



## Water, Lands, Wildlife Omnibus Bill Details

December 9, 2010

WESTCAS members have asked us to monitor the possible contents of an omnibus public lands bill in the Senate. There are three important considerations to consider:

1. This is the last hope for many of these bills to be enacted before they die at the close of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. This is a potential vehicle for a massive year-end omnibus bill that could also include all of the unpassed FY11 Appropriations bills.
3. This omnibus process has the potential to include items that may or may not be in the best interests of water resource stakeholders in the arid West.

The omnibus process is best illustrated by thinking of yourself, driving along the highway and wanting a cup of coffee. If the "vehicle" you use to satisfy this desire for coffee is a Krispy Creame donut shop, there is a high likelihood that you will walk out of that establishment with more than just coffee. The same thing is true when an omnibus is put together in the waning days of a lame duck Congress.

The political calculation here is stark. Can Senate Democrats find enough Republicans to get to the 60 votes they need to move this legislation? If the answer is "yes" then we'll be off to the omnibus races. Whatever the Senate comes up with in terms of a greatly expanded omnibus would very likely pass the House.

The alternative is for the Congress to pass a continuing resolution that would go until at least February or one that would run through all of FY11. Stay tuned because decisions are pending in the very near future.

Here is a list of the public lands projects under consideration for inclusion in the Senate public lands omnibus:

- Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2009 (S. 878)
- Lake Tahoe Restoration act of 2009 (S. 2724)
- Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act of 2010 (S. 3073)
- Gulf of Mexico Restoration and Protection Act of 2010 (S. 1311)
- Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 (S. 2739)
- Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration act of 2009 (S. 1816)
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Act (S. 3539)
- Contaminated Sediment Remediation Reauthorization act (S. 933)
- Water Resources Research Amendments Act of 2010 (S. 3363)
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation act reauthorization (S. 690)
- Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act (S. 479)
- Crane Conservation Act of 2009 (H.R. 388)
- Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009 (S. 529)
- National Fish Habitat Conservation act (S. 1214)
- Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2009 (S. 1519)
- Feral Swine Eradication and Control pilot Program Act of 2009 (S. 1965)
- Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 509)
- Joint Ventures for Bird Habitat Conservation Act of 2009 (H.R. 2188)
- Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 3537)
- Clean Estuaries Act of 2010 (H.R. 4715)
- Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act (S. 3119)

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