy identifies measures the two agencies will take to ensure consistency in ESA administration:

- increase partnerships with other Federal, state, and Tribal fisheries managers;
- involve these groups in recovery planning and other actions taken for species listed, or proposed for listing, under the Act;
- increase public information

regarding requirements of the Act; and

- provide more fishing opportunities on Federal lands.

Habitat loss and degradation historically have been the biggest causes of fish declines and loss of recreational fishing opportunities. As habitat quality was compromised, many native species declined. Because of these declines, as well as public desire for specific types of fish, fisheries managers began introducing non-native fish favored by anglers. The risks associated with introducing non-native species were often not well understood, and in some situations, these fish have preyed upon or competed with native species and contributed to their long-term decline.

One purpose of this policy is to acknowledge that management of native and non-native fishes can be complementary or at least compatible in many situations, and to ensure that if conflicts arise, the agencies and partners will work together to resolve them.

Two components of the policy are especially designed to avoid or resolve conflicts. One is cooperating with states, Tribes, and other groups to provide comparable fishing opportunities when others are curtailed to protect listed species. The policy also aims to eliminate unnecessary restrictions involving stocking for recreational fisheries. For example, in areas where stocking may be restricted because the areas are part of a listed species' historical range but are not currently occupied by the listed species, the agencies would ensure consideration of the recreational fishery's importance as well as the recovery needs for the listed species.

The proposed policy was initiated by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, established in

1993 to advise the Interior Secretary on recreational fishing and boating issues. The council is composed of 18 sportfishing and boating advocates from the private sector and state government agencies.

Contact: Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 452, Arlington, Virginia 22203, (703) 358-2171; or the Chief, Endangered Species Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-2322.

USFWS Helps Landowners Protect Species

In a new plan that aims to address Endangered Species Act (ESA) concerns of Texas landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will exempt property owners in 18 TX counties from "key habitat protection regulations" on land the owners restore and protect as coastal prairie for a decade or more. Biologists estimate that the coastal prairie ecosystem has disappeared from all but 1% of the 13 million acres it once occupied in TX and LA.

Landowners participating in the "Safe Harbor" program will have to leave land in restored prairie condition for at least 10 years. Even if a restored area has then attracted species under ESA protection, the owner may legally develop the added prairie habitat. But destroying endangered species habitat that was on the property before the restoration or directly killing a protected species will still be illegal.

The plan is only the second of its kind in the country, following one in NC, but the FWS hopes to start applying it more widely.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No.

Publications on Endangered Colorado River Fish

Free publications are currently available on four species of endangered Colorado River fish. These fish occur nowhere else on earth. Color posters, brochures, newsletters, "historical accounts" booklets, fishing license holders and fact sheets can be ordered from the Colorado River Recovery Program.

Publications and materials available include the following:

- Newsletter about endangered fish recovery,
- Report on attitudes toward endangered fish,
- Fact sheets about endangered/native and non-native fish,
- Status report on recovery program activities,
- Color Poster of the Colorado River,
- Fishing license holder with map showing where endangered fish are found,
- Color brochure about endangered fish recovery,
- Angler information card with photos of endangered fish, and
- Booklet describing historical accounts of endangered Colorado River fish.

Publications can be ordered from: Colorado River Recovery Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver, CO 80225; FAX (303) 236-0027.

Wetlands, Flooding, Federal Dollars, and Boondoggles

The following is an editorial from "The Tribune's View", Columbia Daily Tribune, Columbia, Mo., December, 12, 1995. We thought our readers would be interested in what it has to say.

"After the Flood of '93, the federal government offered money

to farmers who would convert croplands into wetlands. Now, after another round of flooding, so many farmers are seeking to enroll in the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program that the feds are running out of money, renegeing on promises to pay and making farmers mad.



'How many things are wrong with this picture? Start with the misbegotten program of public levee building that protected untold thousands of acres from routine river flooding. By spending these billions, government geniuses gave land owners in the river bottoms a giant bonanza, encouraging them to farm and otherwise develop land that often would have been under water without official tinkering. The geniuses also screwed up river channels, forcing more and more water to rush downstream in an ever narrower space, spending ever more to maintain levees, ruining natural wetlands, interfering with wildlife habitat and generally asking for trouble sooner or later.

'Sooner-or-later came in 1993 when Midwest rivers finally broke through, ruining millions of dollars worth of levees and putting vast farmland acreages under water. The one good thing about the flood is that it finally taught the folly of public levee policies. Since it was impossible to rebuild all these structures, federal and state officials have been busy since trying to unravel the knotty situation they created.

'They have offered to buy out residents who would relocate on higher ground. And they have offered money to farmers who would convert flooded property to

wetlands.

'Levees should not be rebuilt at public expense, except where serious development in the public interest has occurred such as the Columbia water supply installation in the McBaine bottoms and well-populated river towns that need protection. Most rural land should be returned to its natural state unless private farmers want to build their own levees.

'If the government simply does not rebuild levees wetlands development will take care of itself. Many or most owners will decide it's not worth it to build their own levees. A pattern of riverside wetlands will return.

'However, the feds have gotten so deeply into the habit of subsidizing farmers that they are trying their best to do it again, and they would except for the mere fact that they've run out of money. Imagine! Finally even the federal government is having to decide not to simply do more deficit spending.

'Since a certain amount of money already is committed, perhaps the government simply should split it evenly among all farmers who are willing to give a wetland easement. Those who don't think the payment is enough should be left alone. If they want to farm in the bottom, let them. If they want to rebuild levees on their own land, let them. But let them proceed without benefit of public levee protection. Under this scenario plenty of acreage will be farmed with much less intensity than before.

'When the government can't figure out how to come up with a farm subsidy plan, everyone goes into a daze. The way, of course, is simply to quit making the payments and let farmers figure out how best to function on their own. Many will be better off. We will not suffer from lack of food and fiber. We will wind

down one of our most egregious welfare programs.

'A good place to start rearranging our thinking is to quit dithering about wetland payments. If the government simply gets out of the levee business, it can stay out of the wetlands business as well.

'The last thing we need worry about is creating wetlands in flood plains. Our problem is how to end government meddling.'

The GAO and Levees

After the 1993 flood Congress asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review:

- the extent to which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' flood control levees prevented flooding and reduced damage during that event;
- the amount the federal levees increased the height of the flooding and added to the damage; and
- the extent to which federal, state, and local governments exercise control over the design, construction, placement, and maintenance of nonfederal levees.

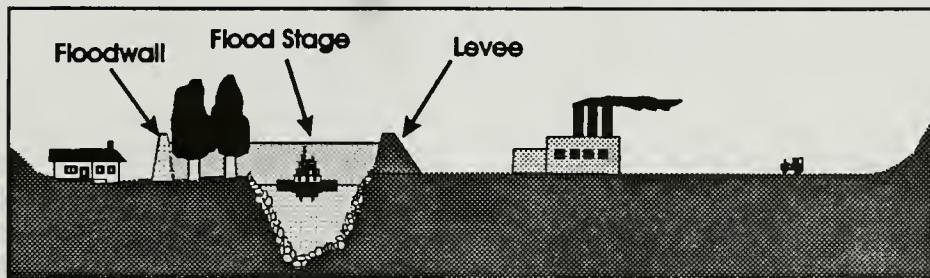
The GAO findings are contained in the report, "Midwest Flood: Information on the Performance, Effects, and Control of Levees" (GAO/RCED-95-125, 1995, 79 pp.).

According to Corps records, 157 of the 193 Corps levees prevented rivers from flooding

about 1 million acres and causing \$7.4 billion in damage. Another 32 levees withstood floodwaters until the water overtopped them, and four other levees were breached or otherwise allowed water into protected areas. The Corps estimated the damage caused by the overtopping and breaching of these levees to be about \$450 million.

