



Monthly Briefing

A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News

Former Alliance President Limbaugh Leaving Interior

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced on July 2 that Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Mark Limbaugh will leave the Department of the Interior effective July 13 to pursue opportunities in the private sector.



Limbaugh – a past president of the Family Farm Alliance – stepped down from Interior after serving over five years in leadership positions within the Interior Department.

He will join the Ferguson Group, which represents many Western water and resource agencies, along with the Family Farm Alliance, in the nation's capital.

ALLIANCE PRESIDENT Pat O'Toole (WYOMING) said the organization is honored and proud of Limbaugh's rapid rise and demonstrated effectiveness within the Interior Department.

"Mark understands Western water challenges like no other, and he has a gift for finding practical ways to address those challenges," said O'Toole. "I think his success in Washington, D.C. is a direct result of his proven ability to solve problems. People quickly realized that he was a go-to guy."

SECRETARY KEMPTHORNE also identified Limbaugh's solution-driven approach in his July 2 announcement. "Mark Limbaugh's tenure at the De-(Continued on Page 2)



J. Randall McFarland / Family Farm Alliance

Mark Limbaugh, Assistant Interior Secretary for Water and Science, speaks to the Family Farm Alliance's Annual Meeting and Conference earlier this year in Las Vegas.



Jason Peltier

'Making A Difference'

That's What Jason Peltier Wants To Do Daily In New Job

Former Deputy Assistant Interior Jason Peltier is now working for Westlands Water District as Assistant General Manager in Sacramento (CALIFORNIA) on Bay-Delta issues.

His last day with the U.S. Department of the Interior was June 22^{nd} , and he started with Westlands, located on the San Joaquin Valley's West Side, June 25^{th} .

THE VERY WEEK Peltier returned to the Golden State, Congressional Democrats publicly expressed concerns about his career change.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WEST VIRGINIA) and Rep. George Miller (D-CALIFORNIA) signed a letter written to Interior Department Secretary Dirk Kempthorne saying that Interior must ensure that key water discussions between the department and the Westlands district aren't affected by Peltier's new job.

"We are deeply troubled by the potential impact Mr. Peltier's use of the 'revolving door' will have on the Department's policymaking," the letter said.

Westlands spokeswoman Sarah Woolf said Peltier had obtained all necessary ethics approvals.

Limbaugh Leaving Interior

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partment of the Interior has reflected his strong commitment to excellence and integrity. His dedication to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of the Interior and his ability to find common ground and common sense solutions to difficult regional and national issues are widely respected," Secretary Kempthorne said. "His leadership has enabled us to significantly reduce conflict and crisis over water availability in the West, and to improve our ability to provide and communicate science for a changing world."

LIMBAUGH JOINED the Department in January 2002 as Director of External and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Bureau of Reclamation to oversee the agency's Congressional and Legislative and Public Affairs activities. He was appointed Deputy Commissioner in June 2003. He was confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in July 2005.

While at Reclamation and Interior, Limbaugh was recognized for his work on the Water 2025 program, looking for ways to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency via Reclamation's "Managing for Excellence" program, and working with Congress and the water community to pass the Rural Water Supply Act of 2005, which was signed into law by President Bush late last year.

"The Rural Water Supply Act would have gone nowhere without the presence of Mark Limbaugh," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen (OREGON). "That bill's federal loan guarantee program was his idea, and it will provide a great tool for irrigation districts to use in helping fix aging water infrastructure."

LIMBAUGH ALSO has served as a Director for the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, and has been involved actively in various state and federal water organizations throughout his career. He was also previously Watermaster of Idaho's Payette River Basin, and Executive Director of the Payette River Water Users Association. A native of Fruitland (IDAHO) and for many years an Idaho family farmer, Limbaugh earned his B.S. cum laude in 1978 from the University of Idaho and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Jason Peltier Begins New California Job With Westlands

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"We're very excited that he's able to come back and work with Westlands," Woolf said.

BACK IN CALIFORNIA, Peltier returns to his home turf, where he served as general manager of the Central Valley Project Water Association from 1988 to 2001. He was also an active member of the Family Farm Alliance Advisory Committee during that time.

