

This Week in Washington

Pombo to chair Klamath Falls ESA hearing

Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA), chairman of the House Endangered Species Act (ESA) Working Group, will chair the House Resources Committee field hearing in Klamath Falls on Saturday, June 16, 2001. The ESA Working Group, formed earlier this year, is a bipartisan task force looking into flaws in the Act and possible remedies.

The hearing in Klamath Falls, Oregon will seek federal solutions to a drought that has threatened the survival of more than 1,000 farms. On April 6, during the worst drought in decades, the Bureau of Reclamation shut off irrigation water to 90 percent of the 200,000 acres served by the Klamath Project. Instead, scarce water has been kept in Upper Klamath Lake. Farming in the area has been devastated by this loss of irrigation. The value of farmland has plummeted from \$800 an acre to less than \$50 an acre since the decision. An estimated 5,000 people are expected to attend the hearing.

"It's about time we take a serious look at reforming the Endangered Species Act," Pombo stated, "taking into account the impact on real people and families. We all want to protect wildlife, but there has to be a better way than choking off water vital to farmland in the Klamath Basin."

Along with Pombo and Walden, the following members of Congress will also attend: Wally Herger (R-CA), Doc Hastings (R-WA), Jim Gibbons (R-NV) and Mike Simpson (R-ID).

Fox News will be covering the hearing and tentatively plans to air a special report the following Monday.

Pombo tops Silicon Valley for "best Web site"

WASHINGTON -- Looks like a Central Valley rancher blew all those Silicon Valley hotshots out of the water in the "best Web site" arena.

Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Stockton, rang in with the second savviest Web site in the entire House of Representatives, tied with fellow non-techie Rep. Bob Barr, R-Georgia, and just behind Rep. Bernie Sanders, an Independent from the decidedly low-tech state of Vermont.

Pombo's site (www.house.gov/pombo) won praise for an electric bulletin board where constituents can post opinions or make announcements.

Only two other Californian's -- GOP Reps. Duke Cunningham of Escondido and David Dreier of Covina -- made the top 20.

By Lisa Friedman, WASHINGTON BUREAU

Win for the Boy Scouts

The Senate voted Thursday to withhold federal funds from school districts that deny use of their facilities to the Boy Scouts because of the organization's exclusion of homosexuals.

The vote was 52-48.

The amendment to a major education bill was offered by Sen. Jesse Helms, in response to a Supreme Court ruling last year.

The court ruled that the Boy Scouts' national policy banning gay members and leaders is constitutional, citing the right to freedom of association granted to private groups.

A bill similar to the Senate provision passed the House last month.

Reprinted from The Associated Press

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Today in History

1215 - King John of England put his seal on the Magna Carta.

1752 - Benjamin Franklin experimented by flying a kite during a thunderstorm. The result was a little spark that showed the relationship between lightning and electricity.

1775 - George Washington was appointed head of the Continental Army by the Second Continental Congress.

1836 - Arkansas became the 25th U.S. state.

1877 - Henry O. Flipper became the first African American to graduate from West Point.

1898 - The U.S. House of representatives approved the annexation of Hawaii.

1916 - U.S. President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill incorporating the Boy Scouts of America.

1983 - The U.S. Supreme Court reinforced its position on abortion by striking down state and local restriction on abortions.

1989 - In Shanghai three Chinese workers were sentenced to death for setting fire to a train during a pro-democracy protest.

1992 - U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle instructed a student to spell "potato" with an "e" on the end during a spelling bee. He had relied on a faulty flash card.

1994 - Israel and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations.

From The History of Today

Political Tidbits cont.

Bush cuts waste

The Bush Administration is eliminating an \$860,000 housing program that counseled public housing tenants to reduce stress and kick drug addictions by using alternative therapies including meditation and aromatherpy and surrounding themselves with relaxing colors.

The Creative Wellness HELP program, begun one year ago under former Housing and Urban Development secretary Andrew Cuomo, aimed to improve tenants' health and self-esteem using methods such as "applied kinesiology," in which a "wellness trainer" probes a person's glands to determine which of 14 personality types -- each named for a Greek or Roman god or goddess -- the person is.

The program's chief trainer, Michelle Lusson, whose office is in Herndon, decried the cut. "We're very shocked that something that was really helping has been blown to the wind," Lusson said.

The program was paid for with a HUD drug elimination grant, a program cut by the Bush administration for having "limited impact."

Reprinted from the Washington Post

End of the charade

"Europeans' are said to fear 'global warming,' according to the tendentious reporting of New York Times tree huggers. Hence, Mr. Bush's rejection of the Kyoto Treaty on climate change was an affront," Wall Street Journal columnist George Melloan observes.

"In fact, the Kyoto initiative, driven by a Limits-to-Growth cabal inside the United Nations, was based on hokey science, and Europe's national leaders surely know that. No European nation, save Romania, has ratified the treaty and none is likely to. The U.S. Senate rejected it unanimously. But paying lip service to Kyoto was a nice ploy to please the Greens until Mr. Bush came along and ended the charade.

Reprinted from the Washington Times

Candles now blamed for Earth's pollution

Candles are now being blamed for global pollution problems.