The report notes that because a levee confines a flood, it causes floodwaters to rise higher than they would otherwise (See Figure Below). GAO cautions that the degree of impact varies by location and that many other natural and human-caused factors also affect the peak flood levels, including flood duration, amount of vegetation in the basin, sediment deposition, water temperature, urban development, agriculture, navigation, and developed wetlands. The Corps adds that, although their levees can increase damage elsewhere, the net effect of Corps levees and reservoirs in the upper Mississippi River Basin is to reduce flooding.

The report further states that studies indicate natural and human-caused changes within the basin have raised the levels of both the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. In addition, precipitation in the upper Mississippi River Basin appears to be increasing, prompting concern that the extent of flooding and related damage will increase. The report also describes federal, state, and local programs for regulating levees and



Levees constrict river channels causing water levels to rise. When levees break or overtop, catastrophic damages occur because those behind levees suddenly face the rapidly rising waters of "dam break" flood waves.

floodplains.

Free copies of the Midwest Flood Report can be obtained from the U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-6015; (202) 512-6000, FAX: (301) 258-4066.

West Tennessee's Flood Plan Backfiring

One of our readers sent us a January 1993 by-line article by Tom Charlier of the *(Memphis) Commercial Appeal*. Even though the article is more than three years old, it should be of interest to our readers.

According to the article, the West Tennessee Tributaries project, an ambitious \$43.5 million flood control project has resulted in more, not less, flooding for many farmers and communities.

Drawing on federal data to create before-and-after comparisons, two University of Alabama geography department researchers (David Shankman and Thomas Bryan Pugh) concluded that "channelization" of the Obion River more than doubled flood frequency on that river's lower reaches during growing seasons.

The Alabama researchers focused on the Obion, which flows into the Mississippi about 60 miles north of Memphis. As part of the long-controversial tributaries project, \$12 million were spent in the 1960's channelizing and straightening the Obion so that floodwaters could drain from a watershed more quickly. The entire tributaries project, authorized by Congress in 1948, envisioned channel work along 225 miles of the Obion and Forked Deer river systems.

Using the Corps' data, Shankman and Pugh compared river flows with corresponding rainfall events during 10-year periods both before and after channelization.

They concluded that channelization increased water velocity, and effectively decreased flooding in the upper portions of the Obion River. However, these same swiftly flowing waters reached downstream areas far faster than the channel could accommodate, resulting in higher "peak discharges" and increased flood frequency.

During the 10-year period before channelization, flooding during the May-to-October growing season averaged 0.5 times/yr, while after channelization flooding averaged 1.2 times/yr, an increase of 140%.

Channelization did reduce average flood duration from 3.3 to 1.3 days, but the researchers said that brief and intense floods still cause severe damage to agriculture, the protection of which was one of the main justifications for the tributaries project.

Reference: Shankman, D. and T. B. Pugh. 1992. Discharge response to channelization of a coastal plain stream. *Wetlands* 12(3):157-162.

Legal/Policy Issues Affecting Yazoo River Fisheries

Federal flood control projects on Mississippi's Yazoo River demonstrate the often conflicting goals of federal and state agencies and interests. A new report entitled, "Legal and Policy Regimes Affecting River Fisheries in the Delta Region of Western Mississippi" examines Constitutional and statutory authority for the Yazoo River Basin's flood control projects, their relationship to the public trust doctrine and navigation servitude, and the influence of relevant federal and Mississippi environmental laws on the projects' operation and maintenance with an emphasis on

fishery impacts. It also examines possible inadvertent, discriminatory consequences of the projects' design operation and maintenance.

Contact: Jeffery A. Ballweber, J.D., Fisheries Law Specialist, Water Resources Research Institute, P.O. Drawer AD, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762-5529.

Gingrich Attacks River Pollution

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R/GA) says Atlanta's continuing pollution of the Chattahoochee River is due in part to the city's "grotesque incompetence", and said the federal government has "every right" to step in and force a halt to the pollution.

In a "wide-ranging" discussion with a panel of Georgia environmental leaders who advise him, Gingrich said that he fought to stop Atlanta's pollution in his old congressional district, which included several counties downstream from the city. According to Gingrich, "The city of Atlanta not only is polluting downstream in the state of Georgia, but also is polluting downstream in Alabama and Florida and all the way to the Gulf." Gingrich said he wants a strong USEPA to stop such pollution, but said the agency was "still too bureaucratic and adversarial."

While the GOP has singled out the EPA for cuts, Gingrich said he agrees with an assessment sent to him late in January by 30 congressional GOP moderates who complained the party had "taken a beating this year over missteps in environmental policy". The group asked him to correct the course during budget talks.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 181

Missouri River Plant Closed

A federal judge on January 5 approved a settlement between Asarco Inc. and the USEPA requiring the company to pay a \$3.5 million fine for discharging pollutants from its Omaha lead refinery into the Missouri River. The settlement cancelled a scheduled trial over a lawsuit that asked for the plant to be shut down because it was discharging lead, arsenic and other contaminants from 1989-1994 in violation of the Clean Water Act.



Asarco also agreed to pay an additional \$1 million to buy wetlands along the river, monitor lead levels in area soils and possibly monitor the blood of area residents. Asarco attorney Peter Nickels said the company was pleased with the settlement. Attorneys for the two local citizens who filed the original lawsuit said they would have preferred a higher fine, but considered the settlement a big environmental victory because it will reduce pollutants entering the river.

Asarco officials have said they plan to close the lead-refining portion of the plant by the end of 1996 to avoid spending the \$40 million it would take to bring it into compliance with air-quality standards.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 170

Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act

In 1970, the Louisiana State Legislature enacted the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act in an effort to preserve and protect the ecological and aesthetic values of certain free-flowing streams (or rivers) and segments of streams located throughout the state. The program is administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF).

Scenic stream protection is primarily accomplished through the permitting of certain activities along designated waterways. The 1970 Act prohibited four activities in designated streams:

- channelization,
- clearing and snagging,
- channel realignment, and
- reservoir construction.

Any other activity which may have a significant adverse ecological impact may also be subject to review and permitting by LDWF Scenic Rivers Section.

In 1987, a Scenic Rivers Task Force was formed to review and revise the 1970 Act. The revised Act, enacted in 1988, added one additional prohibition - commercial clearcutting of timber within 100 feet of the designated stream's low water point. Additionally, the Act revised the permitting process and required that a management plan be developed for each Scenic Stream or Scenic River. Today, there are 52 waterways designated as Natural and Scenic Rivers in Louisiana.

The majority of riparian lands and some waterbottoms along and in designated Scenic Rivers are privately owned. Private landowners, therefore, are key to the success of the program. LDWF biologists indicate that there is a perception among landowners that a Scenic Rivers designation will prevent them from using their land as they see fit. According to LDWF, the Scenic River System goal is not to

prohibit landowners from doing what they want on their property but to cooperate with individuals so that landowners conduct activities in a way that is the least damaging to the environment.

As of May 1995, management plans have been developed for all 52 designated waterways. LDWF is now in the process of conducting statewide public meetings to obtain riparian landowner input that will be used to revise each management plan.

Contact: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Scenic Rivers Section at (504) 765-2821.

Deep-Water Fish Sampling Methodology

Bendway weirs are an innovative, successful, and cost effective means to maintain a safe and dependable navigation channel on the Mississippi River. These weirs significantly improve navigation conditions around bends by creating desired navigation channel dimensions.

Although, more than 100 of these structures have been placed in 13 bends of the Mississippi River, their effects on the aquatic environment had not been evaluated. Of particular concern was the effect of the weirs on the pallid sturgeon, a fish species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

A major obstacle in collecting these data was sampling in deep water, high velocity environments. Conventional sampling techniques, such as electrofishing and netting, generally have been limited to depths less than 20 ft. and velocities below 2 to 3 ft./sec. In a bendway weir field, depths can exceed 50 ft., and velocities can exceed 6 ft./sec.