"I am looking forward to getting back to the front lines," Peltier told the *Monthly Briefing*.

IN HIS FAREWELL MESSAGE to associates at Interior, Peltier said his decision was "a sweet but also a bittersweet step forward." "We will miss Jason's presence in Washington, but welcome his return to the West," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "He'll have plenty of opportunities to make his personal motto – 'make a difference every day' – come to fruition in his new job."

WESTLANDS' GENERAL MANAGER, Tom Birmingham, said he was "thrilled" over Peltier's decision.

"The District's water users, indeed all water users who rely on water conveyed through the Delta, will benefit from Jason's experience, judgment and advocacy," said Birmingham.



BEST BEST & KRIEGER covers the broad spectrum of legal needs for its agriculture clients. Our firm is widely recognized for its expertise in environmental and water issues, including ESA, water rights and quality, and federal reclamation and grazing laws. Our attorneys also assist our agricultural clients with matters such as land use, valuation and purchases; crop damages; business transactions and regulations; governance and succession planning; and organic crop certification and pesticide regulations.

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House Democrats Conduct Field Hearing On Bay-Delta

Despite sporadic bursts of political criticism leveled at Central Valley irrigators and the Bush Administration, a congressional field hearing held July 2nd in Vallejo (CALIFORNIA) did not materialize into the political bloodbath some had feared.

The U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water and Power field hearing on Bay-Delta water management challenges – intended to focus attention on the precarious nature of the water source that supports fish species and millions of California water users – allowed a diverse panel of speakers to share observations on Delta pumping operations, the health of imperiled fish, and potential solutions.

PETER MOYLE – Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation, Biology and Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis – and Heather Cooley, Senior Associate

at the Pacific Institute, provided consistent, broad views on potential fixes to Delta challenges.

Moyle, a renowned California fisheries scientist, said less to say about the Delta smelt and instead underscored the Pacific Institute's focus on the need to expand water demand management actions, like water recycling and conservation.

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL government in Bay-Delta management decisions – while discussed at length throughout the hearing– is clearly still an undefined picture. However, water users agreed that the state's water infrastructure is broken.

Chris Martin, the past chairman of the board of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, was particularly impressive, as he predicted "rolling water blackouts" in California, and told the subcommittee that all options need to be on the table, including the Peripheral Canal. That 43-mile canal – considered by some to potentially be the nation's biggest-ever public works project – would run from the Sacramento River town of Hood around the eastern and southern Delta periphery to convey Northern California water directly to state and federal Delta export pumping plants near Tracy. Thus, it would bypass the Delta's problem areas.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has been championing additional California water storage, has also promoted the need to fix the Delta and take a look at a Peripheral Canal.

The title of the hearing itself, "Extinction is not a Sustainable Water Policy: The Bay-Delta Crisis and the Implications for California Water

-- Chris Martin

Management", gave pause for concern to many Central Valley water users before the hearing even began.

Just weeks after the

heart of California's water supply system was mostly shut down because of concern over a tiny fish in danger of extinction, and with emotions running high in the camps of environmental supporters and water users, some were worried that the hearing would end up in a donnybrook, with plenty of "blame game" finger-pointing to go around.

Suspicions were further stoked when Rep. Lamborn, the Acting Ranking Republican on the House Water and Power Subcommittee on June 26 sent a letter to Chair Napolitano, raising concerns about the decision made by committee leadership to preclude testimony of local witnesses who have been party to litigation involving the Delta smelt and operation of the state export pumps.

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Associate Director,

'California cannot survive with rolling water blackouts.'

Democrats Criticize Bush Administration, Valley Farmers

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That decision effectively removed a great number of credible witnesses who might have otherwise testified.

By the time the hearing was over, however, the witnesses who participated in the hearing provided a wide range of useful observations and recommendations. Jim Crettol, a farmer from

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Shafter and Phil Larson, a Fresno County Supervisor, represented agricultural interests at the hearing. By and large, many of the fears felt by agricultural interests prior to the hearing failed to materialize.

STILL, SOME CONGRESSIONAL Democrats who attended the hearing (no Republican committee members were present) used the public platform to criticize Bush Administration environmental policies and land some well-placed punches to Central Valley irrigators.

Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CALIFORNIA) used the occasion to hammer on Vice President Dick Cheney, alleging that Mr. Cheney used political maneuvering to override fishery scientists and contribute to the demise of 70,000 salmon on the Klamath River in 2002 (please see *related story, Page* 7). Rep. George Miller (D-CALIFORNIA) – who called for the hearing in his home district – also weighed in on the vice-president, and criticized San Joaquin farmers for receiving "double subsidies".

"For a brief time, I felt like we were in a time warp," said one observer present at the hearing, referring to similar arguments that Mr. Miller made during the controversial negotiations that led to passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act 15 years ago.

Rep. Miller wrapped up his comments with a commitment to hold further hearings on this matter in the future.

Other Members of Congress who attended the hearing included Jim Costa, Subcommittee Chair Grace Napolitano, and Ellen Tauscher, all from California. A Democratic California legislator – Lois Wolk – was also allowed to sit at the dais with the committee members.

Following the hearing, Central Valley irrigators-led by Westlands Water District and the Friant Water Authority – hosted a two-day tour of the San Joaquin Valley for Chair Napolitano.

Saluting And Thanking The Alliance's Members

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Your membership will allow the Alliance to continue to work with Congress, federal agencies and other interested parties to improve the regulatory process and to show that new water supply projects are ready and waiting to be developed. We will continue to ensure that Bureau of Reclamation operates in the most cost-effective way possible. We will continue advocating for the importance of preserving our food production capability. Our activities will ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers. Visit us at *www.familyfarmalliance.org* or call (541) 850-9007.

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Klamath Basin Politics Soar To The VP Level

Rep. Darlene Hooley, (D-OREGON) is leading the call for a Congressional investigation into Vice President Dick Cheney's alleged involvement in the Klamath Basin water dispute in 2001.

A story in The Washington Post on detailed Cheney's June 27 Mr. management of the Klamath situation as an example of his efforts "to undercut long-standing environmental regulations for the benefit of business."

THE STORY REPORTED that he called mid-level Interior officials in an effort to divert the water to farmers at the expense of the salmon run.

The story made the front page and featured large color photos putting farmers in the "problem" role, next to a picture of many dead bloated fish.

Hooley Rep. and Rep. Mike Thompson, (D-CALIFORNIA) on the same evening that the Post story ran circulated a letter among their House colleagues asking Rep. Nick Rahall, chairman of the House Resources Committee, to investigate.

Thirty-four of their colleagues signed the letter, including all of the Democrats in the Oregon House delegation. The members asked for oversight hearings on Cheney's involvement, and the next day, Chairman Rahall obliged.

Chairman Rahall agreed to schedule a hearing on the Klamath matter and said the Democratic-led committee has been examining what he called the Bush administration's "penchant to favor politics over science in the implementa-(Continued on Page 8)

Statement of the Klamath Water Users Association Regarding the Washington Post's June 27 Article

The Washington Post's June 27th article "Leaving no Tracks", focusing on Vice President Cheney and the Klamath Basin, did a disservice to history and the Basin's residents.

On the one hand it claims that Mr. Cheney gave personal attention in early 2001 to Klamath Basin water policy issues. On the other hand, it fails to report that just a few months later this same administration announced there would be no water for irrigators in the Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath Project – the first time that this water supply had been shut off in the Project's 100-year history.

GO BACK A FEW YEARS before that to 1994 and you will find that the previous administration furnished full water deliveries to the Klamath Project in almost identical hydrologic and water supply conditions. In fact, the current administration's "10 year plan" resulted in much less water for irrigation than had been provided historically.

Granted, our local irrigation community and many others felt that the administration had, in 2001, been handed some very soft science that led to its decision to cut off the irrigation water to 1400 family farms and ranches. Our community pushed for many months before the cut-off, and after, for an independent review of that science. It was announced at a Congressional field hearing in Klamath Falls in May of 2001 that such a review would occur. There was no opposition to that review being conducted, and the

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Post Article Causes Stir In Klamath

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tion of the Endangered Species Act".

The Klamath Water Users Association's executive director, however, told the *Klamath Falls Herald & News* (OREGON) that it was "another low for the national press and the politicians who are making this into a feeding frenzy."

