

# Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

## Information From ECO, a Property Rights Group

The following is a sample of bills affecting private land property rights which are pending before the congress (cited in Alliance for America e-mail). These are bills that Mike Hardiman, a lobbyist working for ECO is watching (see the ECO web site at: <http://www.eco.freedom.org/el/20020602/hardiman.shtml>).

### GOOD BILLS:

HR 601 (Simpson - R - ID) To reopen most of Craters of the Moon monument in Idaho to hunting. This would partially override one of the infamous Clinton national monument land grabs.

HR 937 (Pombo - R - CA) To prohibit the use of Federal funds for any program that restricts the use of any privately owned water source.

HR 1156 (Simpson - R - ID) To preserve the authority of the States over waters within their boundaries, to delegate the authority of the Congress to the States to regulate water.

HR 1174 (Duncan - R - TN) Requires the Bureau of Land Management to dispose of public lands that have been identified for disposal under the Federal land use planning process.

HR 1363 (Otter - R - ID) Ensures general aviation aircraft access to Federal lands.

HR 1592 (Thornberry - R - TX) To amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide greater protection of private property rights.

HR 2114 (Simpson - R - ID) Requires congressional approval of any national monument designation of over 50,000 acres.

HR 2719 (J. Davis - R - VA) Restricts federal condemnation power when mitigating wetlands activities.

H R 2795 (Nethercutt - R - WA) Agroterrorism Prevention Act. Will protect public safety by establishing penalties for certain destructive conduct that is intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with plant or animal enterprises.

H R 3705 (Pombo - R - CA) Amends the Endangered Species Act to require that a full range of scientific data be submitted along with any petition to list a species as endangered. It also requires a public process to include other competing data. Incredibly, the current ESA requires no data to be submitted with a petition, which allows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maximum latitude to perform mischief in choosing which data it wants to accept - or creating phony data.

H R 3706 (Pombo - R - CA) Amends the Endangered Species Act to include a right to know for landowners who may be impacted by endangered species listings.

HR 3962 (Peterson - R - PA) Limits the authority of the Federal Government to acquire land for certain Federal agencies in counties in which 50 percent or more of total acreage is owned by the Federal Government.

S 322 (Thomas - R - WY) Establishes that there will be "no net gain" of public land in states where over 25% of the land is in government hands.

S 347 (Thomas - R - WY) Requires proposed Endangered Species Act listings to show scientific evidence of need for the listing.

S 365 (Thomas - R - WY) Allow snowmobile use to continue in national parks until noise standards are set.

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**Readers' Bulletin Board.** e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

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## BAD BILLS:

HR 36 (Bereuter - R - NE) American Discovery Trails. Establishes yet another excuse for federal agents to restrict use of private land, by naming trails.

HR 488 (Shays - R - CT) Northern Rocky Mountain Wilderness Act. Creates 18 million acres of wilderness in five western states - but not one acre of wilderness in his home state of Connecticut.

HR 701 (Young - R - AK) 'CARA' \$45 billion land acquisition trust fund, nicknamed the Condemnation and Relocation Act.

HR 1465 (Holt - D - NJ) Eliminate snowmobile use in National Parks.

HR 1613 (Hinchey - D - NY), and Senate companion bill S 786 (Durbin - D - IL) - Proposes over a million new acres of Utah wilderness. **Hinchey voted against creation of a wilderness in his own New York congressional district in 1997, citing economic hard-ships.**

HR 2356 (Shays, R-CT and Meehan, D-MA) So-called "Campaign Finance Reform," actually it is Political Campaign Free Speech Restrictions. This bill and S 27 both place new reporting requirements and restrictions on grassroots organizations, but no limits on wealthy individuals like Hollywood movie stars. So who represents you, the grassroots or Barbara Streisand?

HR 2388 (Hefley - R - CO) Establishes the criteria and mechanism for the designation of national heritage areas. Creates yet another excuse for the National Park Service to gain control over private property.

HR 2438 (Boehlert - R - NY) elevates Environmental Protection Agency to cabinet level status. The EPA has been a disaster in so many ways, and this bill proposes to reward bad behavior.

HR 2656 (DeGette - D - CO) Adds 1.3 million acres of wilderness in Colorado, which would cut off even more access for family recreation.

HR 3558 (Rahall - D - WV) Proposes to eradicate non-native species from federal lands, and hands out \$93 million per year in grant money to government agencies to keep human beings off of their own federal lands. Here is another eastern legislator who wants to score points with the Enviros by following the New

Paganism -- worship animals, hate people -- on federal lands.

S 27 (McCain, R-AZ and Feingold, D-WI) Political Campaign Free Speech Restrictions. The Senate version of HR 2356. **[FM note: This bill has now become law.]**

S 498 (Murkowski - R - AK) Companion bill to HR 36 American Discovery Trails.

S 689 (Schumer - D - NY) Governors Island land transfer. Senator Schumer is adamantly opposed to "giving away land" out west, but seeks a free handout for New York State.

S. 975 (Chafee - R - RI) and HR 1433 (Blumenauer - D - OR) the "Community Character Act." This would provide \$125 million per year in bribe money for localities to adopt a "Legislative Guidebook" produced by the American Planning Association, which are the top promoters of the Smart Growth anti-rural agenda.

S 990 - the 'Son of CARA' the American Wildlife Enhancement Act. Sponsors - Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), Sen. Bob Smith (R-NH). Authorizes Congress to spend up to \$600 million per year on land acquisition and handing out grant money to leftwing environmental and animal rights groups. Also exempts state and federal agents from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), despite scandals with existing disbursement of existing funds. Finally, it includes a \$9 million payoff to the Trust for Public Land, for the feds to purchase land that TPL only paid \$7 million for!

S 990 is now in the House under that same bill number - keep checking for updates - the land grabbers are really pushing for S 990, the "Son of CARA!"

S 1318 (Murkowski - R - AK) and S 1328 (Landrieu - D - LA). The Senate companion bills for the HR 701 'CARA' Land Grab.

Alliance for America Editor's note: Mike Hardiman is one of the most knowledgeable and effective lobbyists in Washington, on property rights and resource use issues. Hardiman can be reached at <hardimanmike@aol.com>.

Freedom Matters note: Still more property rights bills are pending before congress, some introduced since the above was written.