A Deep Water Sampling

Committee (DWSC), consisting of representatives from the Corps of Engineers St. Louis District and Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Waterways Experiment Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Long Term Resource Monitoring Program, Missouri Department of Conservation, Illinois Department of Conservation, and Southern Illinois University was formed in 1994 to identify potentially useful sampling methods. These included explosives, shocking, gill netting, trammel netting, trotlining, and hoop netting.

The DWSC decided on using explosives as potentially the most effective sampling technique. Placement of explosives, weighting of the nets, and anchoring of trotlines was completed using conventional buoy blocks from the M.V. Pathfinder. The Pathfinder also assisted in collecting the nets. Each agency provided at least one catch boat to capture fish after the charge was detonated. In such swift current, fish could surface many hundreds of feet downstream, so several boats were required to effectively cover the area.

On 19 September 1995 a 300 ft. section over a bendway weir field was sampled. Preparations for the sampling (placing charges and catch nets), took approximately 6 hours. When the explosives were detonated fish immediately began surfacing. In all, 217 fish of 13 different species were captured, including 75 fresh-water drum up to 20 pounds, 58 gizzard shad, 24 blue catfish up to 35 pounds, and numerous other species, including one sturgeon.

Other collection methods generally resulted in reduced catch rates. The initial consensus was that current velocity and sediment movement in bends cause nets to move too much or become silted over. These methods will be reevaluated and modifications will be made before

they are tested again.

The alternative method with the most promise consisted of rigging an electro-shocker on the bow of the M.V. Pathfinder. This shocker could be lowered to depths exceeding 40 feet and a charge induced through the electrodes to stun fish. A specially designed net captures the fish. This method worked exceptionally well when the boat was stationary. Although further modifications will be required to allow more maneuverability, this procedure has potential for future use.

Source: LMRCC Newsletter, Volume 2, Number 4, December 1995

Ecosystems At Risk

No part of the U.S. is safe from wildlife losses and the Mid-Atlantic region is at "high" risk of losing all its wild lands within a decade, according to a new report by Oregon State University's Reed Noss and the Defenders of Wildlife's Robert Peters.

In 10 of the nation's fastest growing states, the next decade will determine whether any wild lands survive at all, the report says. The report ranks FL, CA, HI, GA, NC, TX, SC, VA, AL and TN as being at "extreme" risk of losing their natural heritage. The authors based their rankings on

- the pace of development,
- the amount of land lost,
- the condition of remaining wild lands, and
- the number of endangered and threatened species.

The report argues for the preservation of natural areas, saying they provide

- new sources of food and medicine,
- protection from natural disasters,
- recreation,
- and jobs.

Nationwide, more than 1,000 plants and animals are on the endangered species list and 4,000 more are candidates for inclusion on the list. According to Peters, "Unless we turn things around very soon, within the next decade, we will lose something very essential to the American character."

The report calls for new methods of preserving whole landscapes, rather than individual parts. While the authors admit this isn't a good time to propose new laws for endangered ecosystems, they hope the report will "help put conservation of ecosystems on the national agenda".

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 162

Livestock Wastes

North Carolina state courts shut down two livestock farms and threatened to close another in three legal decisions announced in December by state Attorney General Mike Easley. The rulings stemmed from lawsuits filed by Easley as part of "a continuing crackdown on polluters in the livestock industry."

The rulings target hog and dairy farms that have been accused of dumping large quantities of animal waste into nearby streams and swamps. J&H Milling Co., a 12,000-head hog operation near Walstonburg, and Sexton Dairy Farms in Henderson County were ordered to shut down, while another farmer was given a 10-day deadline to develop of clean-up plan for his hog farm.

State officials have also vowed to take action against up to 200 other operations that have been found to be dumping waste into rivers deliberately or through extreme negligence. Easley said, "I have lost my patience with polluters who put profits ahead of the public's well-being. If state

inspectors continue to find animal operators who break the law, we will continue to shut them down".

However, former NC state Representative Tim Valentine (D) said on January 18 that he is prepared to quit the state commission on hog farming, which he co-chairs, if the panel doesn't move soon toward serious reform of the state's swine industry. Some critics have complained that the Blue Ribbon Study Commission -- an 18-member panel appointed by Governor James Hunt (D), House Speaker Harold Brubaker (R) and Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight (D) -- is "weighted toward the swine industry, with



five hog farmers and eight members who have personal or professional ties to pork." The panel is slated to deliver recommendations in May.

In Missouri, state Representative Phil Tate (D), an early booster of big hog companies, filed a bill on January 18 that would increase inspections and impose a 2 cent/animal tax to finance them. State Representative Thomas Marshall (D) has also introduced a bill to establish a commission within the state Department of Agriculture with broad powers to regulate operations with more than 15,000 animals.

In Iowa, Gov. Terry Branstad (R) is fighting a state Senate effort to allow county supervisors to regulate large livestock confinements through zoning ordinances. Branstad says a 1995 livestock-regulation bill -- which sets spacing requirements

and forces operators to submit detailed plans for manure disposal -- is adequate to control hog-waste spills. But the Iowa Senate Agriculture Committee earlier this month approved a bill to allow supervisors to use zoning laws to block some proposed confinements.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, Nos. 162, 176

Natural Cleanups for Underground Tanks?

Natural processes in the ground remove most of the toxic ingredients left by underground petroleum leaks, according to a new report "which has the backing of the (USEPA) and some funding from the oil industry."

The year-long study of 1,500 contaminated sites in California "minimizes" the dangers of leaking storage tanks and "takes direct aim at the assumption" that benzene, a cancer-causing component of petroleum, threatens the state's water supply.

The study, conducted by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and funded by a \$300,000 EPA grant and a \$30,000 grant from Shell Oil, found "fuel hydrocarbons (in soil) have limited impacts on human health ... (and) the costs of cleaning up FHCs are often inappropriate when compared to the magnitude of the impact on ground-water resources." According to report co-author David Rice, "The real point here is that in many cases natural processes degrade fuel hydrocarbons at approximately the same rate as technology."

While the report concluded that only 0.0005% of California's total ground water was impacted by high benzene levels, it did not rule

out treatment in every case. Of 12,151 wells tested, 48 had measurable benzene levels. But Rice "conceded" that the study was limited to the kind of soil found under the state's largest metropolitan areas, where most gas stations and tanks are located. He said researchers did not look at what happens to contaminants in sand, gravel or fractured bedrock.

The report prompted California Governor Pate Wilson's (R) administration to halt its "costly" underground-storage-tank cleanup program. While 75% of the state's 28,000 contaminated sites have not been cleaned up, under the new policy, most of the remaining sites "probably won't be cleaned up, except for removing the leaking tanks," according to officials of the California Water Resources Control Board.

Enviros accused the Wilson administration of acting irresponsibly. According to the Sierra Club's Bonnie Holmes, "This could shut down treatment of 80 to 90% of all sites with virtually no investigation of many of them." And some regional water officials say that CA is moving too fast, acting on the basis of a narrowly focused study that looked at just one of many types of contaminants.

Patricia Eklund, chief of underground storage tank regulation for the EPA's western region, applauded the state's reaction to the study, "They are going to focus their efforts on the high-priority sites, and that's as it should be".

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 169

Grazing Issues

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) have reached an

out-of-court settlement in a lawsuit alleging overgrazing on the Humboldt National Forest in Elko County, NV. The NWF sued the USFS last March, claiming the agency had not enforced 1990 livestock grazing standards. Under the settlement, USFS will conduct site-specific studies of livestock allotments in the habitat of Lahontan cutthroat trout, elk and sage grouse.