THE VERY NEXT day, in response to Mr. Rahall's decision to conduct a hearing, three Republican Congressmen representing the Klamath River watershed supported the need for a hearing, and further pushed for that hearing to be held in the Klamath Basin.

"In the spirit of cooperation that has been forged through (recent) settlement talks, we agree with the need for continued congressional oversight and involvement in these important issues," said Representatives Doolittle (CALIFORNIA), Herger (CALIFORNIA) and Walden (OREGON).

"Accordingly, we urge you to hold a bipartisan field hearing in the Klamath Basin at your earliest convenience.... By highlighting the positive efforts that have occurred in the Basin since the devastating water shutoff of 2001 and the 2002 fish dieoff, and the constructive dialogue that is ongoing, we believe Congress can highlight how political differences can be set aside in an effort to reach solutions that enable all interests to get well together."

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Klamath Statement

(Continued from Page 7)

notion suggested by the Post, that the Vice President manipulated the conclusions of the National Research Council, is absurd. Their report speaks for itself, and there is no value in revisiting old arguments, as much as the Post seems to want to do so.

GRANTED ALSO, there was large-scale mortality of salmon near the mouth of the Klamath River in late summer of 2002. This was a disaster for our downriver neighbors.

Disease, warm water, and crowded conditions were contributing factors; and there are credible people with opinions on both sides of the question of whether the Bureau of Reclamation could have averted that disaster by releasing more warm water from Upper Klamath Lake, over 200 miles away. But the readers of the Post's article should have been informed that the flows in the lower river that year were by no means lower than what had been experienced for the previous 100 years. The Post's article plowed old partisan ground, and has already triggered partisan responses.

SOME REAL NEWS in the Klamath Basin is that the administration has just recently imposed the most aggressive fish protection measures legally possible on the relicensing of hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, measures so costly that the California Energy Commission has concluded that it would be more economic for the affected business to take the dams out than to leave them in the river to generate power.

Some real news is the collaborative multiparty settlement effort now underway in the Klamath Basin involving irrigators, tribes, conservation groups, and dedicated public servants from Oregon, California, and the federal government. This group is about solving problems, a task that is hindered by overtly sensational media.

We can only hope the constructive efforts of communities up and down this basin, here, on the ground, can survive the needless diversion caused by the article, the political fallout and the predictable regurgitated editorials that always seem to follow this kind of attack.

Alliance Efforts Continue On Climate Change Issue

In the wake of Congressional testimony provided by Family Farm Alliance President Patrick O'Toole (WYOMING) regarding potential climate change impacts to Western irrigated agriculture, the Alliance continues efforts to engage on this important policy matter.

O'TOOLE told the U.S. Energy and Natural Senate Resources Committee at a June 6 oversight hearing that allowing water-short cities to absorb farmers' water supplies will significantly diminish domestic food production at exactly the same time climate change is predicted to severely adverse impact food production worldwide.

He called for the expansion of Western water supplies through improvement of existing facilities, better resources management and development of new storage projects.

AFTER THE oversight hearing, two members of the committee – Senator Cantwell (WASHINGTON) and Senator Salazar (COLORADO) – asked O'Toole to respond to some follow-up questions. Those responses were submitted to the committee late last month, and also transmitted to the Alliance membership.

"The response has been very positive," said Dan Keppen,

Alliance Executive Director. "We are seeing new opportunities to expand on our message."

THE ALLIANCE has been invited to speak at several upcoming water conferences on this matter, including the National Water Resources Association this month in Monterey (CALIFORNIA).

Brent Searle of the Oregon Department of Agriculture also recently sent O'Toole's testimony to his statewide agriculture distribution list.

"The Family Farm Alliance has taken a forward looking approach to the climate change question/issues, and begun to articulate the concerns, potential and suggested impacts, options/remedial actions for agriculture other needs and related to water," said Searle. "They are to be commended for their efforts in identifying key issues and strategies."

Latest Water Politics In Klamath

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Those who actually live and work along the Klamath River question the timing of the public inquiry of Cheney, and fear that it may unravel the collaborative settlement discussions underway between tribes, irrigators, conservation groups and government agencies. In the past three years, these interests have worked together to push for basin-wide salmon restoration efforts and cooperation in pressing for a settlement over Pacificorp's request to relicense its hydroelectric dams.

