

CONSERVATION IN THE CROSSHAIRS REPORT

House Resolution 1 (H.R. 1) would affect funding for government activities for the remainder of fiscal year 2011. As this bill currently stands, hunters and anglers cannot support it. The TRCP and the sportsmen-conservation community will be working with members of the Senate to craft a responsible budget for the remaining fiscal year that acknowledges the difficult circumstances but doesn't unnecessarily target funding for critical conservation programs.

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Crucial conservation programs targeted by the House bill include the following:

North American Wetlands Conservation Act is the primary source of funding for America's waterfowl, fish and wildlife resources and has generated more than \$3 billion in habitat during the past 20 years. NAWCA grants, along with significant matching funds from the private sector, have helped conserve more than 20 million acres of habitat in North America.

Proposed cuts would withdraw funding for NAWCA, equating to a loss of \$47 million in support of wetlands habitat conservation crucial to fish and wildlife.

Land and Water Conservation Fund is a program that provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The LWCF has helped conserve some of America's richest habitat and most popular sporting destinations.

Proposed cuts would slash LWCF funding by almost 90 percent from 2010 funding. Originally slated to receive \$900 million annually, LWCF programs would receive a mere 5 percent of this amount.

Wetlands Reserve Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes to restore, protect and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. More than 1.9 million acres of wetlands are currently enrolled in the WRP.

Proposed cuts would cap the WRP at 202,218 acres, permanently reducing the program by 47,782 acres.

Natural Resources Adaptation Funding provides resources to safeguard fish, wildlife and their habitats from the effects of climate change. Such funding is crucial as scientists have found that climate change is and will continue to significantly affect fish, wildlife and their habitats.

Proposed cuts would slash funding for natural resources adaptation programs by more than 30 percent.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants provide federal money to states, territories and tribes for efforts aimed at preventing fish and wildlife from becoming endangered.

Proposed cuts would completely eliminate current funding for the program – currently set at \$90 million.

The Environmental Protection Agency is charged with responsibly administering the nation's wetlands, streams and other waterways and is working to revise regulations for their management in the wake of confusing and controversial Supreme Court decisions. The EPA also establishes guidance and rules for enforcing protections for our nation's waters prescribed by the Clean Water Act.

Proposed cuts would prevent the EPA from dedicating funds to the revision of regulations addressing the management of America's waters – jeopardizing the EPA's ability to responsibly administer 20 million acres of wetlands, small streams and other waters important to fish, wildlife and sportsmen.

Secretarial Order 3310 establishes common-sense policy guidelines allowing the U.S. Department of the Interior to conserve backcountry areas that provide high-quality fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for Americans.

Proposed cuts would prevent the DOI from carrying out the order, which allows for the evaluation of BLM lands to achieve management objectives designed to conserve high-quality backcountry fish and wildlife habitat.