Research by the US Environmental Protection Agency shows the pollution from a burning candle can exceed standards the agency sets for outdoor air quality.

"If I were someone who had a health problem like asthma, and I were looking for things to prevent aggravating my respiratory problems, candles and incense are two things I would seriously consider" getting rid of, says Mike Osborne of the EPA.

Reprinted from Ananova.com

Jones seeks probe of Davis aides

Secretary of State Bill Jones on Thursday asked the state's political watchdog agency to investigate Gov. Gray Davis' office, alleging his potential opponent in next year's governor's race has illegally placed two consultants on the state payroll.

In a Capitol news conference, Jones said Davis' state-paid consultants, Chris Lehane and Mark Fabiani, are breaking state conflict-of-interest laws because they are advising Davis on energy policy and they have been under contract with Southern California Edison within the past year.

Jones, the state's chief elections official, noted state law prohibits public officials from influencing decisions if it would have "a material financial effect" on a business entity that provides them income. He filed a complaint with the Fair Political Practices Commission, and demanded Lehane and Fabiani file economic interest disclosure forms.

Reprinted from the Sacramento Bee

Weekly Quote

"Look, this isn't rocket science."

- Majority Leader Tom Daschle discussing Bush's missile defense proposal 6/8. A reporter "pointed out that developing a system for shooting down rockets was, in fact, rocket science." - UPI

**Be sure to visit
www.evot.com
on June 20th
at 5pm PST and
participate in an
online chat with
Congressman
Richard Pombo**

Wordsmith

home·stead

Pronunciation: 'hOm-
"sted, -stid

Function: noun

Date: before 12th century

1 a : the home and adjoining land occupied by a family **b :** an ancestral home **c :**

HOUSE

2 : a tract of land acquired from U.S. public lands by filing a record and living on and ~~cultivating the tract~~

land·grab

Pronunciation: -"grab

Function: noun

Date: 1860

: a swift acquisition of land often by fraud or force

- land-grab·ber /-"gra·b&r/
noun

Reprinted from www.m-w.com

Comments from the District

"I feel that the poor excuse of a President Mr. Bush has no right to start drilling in a wild life preserve in Alaska." - **Jamie Murphy** - 5/29/01

"Thank you for the link to Tom Knudson's series in the SACBEE on the modern environmentalists." - **Dr. Denny Schwank** - 5/28/01

"Please support the "Major Drug Trafficking Prosecution Act." - **Linda Cardoza** - 5/24/01

"George W. and his partner in crime are single term officials." - **Charles Gonsalves** - 5/20/01

"Please urge Secretary Thompson to stop discrimination against American workers." - **Christopher Miller** - 5/18/01

"I never met a tax cut I didn't like." - **B. Gregory Ford** - 5/18/01

"The marriage penalty tax creates more sin in our nation which weakens the moral fiber..." - **Donna Carleton** - 5/17/01

"Thank you for proactively making your views and stand on issues accessible to the public." - **Mark Mullins** - 5/17/01

"Please support bills that will relax all environmental rules." - **Kent Riddell** - 5/16/01

"Please support Pres. Bush in his Tax Cut proposal." - **James Thompson** - 5/15/01

"We the people are overtaxed." - **Ronnie Jay Holland Sr.** - 5/15/01

"The lack of discipline and the lack of parental responsibility are the two major causes for student failure." - **Lawrence Barleen** - 5/14/01

"The real problem is the uncertainty of when the blackouts occur, and the refusal of State officials and Utility officials to let the general public know in advance." - **Robin Coy** - 5/10/01

"I feel it is in the best interest of the nation at large to save this pristine environment of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the next generations." - **Lloyd Bradsher** - 5/9/01

"The "Marriage Penalty" makes the federal government appear to endorse non-marriage unions." - **Daniel Taylor** - 5/9/01

"Hemp has eight times the methane potential of corn, which we currently use for our natural gas production." - **Ryan Kelly** - 5/8/01

"80% of Federal programs are Unconstitutional." - **Roger Blain** - 5/8/01

"Please do not vote to take away the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge." - **Colleen Isabell Morgan** - 5/6/01

"I am definitely in favor of a WW2 monument on the Washington Mall, though not as pretentious as that now planned." - **Bruce Leavitt** - 5/5/01

"How come such a small tax cut and how long before we see any relief from it?" - **Jeffery Esteves** - 5/4/01

"At this point in American history, we are being taxed at a rate only seen during wartime." - **Richard Tanner** - 5/3/01

"Please oppose legislation making easily available the morning after pill." - **Terri Warfield** - 5/2/01

"Citizenship to the U.S.A. should be deserved, and not a right." - **Dennis LaRue** - 4/30/01

"Thank you for making this web site available for your constituency." - **Vincent Guarna** - 4/30/01

"I strongly urge you and others to put back in the budget the Reading is Fundamental funding." - **Miss Janet Rivera** - 4/27/01

"Please consider sponsoring a bill temporarily repealing the federal tax on gasoline." - Jack Haddon - 4/26/01

"No more Federal Taxes!" - **Miss Towner** - 4/26/01

*You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here:
<http://www.house.gov/pombo/board2001/board2001.htm>*