



June 16, 2004

Possible Amendments to the Interior Appropriations Act (H.R. 4568)

The following are potential amendments. Under an open rule, new amendments may be offered without notice.

Tancredo: Increases funding for Wildfire Management by \$60 million and reduces National Endowment for the Arts by \$60 million.

Rahall: Adds in general provisions a prohibition on funds being used to adversely affect the physical integrity of Indian Sacred Sites on federal lands (as such terms are defined in Executive Order 13007, dated May 24, 1996).

Chabot: Prohibits funds from being used for the planning, designing, studying, or construction of forest development roads in the Tongass National Forest for the purpose of harvesting timber by private entities or individuals. According to Resources Chairman Pombo, this amendment would run counter to the recently developed Tongass Forest Management Plan, which cost \$13 million and took 9 years to develop. The National Taxpayer's Union supports the amendment.

Udall (NM): Prohibits funds from being used to finalize or implement the proposed revisions to subpart A of part 219 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, relating to National Forest System Planning for Land and Resource Management Plans, as described in the proposed rule published in the Federal Register on December 6, 2002 (67 Fed. Reg. 72770). Link to Rule: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2002/December/Day-06/i30683.htm>. Last year, this amendment was defeated 198-222: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll384.xml>.

Holt: Prohibits funds from being used to manage recreational snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, except in accordance with National Park Service One-Year Delay Rule published November 18, 2002 (36 CFR part 7, RIN 1024-AD06). According to Rep. Barbara Cubin (R-WY), this would re-instate the short-lived ban on snowmobiles in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, and allow public tours ONLY via the use of "snowcoaches." A snowcoach is a van, SUV, or bus modified from wheels to a track system (emissions are up to six times higher than those of snowmobiles). Last year, this amendment was defeated 210-210: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll385.xml>.

Tancredo: Increases funding for the National Forest System by \$23 million and reduces the National Endowment for the Arts by \$60 million.

Udall of CO: Prohibits funds from being used to implement amendments to Bureau of Land Management regulations on Recordable Disclaimers of Interest in Land (subpart 1864 of part 1860 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations), as adopted on January 6, 2003. A “recordable disclaimer of interest” is a document issued by the government that formally renounces its interest in a piece of land. Parties who claim ownership or access to parcels of federal land may apply for a disclaimer in order to clear their title to the land. The change in rules adopted in January made this application process easier by extending the time period for filing for a disclaimer and allowing entities other than the owners to apply for one. In the past, disclaimers could only be issued to owners of the land; this change will allow states and counties to file for and receive disclaimers as well.

Souder: Specifies that \$1,020,984,000 of the \$1,686,067,000 in operations funding for the National Park Service shall be used for base operating costs and allocated in such a way that each unit of the National Park System receives at least an 8 percent increase over its fiscal year 2004 funding.

Flake-Bishop (UT): Reduces Smithsonian salaries and expenses by \$22 million and increases the PILT account by \$20 million. (In order for the amendment to be budget neutral (according to CBO), Smithsonian funding must be reduced by the additional \$2 million because of the out years.)