"The Yurok Tribe hopes that this does not detract from efforts to resolve long-standing issues in the Klamath Basin," Troy Fletcher, policy analyst for the Yuroks, told the Eureka *Times-Standard*.

"WE CAN ONLY hope the constructive efforts of communities up and down this basin, here, on the ground, can survive the needless diversion caused by the *Post* article," said Addington.

Meanwhile, activists along the lower Klamath River have set up a Homeland Security-type, color-coded "fish alert" on the river. In what has become an annual tradition, environmental activists and agency biologists have raised the readiness level for a "fish kill" on the Klamath River. They will apparently conduct studies throughout the summer and will monitor disease and the mortality rate of salmon.

Alliance Opposes Oberstar CWA Bill

The Family Farm Alliance will join a growing list of manufacturing, municipal, agricultural and timber interests who oppose a new bill that could have major – and uncertain – implications for all resources users in the country.

The Family Farm Alliance Board of Directors earlier this month formally opposed the "Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2007", introduced by Congressman James Oberstar (MINNESOTA).

Mr. Oberstar, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has reintroduced his legislation from the 109th Congress to redefine the Clean Water Act (CWA) term "waters of the United States". The Oberstar bill apparently has both tremendous support (160 House sponsors) and much opposition. According to the bill, waters would include wetlands, intermittent streams, prairie potholes, sloughs, meadows, playa lakes, mudflats, sandflats, natural ponds and more. The bill also applies to 'activities affecting these waters'.

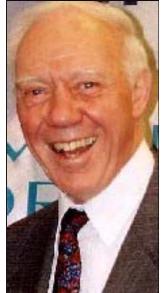
"SHOULD THIS LEGISLATION become law, it will drastically expand the scope of the CWA and federalize waters previously under the jurisdiction of States," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

Louisiana Congressman Richard Baker, ranking member of the Transportation Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, said "...this is the largest ever expansion of federal control over private property, and most likely creates a large cloud of confusion over application and interpretation." Mr. Baker, a long-time advocate for federal wetland clarification, added, "The Clean Water Act has never regulated 'all intrastate waters' and 'all activities affecting those waters' to the full extent of Congress's legislative power under the Constitution as this bill would allow."

There is some momentum on Rep. Oberstar's

proposal. However, given that this type of issue affects just about type of water use and land use in the country, there will be a tough fight over this. Many in Congress believe that body should clarify what the courts have done on this matter, but others realize it probably goes too far.

"Our government needs to use care and caution when it tries to tweak and implement legislation like the Clean Water Act," said Bill Kennedy, who operates



Rep. James Oberstar

ranches in northern California and southern Oregon.

Already, unnecessary restrictions have been placed on private landowners trying to use their property and on the ability of local agencies to operate and maintain man-made canals and ditches. There are thousands of miles of existing ditches and canals in the West that transport water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses.

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Congress Takes on Western Aging Infrastructure

Two bills recently introduced in Congress are intended to address aging water infrastructure challenges.

Colorado Senators Salazar and Allard last month introduced S.1477, a bill that would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Project.

THE JACKSON GULCH Dam and Reservoir is a key feature of the Mancos Project, located in southwest Colorado. The greater part of the distribution system was constructed by locals prior to 1900. Facilities constructed by Reclamation furnish supplemental water to 13,746 acres of agricultural lands and provide a domestic water supply for Mesa Verde National Park,

Mancos Rural Water Company and the town of Mancos.

The 55-year old Mancos Project has retained most of its structural integrity and functionality. However – as noted in an alarming number of other aging water facilities in the West – significant potentially catastrophic problems have been identified.

THE ST. MARY CANAL along Montana's Hi-Line would get \$140 million for repairs and modernization under a water projects bill approved by the Senate in late May.

The Water Resources Development Act authorizes this new work, but does not provide any money for the projects. That will come later during the annual appropriations process. The House already approved a water resources development bill in April, but it does not address the St. Mary Canal project.

