Congressional Update

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Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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Congressional Update is published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department Legislative Affairs Division throughout the year. We provide a summary of Congressional legislation and national news that pertains to the Department.

National News:

- Congress has recessed until after the November Election (all legislation is dead unless Congress reconvenes before the start of the 110th Congress.)
- Before Congress recessed for the elections, they passed several bills and sent to the President for his signature. Among those are: 1) a bill authorizing the Partners for Wildlife Program in the Fish and Wildlife Service (which heretofore had only been authorized in the appropriations bill each year); 2) a bill reauthorizing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) for five years; 3) a bill reauthorizing and improving the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act; 4) a bill reauthorizing the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act; and 5) a bill reauthorizing the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

- The Senate passed HR 6061 The Secure Fence Act which establishes operational control over the United States Political and Maritime Borders. The bill places 700 miles of double fences on the southern border to mitigate illegal Border Crossings. Senators Kyle and McCain voted Yea.

- Director Shroufe has been asked to testify to the subcommittee on Water and Power at a field hearing in Scottsdale. This is in regards to HR5180 LCR Multi-Species Conservation Program.

Congressional Legislation

House Bills: 7
Senate Bills: 5
Total: 12

H.R.2720
Title: To further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to control salt cedar and Russian olive, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] (introduced 5/26/2005) Cosponsors (9)
Related Bills: S.177
Latest Major Action: Dead
House Reports: 109-341 Part 1
Game and Fish Provision(s): $250,000 grant available

H.R.4761
Title: To provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Jindal, Bobby [LA-1] (introduced 2/15/2006) Cosponsors (114)
Related Bills: H.RES.897
Latest Major Action: Dead
House Reports: 109-531
Game and Fish Provision(s): Potential for Arizona related legislation. (Onshore mineral leases)

H.R.5136
Title: To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.
Sponsor: Rep Hall, Ralph M. [TX-4] (introduced 4/6/2006) Cosponsors (10)
Related Bills: S.2751
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): will improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities for the Arizona region, includes consultation with state government.

H.R.5180
Title: To authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Hayworth, J. D. [AZ-5] (introduced 4/25/2006) Cosponsors (7)
Related Bills: S.3841
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): Directly affects wildlife management for the LCR.

H.R.5386
Title: Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Taylor, Charles H. [NC-11] (introduced 5/15/2006) Cosponsors (None)
Related Bills: H.RES.818
Latest Major Action: Dead

Game and Fish Provision(s): several federal funds that the Department receives in match money.

H.R.5539
Title: To reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act.
Sponsor: Rep Pombo, Richard W. [CA-11] (introduced 6/7/2006) Cosponsors (6)
Latest Major Action: 9/30/2006 Passed/agreed to in Senate. Status: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.
Game and Fish Provision(s): Grants and federal funding available to state agencies.

H.R.6061
Title: To establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States.
Sponsor: Rep King, Peter T. [NY-3] (introduced 9/13/2006) Cosponsors (42)
Latest Major Action: 9/29/2006 Passed/agreed to in Senate.
Game and Fish Provision(s): Significant impact to wildlife habitat and wildlife migration.

S.548
Title: A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.
Sponsor: Sen Conrad, Kent [ND] (introduced 3/8/2005) Cosponsors (22)
Related Bills: H.R.1351
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): allow access to hunting/fishing

S.1496
Title: A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.
Sponsor: Sen Crapo, Mike [ID] (introduced 7/26/2005) Cosponsors (23)
Related Bills: H.R.1494
Latest Major Action: Became Public Law No: 109-266
Game and Fish Provision(s): Arizona possibly could sell these electronically in the future.

S.1926
Title: A bill to provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.
Sponsor: Sen Inhofe, James M. [OK] (introduced 10/27/2005) Cosponsors (4)
Related Bills: H.R.4239
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): Would apply to the state boundaries of Arizona. Enforced by the Federal Government?

S.3497
Title: A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Kyl, Jon [AZ] (introduced 6/13/2006) Cosponsors (1)
Related Bills: H.R.5016
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): provides for transfer of land affecting wildlife and provides for *permanent legal public access* into the Coronado National Forest, Whetstone Mountains.

S.3711
Title: A bill to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Sen Domenici, Pete V. [NM] (introduced 7/20/2006) Cosponsors (14)
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): Possible affect on wildlife migrating from the Gulf of Mexico region.

S.3762
Title: A bill to designate segments of Fossil Creek, a tributary to the Verde River in the State of Arizona, as wild and scenic rivers.
Sponsor: Sen McCain, John [AZ] (introduced 7/28/2006) Cosponsors (1)
Related Bills: HR 5957
Latest Major Action: Dead
Game and Fish Provision(s): Conserves and allows access for future generations of hunters and anglers to enjoy Fossil Creek as well as protect native species programs in this area.

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