The new standards will use cattle impact on riparian zones to determine when livestock must be removed from an allotment. The old rules allowed cattle to stay on grazing lands for a predetermined time period. Ranchers argue that it's impossible to measure livestock grazing accurately or consistently, and contend that the new rules will produce "arbitrary" decisions. But NWF says the settlement will protect sensitive forest areas from livestock damage. The settlement was approved by the NV Cattlemen's Association and the NV Land Action Association. It must now be approved by a Reno, NV federal judge.

Meanwhile in Washington, "Despite Democratic opposition," the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved legislation in late November to impose new grazing fees and establish revised federal land management policies for ranchers. Sen. Pete Domenici (R/NM) "pleaded" with his colleagues to help "maintain a way of life" for Western ranchers. The committee approved Domenici's bill over the objections of New Mexico's other senator, Jeff Bingaman (D)

The measure now goes to the Senate floor, where Democrats said they hope to make changes to the bill "they described as not going far enough." Under the bill, grazing fees would increase 30%, to \$2.10 a month for each animal unit, "far below" Clinton administration requests. The

House has yet to act on its version of the grazing bill, designed to replace regulations issued in August by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

In the meantime, the Interior Department announced on January 22 that the 1996 monthly cost for the right to raise a cow or five sheep on federal rangeland will drop from \$1.61 to \$1.35. The 16% reduction is based on a complex formula that takes into account market prices for livestock and forage, and reflects the generally depressed state of beef and lamb markets. For the 27,000 ranchers who use federal land, this will be the second substantial decrease in a row; just two years ago the fee was \$1.98 per month. The 1996 fee would have been lower except



for an executive order signed by President Reagan that placed a \$1.35 minimum on the fee. Without the floor, ranchers could have paid \$1.29 a month.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 148, 162, and 175

Tensions Rising in Western Resource Battles

Members of the gun-toting Environmental Rangers, a group at the "most extreme edge" of the enviro movement, see themselves as the last line of defense for the environment and are prepared to put their lives on the line to protect Northwest lands and waters.

Ranger leader Ric Valois and his "army of citizens," estimated to number several dozen, have vowed to stop the Phelps Dodge Mining Co. and Canyon Resources Corp. from digging a mile-wide, 675 ft. deep, \$1.8 billion gold mine 800 yds. from Montana's Blackfoot River. According to Valois, "They're not getting these places without a war. And I mean a real war." But Valois "said the group's policy is to avoid violence except as a last resort."

Mine company officials say state-of-the-art enviro-protection techniques will not allow any cyanide to leach into the river or ground water. But critics say cyanide heap leaching "has a history of spills and leaks at mines" throughout the U.S.

While recent decisions in the courts and Congress have diminished many traditional avenues of protest for enviros, "most groups have renounced violence in favor of political activism or civil disobedience." But as the uneasy climate in the West continues to brew, some say conflict may be inevitable.

The Zortman-Landusky mining complex in MT's Little Rocky Mountains has upped security after receiving "veiled threats" from Environmental Rangers wearing military-style uniforms and sidearms at public meetings.

In NM, a January 6 explosion that ripped through a U.S. Forest Service office was set deliberately according to an FBI report. The blast caused about \$25,000 in damage, blowing out a window and cracking a rear wall; no one was injured. No arrests were made and the type of explosive used was not identified.

The USFS has been "embroiled" for months in NM in a dispute between enviros and traditional Hispanic families over logging and firewood gathering in the state's northern national forests. In

August, a federal judge in Phoenix banned logging in 11 national forests in NM and AZ pending a study on the Mexican spotted owl. But some firewood gathering bans were lifted since many New Mexicans use wood for heating and cooking.

In Congress an "intraparty rift" has also reportedly developed between Western GOPers and their "deficit-minded party colleagues" over logging, grazing and mining rules. Republican deficit hawks "tend to view public land timber sales, grazing permits and mining projects as untenable federal subsidies in a time of welfare and Medicare cuts." This split poses "a prime threat to a host of public land initiatives favored by traditional Western economic interests."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R/GA) "has expressed displeasure over the political liability caused by the Western push to weaken the Endangered Species Act and other environmental standards." And House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich (R/OH) said public land programs such as timber sales and grazing permits must show a budget surplus or they will be curtailed.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 168, 170, 175

Yellowstone Mine Update

The UN's World Heritage Committee on December 5 designated Yellowstone National Park a "world heritage site in danger", in part due to the proposed New World gold mine on the border of the park. The committee is an independent panel affiliated with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Yellowstone National Park was designated a world heritage site in 1978 by the committee, which is made up of scientists and government officials. The

committee visited the mine site in early September.

The committee's finding that Yellowstone is now in danger "in theory" commits the federal government to protect the park because World Heritage sites are supposed to receive special protections. But the committee's action does "not supersede any U.S. law" and it will "have no effect" on the environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed New World Mine now underway, according to the Interior Department. The EIS is expected early this year.

Senator Conrad Burns (R/MT) says such a designation is "just



ridiculous". In a press release Burns said, "It is astonishing that a group of extreme environmentalists can invite in a few folks from the United Nations to circumvent laws that Americans and Montanans have worked hard for and lent their voices to." Joseph Baylis, president of Crown Butte Mines, the Noranda affiliate that is overseeing the mine project, also dismissed the World Heritage finding as "not a legitimate scientific and technical review" of the mine proposal. He criticized the committee for making the designation before release of the draft environmental impact statement.

Baylis said that contrary to claims by some, the mine will not use

cyanide to leach gold from mined rock. And while critics have said acidic tailings would spill into the park, Baylis said the company's plan ensures nothing from the mine would enter the park. A spokeswoman for the National Parks and Conservation Association said fears of the UN's role have been exaggerated.

Crown Butte Mines recently asked Montana to temporarily relax water quality standards on a pair of streams near the New World Mine site that are "already heavily polluted by abandoned mines in the area. Crown Butte applied for a permit under a new state law that allows MT to adopt temporary standards for water that is so polluted it cannot support its intended uses. The company offered to clean up the two creeks within the next 20 years.

A December poll taken of 817 registered Montana voters for the Billings Gazette revealed that 48% said economic benefits would not outweigh possible enviro damage from the proposed New World Mine. "Only 29% favored" Crown Butte Mines Inc's gold and silver mine. The margin of error was +/- 3%. Other "opinion surveys ... indicate women oppose mining by far greater margins than men."

Skepticism about the mine is "surprisingly plentiful" in Cooke City, MT, the 80-person town that would be in the mine's shadow according to James Brooke of the N.Y. TIMES. The criticism reflects "a growing hostility toward mining in ... a state that is shifting its economic base from mining to tourism." Opponents of the mine say it would "mar tourism" for the visitor-dependent town.

The New York TIMES remains skeptical of the mine, "After listening patiently to [Crown Butte's] safety pitch, this page is convinced that the proposed New

World Mine is a disaster-in-waiting that could ruin one of America's leading ecosystems".

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 151, 153, 154, 168

Guyana Gold Mine Tailings Dam Breaks

A tailings dam, owned by the Canadian mining firm "Cambior", storing toxic effluent from a gold mine similar to the one proposed for the Canadian owned New World Gold Mine near Yellowstone National Park ruptured in Guyana on August 20. The broken dam spilled an estimated 1.23 million m³ of cyanide waste into Guyana's largest river.

Some 18,000 people living along the Essequibo River and its tributary, the Omai, were warned by health officials not to touch or drink the water or eat its fish. At least 100 km of river were effected, including the land inhabited by the Akawaio Indians and other indigenous tribes. President Cheddi Jagan declared the area an "environmental disaster zone," and called for international assistance.

