

# washington dc update



## Lame Duck Time-Lines

November 22, 2010

### WESTCAS Special Conference Call Scheduled

The WESTCAS Legislative Committee will be hosting a conference call for our membership on Tuesday afternoon, November 30 to discuss the lame duck session and the early days of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. We hope everybody can participate.

Call in: 877/226-9790  
Code: 4783939#  
Date: Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, Tues  
Time: 3:00 PM CST,  
2:00PM MT  
1:00 PM PT

The Congress is in recess this week and is November 29<sup>th</sup>. Among the first orders of business will be the passage of yet another Continuing Resolution for FY11 Appropriations which will keep the federal government open after the current CR expires on December 3. This latest CR will likely run through December 10 at which time the issue of a longer term resolution will have to be considered.

Republican Congressional Leaders are scheduled to meet with President Obama November 30<sup>th</sup>. One of the top items on the agenda that day will be to hammer out an agreement of what will be dealt with during the lame duck session and what will be deferred to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. This will include issues such as the expiration of the Bush tax cuts, the START nuclear treaty, and other big ticket items. If a general agreement can be reached, the Congress should be on target to probably adjourn for the year on or around December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Here are two items of particular concern to WESTCAS members that are still pending in the lame duck session:

#### Fate of FY11 Appropriations Bills

All of the FY11 Appropriations bills have yet to be enacted by the Congress and are currently on continuing resolution. The best guess at the moment is that these

bills will not be dealt with during the lame duck but will instead be subject to a long-term continuing resolution lasting perhaps into February of next year. The fate of Federal discretionary spending at that point is uncertain. Some favor a year-long CR. Some favor reducing spending back to the FY08 level. We'll see.

#### Omnibus Natural Resources Legislation

A coalitional of environmental groups, with the encouragement of legislators like Senator Barbara Boxer, are trying to put together a huge omnibus package of public lands and environmental bills that could be considered by the Congress. As with all "omnibus bills" various pieces of legislation would be considered for this package. Some observers believe that among these items would be some of the unpassed environmental agenda of Democrats and the Administration.

Two forces working against progress of this natural resources omnibus would be (1) the very limited amount of floor time for debate that remains for the lame duck session and (2) the fact that very few of the reported top candidates for inclusion have been passed out of even House Committee.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this legislative vehicle and keep you updated.

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!



### Contact Fred or Tom

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