Montana's senior senator. Max Baucus. inserted an amendment into the legislation makes it clear that that construction work on the St. Mary project cannot proceed until Congress approves the Blackfeet Tribe's water settlement with the state or Jan. 1. 2011, whichever comes first.

The 29-mile St. Mary Canal delivers irrigation water to about 150,000 acres of farmland and drinking water to more than 17,000 residents in Havre. Chinook and Harlem. The system of leaky earthen canals and siphons is in danger of catastrophic failure.

Alliance Opposes Oberstar Clean Water Act Proposal

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These facilities - some over a century old require continual maintenance in order to serve the functions for which they were constructed.

SUCH MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES include routine activities like replacing concrete panels and riprap, stabilizing channels and channel banks stabilization, connecting pipes, and controlling aquatic weeds.

For those responsible for maintenance of these man-made channels, the CWARA could produce additional permitting and delays, further impeding the exercise of vested property rights and food production.

Members of the Alliance's Advisory Committee and the organization's contractors spent several weeks developing the opposition letter authorized by the Board on July 6.

"Our letter outlines our concerns that this bill

may actually create more uncertainty and confusion over the application and interpretation of the CWA," said Alliance Advisory Committee Chair Richard M. Moss (CALIFORNIA).

"This will undoubtedly lead to litigation and leave more interpretations to the courts and regulatory agencies."

MEANWHILE, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency have issued a long-awaited interagency joint guidance memorandum on the scope of regulatory jurisdiction over wetlands.

Unfortunately, the memorandum provides the regulated community with very little objective guidance with which to predict whether wetlands are jurisdictional.

The Alliance will continue to work with National Water Resources Association, Partnership for America, and others to monitor these matters.

Farm Bill Update

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Peterson has announced he will present two farm bills to his committee this month.

The first bill would include all the programs in the 2002 farm bill but with no increases in food stamps and some modifications to commodity programs. The second bill would add \$17.5 billion in spending over five years, including \$6 billion for increases in food stamps, \$5 billion in disaster aid, another \$1 billion for specialty crop growers, \$1 billion for conservation and \$2 billion for energy crops.

To utilize those reserve funds, members will have to come up with offsetting spending cuts or new revenue, which has so far proved difficult.

DIRECTORS at the recent Family Farm Alliance annual meeting identified the 2007 Farm Bill as a priority legislative issue to monitor and engage on. In addition to RWEP, the Alliance will also closely monitor disaster assistance and conservation provisions of the emerging Farm Bill.

Chairman Peterson has stated that one of his priorities has been to create a permanent disaster fund (likely a pilot program) for farmers who lose crops to drought and flood.

The Alliance has advocated for a new \$1.75 billion, 10-year cooperative conservation program, called the Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEP), aimed at improving water quality and water conservation on working agricultural lands on a regional scale.

NOTABLY, the U.S. Department of Agriculture would deliver RWEP on a larger-scale basis (covering an entire watershed or irrigation basin) basis. The program would target concerted cooperative efforts on working agricultural landscapes and other high priority areas identified by the partnership. Recipients, including water districts, non-profits, or farming groups, would administer funds to achieve clear water quality and conservation goals.

Supreme Court Renders A Key ESA Decision

In a 5-4 decision rendered June 25, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the ESA does not necessarily take precedence over other Congressional mandates.

In National Assn. of Home Builders v. Defenders of Wildlife, the Court addressed a conflict between two powerful federal laws. The question before the Court was whether delegation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) permit program to the State of Arizona, which is mandatory under the CWA if nine statutory criteria are met, triggers the equally mandatory provisions of the ESA that federal action agencies "insure" the well being of listed species through consultation with federal fish and wildlife agencies.

The Court refused to add ESA consultation as a "tenth criterion" for delegation to states under the CWA.

THE ALLIANCE has worked closely with a broad coalition of interests in developing language to support the RWEP proposal. That program – now called the Regional Ground and Surface Water Enhancement Program – has been included in the House Agriculture Committee draft Conservation Title proposal.

"Much of the language we proposed to the committee made it in the current committee draft," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen. "We are hearing encouraging signs that the coalition language is also being seriously considered for inclusion in the Senate Ag Committee conservation title."

Saluting And Thanking The Alliance's Members

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