"This is the world's worst mine-tailings spill, in terms of amount spilled, in the past 25 years," said Roger Moody, a leading expert on the environmental impacts of mining. As director of the London-based group Minewatch, Moody had warned last spring that such a spill was likely at the Omai tailings dam. Cyanide-treated waste also spilled into the river in May this year killing hundreds of fish. Cyanide, used to extract gold from crushed rock, can be fatal in concentrations above 2 ppm; lower doses ingested over time can cause mental retardation. The spill's cyanide concentration was 15 ppm on the first day of the crisis; but by day two, it was diluted to 3 ppm.

Observers saw shoals of dead fish and hogs floating down the river. Meanwhile, the Canadian owners of the mine, Omai Gold Mines Ltd., released a statement saying, "At the present time there is no threat to the residents downstream from Omai in the Essequibo River."

Despite its own upbeat statement, mine officials distributed drinking water and warned residents to avoid the river. But it is doubtful that they were able to reach all river-dependent residents in the remote rainforest. "My fear for the community is that there are many people who depend on the river who cannot be reached by phone, television or radio, and will not have access to the information about not using the water or eating the fish," said Jean La Rose of the Amerindian Peoples Association in the Guyanese capital of Georgetown.

In addition to the immediate impacts of releasing cyanide into the river, there may be longterm ones as well. The toxic waste was diverted during the emergency into mine pits, which are not designed to contain water waste, making it possible that the poisons will leach into groundwater. Also, heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium and mercury were part of the slurry released into the river. As they settle out onto the riverbed, the highly toxic metals may enter the human food chain through plants and fish.

Tailings dams are often poorly built, and have a deplorable record of collapses and leaks. Failures of tailings dams have killed hundreds of people in recent years, including 269 in Italy in 1986, 47 in South Africa in 1994, 125 in the U.S. in 1972, and nearly 100 in Bulgaria in 1966.

Source: World Rivers Review, Aug. 1995

EPA Needed More Now Than in 1970

Eighty-six percent of Americans think the USEPA is needed as much as or more today than it was when it was founded in 1970, according to a poll released on December 6 by Louis Harris & Associates. Harris CEO and Chairman Humphrey Taylor said the poll shows the public "is strongly supportive of environmental policies and environmental regulation which is at least as strict as it is today. There is no mandate for taking powers away from the EPA or for weakening the powers of environmental regulators." The poll surveyed 1,007 adults nationwide from November 2-6; margin of error is about +/-3% (Harris Poll release, 12/6).

Do you think the USEPA is needed more today, equally or less than it was when it was founded 25 years ago?

	Total	GOP	Dem	Ind
More	56%	46%	60%	58%
Equally	30	30	32	29
Less	13	24	8	12
Not sure	1	-	1	1

Does government policy favor jobs or the environment too much?

	Now	4/95	1993
Favors jobs	35%	29%	32%
Favors env't	20	24	24
Balanced	42	43	38
Not sure	3	4	5

How much confidence do you have in the ability of this institution or person to protect the environment:

	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	Not sure
1. Enviro groups like Sierra Club, Audubon Society	33%	51%	13%	2%
US EPA	22	66	11	1
VP Gore	18	56	24	1
President Clinton	16	64	19	1
State and local gov'ts	16	69	14	<.5
Business	7	46	45	2

GOP-controlled Congress
7 55 36 2

How much health risk do you think there is in:

	A great deal	Some	Not much	None at all
Living near hazardous waste site	82%	15%	3%	<.5%
Living near factory/industrial area	46	44	8	2
Living near high traffic area	41	45	10	3
Garden chemicals	40	43	14	3
Living near power lines or a transmission station	31	41	20	8
Drinking tap water	19	44	25	11

How much difference can individual everyday actions like recycling and conserving water make in the quality of our environment?

Big difference	76%
Small difference	21
No difference at all	2
Not sure	<.5

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 152

Environmental Rules Good for Business

By a margin of 57% to 19%, New England business leaders agree that most efforts to protect the region's environment are good for business, a new poll has found. Twenty percent of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the assertion.

The survey of 514 New England business leaders, conducted by Northeastern University's College of Business Administration and The New England Council, also asked respondents to rank tax, budget and workplace issues that are important to the region's economy and deserve to be addressed by presidential candidates. Superfund was listed among the top four priorities by

8.4% of respondents, Clean Air Act reforms by 6.8% and Clean Water Act reforms by 5.5%, putting them at 15th, 18th and 20th respectively on the list of most important issues. Balancing the federal budget by 2002 was the most cited issue, with nearly 60% of the executives listing it among their top four priorities.

The survey, conducted by mail in November, had a 34% response rate and a 5% margin of error.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 154

Spotted Owl Protection Hasn't Hurt Economy

Logging restrictions to protect the CA spotted owl have not slowed economic growth in the Sierra Nevada, according to a study released on December 7 by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Timber jobs account for 1% of employment and personal income in the 17-county region, and the loss of about 800 lumber-mill jobs since 1991 has been far outpaced by growth in retail trade and other services, the group says.

NRDC looked at employment, income and timber harvest statistics compiled by the state



and federal governments. NRDC's Sami Yassa said, "Individual job losses ... should not be undervalued or understated. But it's critical that policy decisions

not be based on fallacies that forest protection results in economic impacts."

But Don Zee of the California Forestry Association disagreed, "Their economic arguments are completely bogus. I think it's an arrogant attitude by people at NRDC. To refer to the timber industry as insignificant is, in my opinion, referring to the timber families [as] insignificant." He said there has been a 60-70% reduction in trees logged from the Sierras since 1991. When spotted-owl protections took effect in 1991, the timber industry "predicted the loss of 10,000 jobs and economic havoc" in the region.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 154

Tax on Polluters Proposed

Worldwatch Institute's Lester Brown called for a new tax on polluters in his group's annual "State of the World" report. Brown's proposed tax would be levied on facilities that:

- emit carbon dioxide,
- clearcut forests,
- generate toxic waste, or
- have other negative environmental impacts.

According to Brown, "Now that tax surpluses are giving way to scarcity ... tax systems need to be adjusted accordingly." The report notes that Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom have begun to shift their tax base from income to environmental taxes.

The tax burden for business would not increase if governments would cut other corporate and personal taxes, Brown said. If environmental taxes were established and subsidies were phased out, personal and corporate income taxes could be cut by \$1 trillion, the group predicted.

But some industries likely to be hit by green taxes, such as utilities and chemical companies, are not enthusiastic about the idea. Paul Tebo, Du Pont's VP for the environment said, "We're in favor of the price of goods and services that we offer reflecting the full environmental impact that they impose on society. But a tax is not the best way to do that".

The insurance and banking industries are also becoming increasingly at odds with the petroleum industry on the issue of climate change, the Worldwatch report found. In the last five years, insurers have paid out \$48 billion for weather-related losses, compared with losses of \$14 billion for the entire decade of the 1980s. Brown conceded that some of the increase was due to more coastal development and higher real estate costs, but he said that the factors "do not begin to match the increasing [risk] the insurance industry is facing." As a result of their losses, some insurers are "joining the call to slow climate change," the report said.

Worldwatch called the insurance industry's new role a "potential watershed" in the climate change debate.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 171

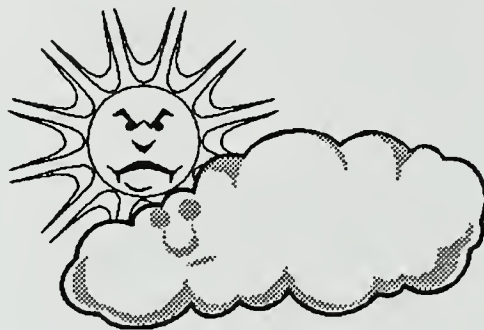
Final Climate Report Released

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agreed on December 15 to a final 28-page summary report stating that "the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernable human influence on the global climate". Governments and international negotiators will use the report as a guide in making decisions about how much to reduce greenhouse gases emissions.

IPCC Chairman Bert Bolin said

there was considerable debate before the document was approved, with both nations and interest groups proposing many additional amendments. The report predicts temperatures will rise between 1.8 and 5.4° F by the year 2100. Energy efficiency should be increased as a first step, while fossil fuel use should be reduced over the long run. "Controversially, the report did not rule out the use of nuclear energy as a means of combatting carbon dioxide emissions".

According to Environmental Defense Fund's Michael Oppenheimer, "Today's news clearly puts to rest any claims by special interests far outside the scientific mainstream that human-caused climate change is



not a problem".

Climate scientists see the world's glaciers as "star witnesses in the complicated debate about global warming," saying they are "key indicators" of climate change that are "more reliable than climate models,". The well-monitored glaciers of the Alps have shrunk by one-third to one-half over the past century, according to various estimates. But scientists at the World Glacier Monitoring Center in Zurich say little is known about glacial ice, which covers 10% of the Earth's surface. Some of the largest mountain glaciers in Alaska, Patagonia and the Himalayas are "little studied."

Because record-keeping is spotty and relatively new, it is too early

to draw conclusions about the causes of recent melting, said Wilfried Haeberli of the World Glacier Monitoring Service. The picture is also "complicated" by reports that glaciers in Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland and New Zealand are growing.

Danish geologist Anker Weidick refutes arguments that Arctic ice is melting, saying Greenland's "great ice towers and the main ice sheet are relatively stable or growing." But British scientist John Houghton, a member of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, says global warming could melt glacial ice in some areas and increase it in others. According to Houghton, "A warmer world is a wetter world. This means we get more snow and ice near the polar regions".

Meanwhile, a 4.5° F increase in Antarctica's air temperatures has caused five coastal ice shelves to break up in the last 50 years, including one that lost 400 square miles of ice in 50 days, according to a new study published in "Nature" by David Vaughn and C.S.M. Drake of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) .

The Antarctic temperature rises cannot be directly linked to human-induced climate changes, but the "pattern ... is exactly what we would expect if it was caused by a temperature rise," said Vaughn. If temperatures continue to increase, other Antarctic ice shelves could break off, a process that could speed the runoff of ice from Antarctica and lead to "drastic effects".

James Hansen of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies said the BAS researchers' finding that ice shelves break up more rapidly once past a certain point of warming could indicate that land-based glaciers may disintegrate more rapidly than previously thought. According to Vaughn, "It's something worth

thinking about".

According to "some experts," a warming atmosphere will also cause increased evaporation of ocean water, which will then lead to increased precipitation levels. Additional evaporation also "releases more energy into the atmosphere, making storms more powerful." "If the scientists are right, extreme weather will be a hallmark of the changing climate, and in fact may be the most common way in which people experience global warming," reports William Stevens in the N.Y. TIMES.

The Blizzard of 1996 in the east "does indeed qualify as one type of extreme weather to be expected in a warmer climate." According to Thomas Karl of the NC-based National Climatic Data Center, "It's another statistic to add to the record [of extreme precipitation]. It's rather interesting. We seem to be getting these storms of the century every couple of years." Researchers there last year found that from 1980-94, the incidence of extreme one-day precipitation, overall precipitation and above normal temperatures had risen in many areas of the U.S.

Source: Greenwire Vol. 5, No. 159, 160, 171, 179 and 181

Ohio River Fisheries Management Team

The Ohio River Fisheries Management Team (ORFMT) was organized in 1990 in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on ownership of the river and the mandated concurrent jurisdiction. The ORFMT consists of fisheries leaders and biologists from the six boundary states responsible for managing the River's fisheries.

Originating in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, the Ohio River serves as

the shared boundary between OH and WV, as well as the shared boundary between the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the states of IL, IN, and OH. While the authority and responsibility for protection and management of the River's fishery is vested in the individual states, fish are mobile and take no regard for political boundaries. The Ohio and its fishery are therefore truly interjurisdictional resources.

Leaders from the six states recognized their common concerns for the River's fishery, and that the effectiveness of each state's long-term fisheries management efforts could be substantially enhanced through the collaborative pooling of resource information and management programs to the fullest extent possible.

The ORFMT meets 3-4 times annually to:

- develop shared fisheries management objectives,
- coordinate regulatory responsibilities,
- conduct joint management programs, and
- facilitate technical information exchange among the states and with other governmental, public and private interests on the Ohio River.

The ORFMT has:

- standardized fishing regulations for black basses, walleye, and sauger among each state;
- completed a creel survey of 491 miles of the river between KY, OH, WV, and IN; and
- published an Ohio River Fishing Guide.



"walleye"

The Ohio River Fishing Guide will be important to the Team's

continuing effort to improve Ohio River fishing and to provide fisheries information to river anglers. According to the Guide, the Ohio River and its tributaries provide some of most varied fishing in the United States. At least 159 species of fish have been reported from the river; 25 species are considered sportfish and are caught by anglers along some portion of the river.

Fisheries biologists separate the river into three segments:

- the upper 300 miles to Huntington, WV;
- the middle 300 miles between Huntington and Louisville, KY; and
- the lower 400 miles from Louisville to the Ohio River/Mississippi River confluence.

The gradient of the upper river is greater than that of the middle and lower river. As a result, currents are faster and there are more locks and dams and tailwaters in the upper river (10) than in the middle (4) and lower (6) river. Embayments or backwater areas are more abundant in the lower river than in the upper river.

The pools comprise 99% of the River, but are not the best places to fish. A 1992 recreational use survey along the Ohio segment of the river revealed that 67% of the fish were caught from the tailwater areas - less than 1% from the river! The recreational survey revealed that the most sought after fish are the black basses followed by hybrid striped bass/white bass, sauger, and walleyes. Catfishing was most popular in the middle river and black bass fishing in the upper river.

A delegate from the ORFMT represents the Ohio River on MICRA's Executive Board. The ORFMT is thus MICRA's access to issues and activities on the Ohio River, and MICRA is the ORFMT's access to other groups and states basinwide.

North American Native Fishes Association

The North American Native Fishes Association (NANFA) is a national organization recently formed to address the needs of native North American fishes. The NANFA publishes a bimonthly newsletter called "Darter".



"river darter"

According to a recent article in "Darter" (Sept.-Oct. 1995, Number 14) regionalization of NANFA is the key to its future as an organization. "This will enable small groups of like-minded individuals to gather and share resources, collect, trade, and address environmental concerns."

"Regions may consist of several people in one state or several

people in one metropolitan area.

Each region will have a representative who will recruit members, arrange regional gatherings on an annual basis, and possibly represent NANFA in other functions. The first goal will be 25-30 reps by this time next year..."

Contact: Robert Schmidt, Simon's Rock Bard College, Afford Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Aquatic Conservation Network

Aquatic Conservation Network (ACN) is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to conserving aquatic life with an emphasis on freshwater fishes. Activities and functions include networking, science forum, conservation and captive breeding programs, and liaison between scientists and interested individuals.

Publications include a quarterly

bulletin, *Aquatic Survival and Captive Breeding Guidelines*, which provide the basics of being a conservation Aquarist.

A recent news release highlighted the Affiliate Club Program.

Objectives include:

- instilling a sense of stewardship into fish keeping;
- encouraging proper and optimum care of aquarium fish;
- intensifying the focus on the conservation of aquatic biodiversity; and
- fostering initiatives aimed at preventing the extinction of freshwater fishes.

Contact: Rob Huntley, General Manager, ACN, 540 Roosevelt Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2A 1Z8, (613) 7294670, FAX (613) 729-5613, Email: ag508@freenet.carleton.ca, or World Wide Web: <http://www.nct.carleton.ca/freepoint/social.services/eco/org/s/aquat-con/menu>.

Source: DARTER, Sept.-Oct. 1995, Number 14

Meetings of Interest

February 27-March 1: 27th Annual International Erosion Control Association Conference and Trade Exposition, Sheraton Seattle Hotel and the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA. Contact IECA, P.O. Box 4904, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477-4904; 1-800-455-IECA, FAX (970) 879-8563.

March 5-7: 52nd Annual UMRCC Meeting, Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau, MO. Contact: Jenny Frazier, 3815 E. Jackson Blvd., Jackson, MO 63755, (573) 243-2659, FAX (573) 290-5736.

March 11-13: "The Mighty Missouri - Past and Future", 25th Annual Nebraska Water

Conference, Red Lion Inn Omaha, NE. Contact: Robert D. Kuzelka, Assistant to the Director, Water Center/Environmental Programs, (402) 472-3305 or Bettina Heinz, IANR Communications Associate, (402) 472-9549.

March 14-16: "Mississippi River and Her People", The Radisson Hotel, Memphis, TN. Contact: Meg Hacker, National Archives-SW Region, (817) 334-5525 ext.244, FAX (817) 334-5621, email: >meg.hacker@ftworth.nara.gov>

March 18-21: "Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Watershed Development on Aquatic Ecosystems and Water Quality, The Westin Hotel, Chicago, IL.

Contact: Mike Murphy, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, 222 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 454-0400, FAX (312) 454-0411.

March 22-27: 61st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Adams Mark Hotel, Tulsa, OK. Contact: Richard McCabe, 1101 14th St., N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 371-1808, FAX (202) 408-5059.

March 25-27: Conference on the Ecology and Management of Southern Forested Wetlands, Clemson University, Clemson, SC. Contact: Dr. Kathryn Flynn, School of Forestry, 108 M. White

Smith Hall, Auburn University,
Auburn, AL 36849-5418, (334)
844-1036, FAX (334) 844-1084
or e-mail: Flynn~Forestry.
Auburn.edu.

March 27-29: The 15th Annual Meeting of the Western Aquatic Plant Management. Portland, OR. The meeting will feature a symposium on non-indigenous species in western U.S. aquatic ecosystems. Contact: Mark Sytsma, Biology Dept., Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207

March 27-29: 1st International Conference on Restoration Ecology for Sustainable Development, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland. Contact: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Geobotany Zurichbergstrasse 38, CH-8044 Zurich, Switzerland; phone +41 1632 12 15, email: lee@umnw.ethz.ch

April 25-26: 28th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi River Research Consortium, Holiday Inn, La Crosse, WI. Contact: Mark Sandheinrich, River Studies Center, Dept. of Biology & Microbiology, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601; (608) 785-8261, FAX (608) 785-6959.

May 16-17: 23rd Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation, Tampa,

Florida. Contact: Frederick J. Webb, Dean of Environmental Programs, Hillsborough Community College, Plant City Campus, 1206 N. Park Rd., Plant City, FL 33566; (813) 757-2104.

May 18-23: 6th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Contact: A.E. Luloff, program cochair, Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, 111 Armsby Bldg., The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802; (814) 863-8643, FAX (814) 865-3746.

June 9-14: From Small Streams to Big Rivers - 17th Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists, Kansas City, MO. Contact: Thomas Taylor, 6617 W. 101st St., Overland Park, KS 66212 (913) 551-7226, email: TAYLOR.THOMAS@EPAMAIL.EP A.GOV.

June 10-14: 20th Annual National Conference, Association of State Floodplain Managers, San Diego, CA. Contact: Diane Alicia Watson, ASFPM Executive Office, 4233 W. Beltline Hwy., Madison, WI 53711, (608) 274-0123, FAX (608) 249-4484.

June 11-14: Symposium on Social, Economic and Management Aspects of Recreational Fisheries, Dublin, Ireland. Contact: Dr Phil Hickley,

National Rivers Authority, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull B91 1QT, United Kingdom, Tel: 0121 711 5813 or FAX 0121 711 5824.

June 17-23: Society for Ecological Restoration 1996 Annual Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact: Society for Ecological Restoration, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711, (608) 262-9547, FAX (608) 265-8557, e-mail ser@vms2.macc.wisc.edu

August 13-16, 1996: The DELTA: Connecting Points of View for Sustainable Natural Resources. Cook Convention Center, Memphis, TN. Contact: National Association of Conservation Districts, Delta Conference, 509 Capitol Court, NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 547-NACD.

September 22-28: INTECOL V International Wetlands Conference, University of Western Australia, Perth. Contact: UWA Extension Conference and Seminar Management, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Perth 6907; 619 380-2433; FAX 619 380-1066; e-mail: uwext~uniwa.uwa.edu.au

October 23-26: 23rd Annual Natural Areas Conference and 15th North American Prairie Conference, Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center, St. Charles, IL. Contact Karl Becker, (217) 785-8774.

Congressional Action Pertinent to the Mississippi River Basin

Agriculture

S. 854 (Lugar, R/IN) includes recommendations for the **Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Incentive and Cost Share programs.** The **Farm Bill** would no longer allow permanent easements under the **Wetlands**

Reserve Program, favoring shorter term easements instead. The **Conservation Reserve Program** would be capped at the current level of 36.4 million acres. The bill would combine all other conservation programs into a new program, the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program,** focused on problems of livestock

waste management. Approved by the Agriculture Committee on September 28.

S. 935 (Sarbanes, D/MD) amends the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a program to promote development of riparian forest buffers in conservation priority areas.

H.R. 67 (Bereuter, R/NE) extends the **Conservation Reserve Program** for 10 years and the **Wetlands Reserve Program** for 5 years.

H.R. 2284 (Pombo, R/CA) provides incentives for the owners and operators of agricultural land to provide habitat for protected species.

H.R. 2793 (Rose D/NC) provides for establishment and funding of a conservation incentives program to assist farmers and ranchers develop and implement conservation practices to protect soil, water and related resources.

Fish & Wildlife

S. 191 (Hutchison, R/TX) and H.R. 490 (Smith, R/TX) amends the **Endangered Species Act** imposing a moratorium on new listings and critical habitat designations.

S. 455 (Kempthorne, R/ID) clarifies consultation procedures under the **Endangered Species Act** on management of federal lands.

S. 503 (Hutchison, R/TX) freezes **Endangered Species Act** listings and critical habitat designations.

S. 851 (Johnston, D/LA) amends the **Clean Water Act** reforming the wetlands regulatory program. Hearings held July 19 and Aug. 2.

S.1152 (Conrad Burns R/MT) amends the **Endangered Species Act** with common sense amendments to strengthen the act; enhance wildlife conservation and management; augment funding; and protect fishing, hunting, and trapping.

S. 1364 (Kempthorne R/ID) reauthorizes and amends the **Endangered Species Act** and for other purposes.

S. 1365 (Kempthorne R/ID) provides federal tax incentives to owners of environmentally sensitive lands to enter into

conservation easements for the protection of endangered species habitat, and for other purposes.

S. 1366 (Kempthorne R/ID) amends the IRS Code of 1986 to allow for deduction from the gross estate of a decedent an amount equal to the value of real property subject to an endangered species conservation agreement.

H.R. 1714 (Dooley D/CA) amends the **Endangered Species Act** to require expeditious review of species being considered for listing under the act or currently listed under the act.

H.R. 2160 (James Saxton (R/NJ) entitled "**Cooperative Fisheries Management Act of 1995.**" Reauthorizes the **Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act**.

H.R. 2217 (Pete Geren D/TX) entitled the "**Common Sense Amendments for An Endangered Species Act.**"

Senate Environment Committee on August 3 held a hearing on legislation reauthorizing the **Endangered Species Act**.

H.R. 2275 (Young, R/AK and Pombo, R/CA) reauthorizes and amends the **Endangered Species Act**. Marked up on October 12.

H.R. 2284 (Pombo, R/CA) provides incentives for the owners and operators of agricultural land to provide habitat for protected species.

Forests

S. 647 (Lott, R/MS) amends the **Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974** to require that major changes to forest management plans be phased in over time to minimize impact to communities.

H.R 1089 (Cremeans, R/OH) ensures that acquisition of lands for inclusion in the **National Forest System** does not result in a loss

of tax revenue to the affected county.

H.R. 1439 (Metcalfe, R/WA) amends the **National Forest Management Act of 1976** to require that the Forest Service timber sale program be financed only by receipts from the sale of timber under the program. Senate Energy Committee held a hearing Nov. 29 on implementation of salvage logging. House Resources Committee held hearing on Dec. 19 on salvage logging and timber health issues.

Government Affairs

S. 169 (Grassley, R/IA) curbs the practice of imposing unfunded federal mandates on states and local governments.

S. 1001 (Glenn, D/OH) reforms the regulatory process, providing for cost-benefit analysis risk assessment of major rules, and calls for a review of existing rules.

S. 1346, (Abraham R/MI) requires periodic review of federal regulations.

H.R. 2500, (Michael Oxley R/OH) amends the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980**.

H.R. 2827 (Saxton R/NJ) consolidates and improves governmental environmental research by organizing a **National Institute for the Environment**.

Grazing

S. 193 (Campbell, D/CO) establishes a forage fee formula on Agriculture and Interior department lands.

S. 629 (Thomas, R/WY) prohibits requiring environmental assessments for grazing permit renewal under the **National Environmental Policy Act**.

S. 636 (Daschle, D/SD) requires the Agriculture Secretary to issue new term grazing permits on National Forest System lands to replace expired or expiring grazing permits.

S. 852 (Domenici, R/NM) and **H.R. 1713 (Cooley, R/OR)** provides for the uniform management of livestock grazing on federal lands. Senate Energy Committee approved for floor action on November 30.

H.R. 1713 (the Livestock Grazing Act) was approved by the House Resources Committee full committee action on September 12.

H.R. 1375 (Cooley, R/OR) provides for extension of expiring term grazing permits for lands within the National Forest System.

Mining

S. 504 (Bumpers, D/AR) amends the Mining Law of 1872, imposing a royalty on mineral operations and reforming the process for mineral development.

S. 506 (Craig, R/ID) amends the Mining Law of 1872 imposing a royalty on mineral operations and reforming the process for mineral development.

S. 639 (Campbell, R/CO) amends and reforms the Mining Law of 1872 providing for the disposition of locatable minerals on federal lands.

Parks

S. 964 (Johnston, D/LA) amends the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 giving the Interior Secretary authority to collect entrance fees at National Parks for direct use on priority park maintenance and repair projects.

H.R. 260 (Hefley, R/CO) provides for a plan and management

review of the National Park System, and reforms the process for considering additions to the system.

H.R. 1280 (Hefley, R/CO) establishes guidelines for determination of National Heritage Areas.

H.R. 1301 (Vento, D/MN) establishes the National Heritage Area Partnership Program.

H.R. 1449 (Roberts, R/KA) provides for establishment of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas.

H.R. 1846 (Richardson, D/NM) establishes the Yellowstone Headwaters National Recreation Area within Montana's Gallatin and Custer National Forests

Public Lands

S. 93 (Hatfield, R/OR) amends the Federal Land Policy and Management Act providing for ecosystem management on public lands. Referred January 4 to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 449 (Simon, D/IL) establishes the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois.

S. 518 (Thomas, R/WY) limits federal acquisitions in states where 25% or more of the land is owned by the United States.

Senate Energy Committee approved for floor action **S. 907**, clarifying the authorities and duties of the Agriculture Secretary in issuing ski area permits on National Forest System lands and to withdraw lands within ski permit boundaries from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.

S. 1031 (Thomas, R/WY) and **H.R. 2032 (Hansen, R/UT)** transfers lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management to the states. House Resources

Committee held a hearing August 1 on H.R. 2032

S. 1151 (Burns, R/MT) establishes a National Land and Resources Management Commission to review and make recommendations for reforming the management of public lands

H.R. 2107 (Hansen, R/UT) amends the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to improve the quality of visitor services provided by federal land management agencies through an incentive based recreation fee program

Recreation

H.R. 104 (Emerson, R/MO) rescinds fees required for use of public recreation areas at lakes and reservoirs under jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Refuges

H.R. 91 (Sensenbrenner, R/WI) prohibits land or water acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System if wildlife refuge revenue sharing payments have not been made for the preceding year.

S. 1013 (Conrad, D/ND) authorizes the Interior Secretary to acquire land for the purpose of exchange for privately held land for use as wildlife and wetland protection areas.

H.R. 1112 (Brewster, R/OK) and **S. 976 (Nickles, R/OK)** transfers the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge to the state of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1675 (Young, R/Ak) improves management and establishes purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

H.R. 2679 (Barrett, R/NB) revises the boundaries of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge

Rivers

H.R. 1260 (Johnson, D/SD)

ensures equity in and increased recreation and economic benefits from the Missouri River system.

H.R. 1331 (Furse, R/OR) creates a voluntary non-regulatory technical assistance and grants program within the Natural Resource Conservation Service's existing Small Watershed Program.

H.R. 2939 (Gunderson, R/WI) provides for a Congressionally authorized test of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Agreement in the Mississippi River Basin.

Takings

S. 135 (Hatch, R/UT) establishes a uniform federal process for protecting private property rights.

S. 145 (Gramm, R/TX) provides for protection of private property rights.

S. 605 establishes a uniform system for protecting property rights and compensating landowners adversely affected by regulations. Approved for floor action on Dec. 21.

H.R. 9 (Archer, R/TX) creates jobs, enhances wages, strengthens private property rights

and reduces the power of the federal government.

H.R. 971 (Wyden, D/OR) ensures that homeowners have access to information and opportunities to comment on actions that may decrease home values, and establishes a compensation program for development that produces pollution or otherwise impacts home values.

Water and Wetlands

S. 49 (Stevens, R/AK) amends the Clean Water Act providing for exemptions to wetlands regulations and protection of property rights in Alaska.

S. 626 (Hatfield, R/OR) amends the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act establishing a technical assistance and grant program for waterways restoration.

S. 639 (Wamer, R/VA) authorizes civil works programs for the Army Corps of Engineers which preserves the navigation of channels and harbors and provides for flood control and storm damage reduction.

H.R. 198 (Smith, R/MI) amends the Food Security Act of 1985

permitting conversion of wetlands smaller than one acre in size.

H.R. 226 (Dingell, D/MI) amends the Safe Drinking Water Act assuring the safety of public water systems.

H.R. 961 (Shuster, R/PA) reforms and reauthorizes the Clean Water Act. Passed the House May 16, 1995.

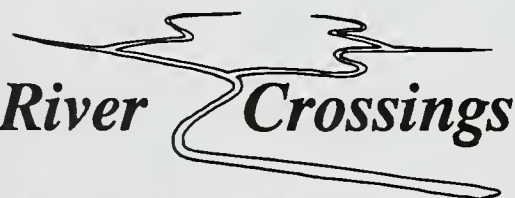
H.R. 1132 (Oberstar, D/MN) amends the Clean Water Act providing for improved non-point source pollution control.

H.R. 1262 (Pallone, D/NJ) amends the Clean Water Act improving enforcement and compliance programs.

H.R. 1268 (English, R/PA) establishes a comprehensive program for conserving and managing wetlands.

H.R. 1438 (Lowey, D/NY) amends the Clean Water Act to provide funding to the states for estuary conservation.

Source: Land Letter, Vol. 14, Nos. 17, 20, 24, 33 and Vol. 15, No. 2; and NOAA Legislative Informer, September 1995, Issue #15



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