

Monthly Briefing

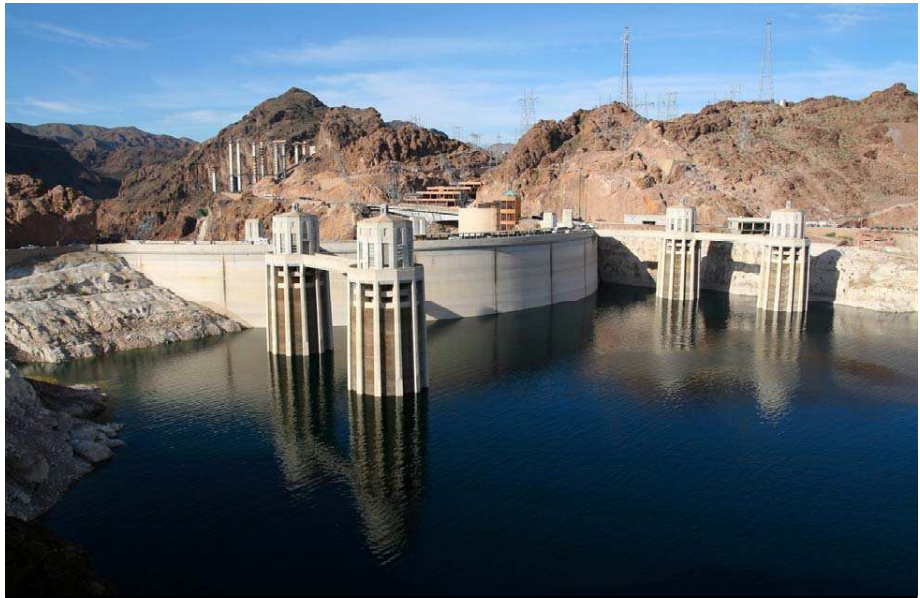
A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News

National Water Management Plan Draws Fire from Family Farm Alliance

The Family Farm Alliance has raised serious concerns with the latest White House plan to manage national water resources in a changing climate. The Alliance on July 15 sent a lengthy formal comment letter to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which in June released the *Draft National Action Plan for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate* (draft Action Plan).

“We support the plan’s focus on mitigating for climate change impacts rather than trying to halt perceived causes of climate change,” said Alliance executive director Dan Keppen. “However, we have many concerns on the policy implications this document holds for Western farmers and ranchers.”

The draft Action Plan recommends Federal agency actions to aid freshwater resource managers in managing and protecting the Nation’s water resources. It



Upstream face of Hoover Dam. Photo courtesy of Christian Mehlführer, <http://www.fotopedia.com/items/chmehl - nj56Ca14NOc>

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also outlines ways in which Federal agencies can support state, local and tribal governments in their water resources planning by improving access to quality data and information and best practices.

The Alliance in its July 15 letter provided specific observations, concerns and recommendations regarding the draft Action Plan, as well as suggestions for federal policies intended to minimize or avert the expected impacts of climate change on Western irrigated agriculture.

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Draft Water Plan Raises Concerns (Cont'd from Pg 1)

Overview of Draft Action Plan Goal and Rx

Based on input from public listening sessions and consideration of scientific and Federal program information, the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force (Task Force) developed specific recommendations for managing freshwater resources in a changing climate. Over the next several months, the Task Force agencies will be working to refine the proposals outlined in this draft and address public comments.

Reaction of Alliance Members to the Draft Plan

The draft Action Plan has some inherent problems for those involved in watershed planning at the local and state level.

“The basic problem with the draft Action Plan is that it is premised on at least two false assumptions: That there is a need for federal intervention in watershed planning and that the federal government can be helpful in those efforts by taking a “hands on” approach,” said Alliance President Patrick O’Toole.

O’Toole and the Alliance position suggest that if the federal government intends to do something to mitigate for climate change impacts to Western water resources, it should dedicate funding in the form of grants to regional planning efforts, distribute those funds, and then step back and let the local and state watershed groups get the job done on the ground.

Positive Aspects of the Plan

The draft report contained some encouraging recommendations supported by the Alliance, including prioritizing climate change and related water research needs. The development of solid, peer-reviewed data is critical to the decision-making that affects Western water users.

“In some parts of the West, we may have enough data, but in others, not enough,” said Alliance board member Don Schwindt (COLORADO). “We need to focus existing research efforts to deal with a comprehensive quantification of climate change induced streamflow reductions. Focused research must lay out a range of expected scenarios that prudent water managers should use in their planning.”

The Alliance also believes the Draft Action Plan correctly notes that current water resources planning efforts are almost always conducted under conditions of uncertainty and that adaptive management may be the most effective way of dealing with future climate impacts. The Alliance comment letter suggested that the SECURE Water Act provides one existing

authority to help adapt to the water-related impacts of global climate change. Section 7 of the SECURE Water Act outlines the climate change and water intergovernmental panel, which would be comprised of federal agency leaders.

“We have consistently advocated for an adaptive approach to dealing with the uncertainties of climate change,” said Keppen. “We believe the panel authorized by SECURE and the actions they will be tasked with should improve federal coordination of water resources research. For this panel to achieve success, coordinating with the state water resources agencies is critical.”

Concerns

The Alliance letter also identified several areas of concern, including minimal treatment of agricultural water user challenges and no mention made of the critical need to assess, plan for and implement water supply enhancement projects.

“This narrow bias – intentional or not – could lead to ineffective decision making and serious ramifications that will become more important in these times of economic stress, where water needs for agriculture, industry and energy in a changing climate will assume greater importance to our country,” Keppen said.

Another key concern expressed by the Alliance is that the draft Action Plan makes no attempt to identify the costs to state and local governments to implement the plan, nor is there an acknowledgement of the role those agencies have played up to this point in addressing the water needs in their jurisdictions.

“To really do what the Action Plan seems to want to do, it would appear that vast amounts of funding would be required, all at a time when the federal government is operating with substantial deficits and increased debt,” Keppen said. “The costs associated with the proposed actions must be defined so that our policy makers can determine if the time is really right to create new programs at a time when we have record deficits.”

The Family Farm Alliance has long supported the goal of conserving natural resources, as well as fish and wildlife adaptation planning, research and programs. But the lack of comparable attention to adaptation needs of domestic agriculture and rural communities calls into question the intent and effects of a large-scale effort focused primarily on preserving natural resources.

“We fear that the draft Action Plan may be just the latest in a series of forums where the Administration is taking climate adaptation strategies rejected by Congress and injecting them into administrative channels with little congressional oversight,” said Keppen.

Alliance Engages in Water Transfer Workshop

The Family Farm Alliance and several of its member organizations earlier this month participated in a half-day workshop hosted by the Western Governors Association (WGA)/ Western States Water Council (WSWC). The workshop – held in Bend (OREGON) as part of the WSWC Summer Council Meeting –was intended to initiate discussions on developing state-level strategies and tools for sharing water while avoiding or mitigating damage to agricultural economies, rural communities, and environmental values.

At the Bend meeting, WGA and WSWC officials outlined efforts to undertake a joint effort to identify smart water-sharing strategies. The project, with support from the Walton Family Foundation, aims to determine how market transfers of water rights can be done with minimal impact on source areas.

“The project will focus on state-level programs, institutional arrangements, and administrative practices that can facilitate innovative water transfers,” said Tom Iseman, water program director for WGA. “It will not determine whether transfers are “good” or “bad”, nor will it attempt to develop consensus on transfers or provide a single blueprint for how to conduct transfers. Instead, it will produce a tool box of strategies, identify options for new programs or practices, and set forth policy recommendations for states to consider – with a focus on activities that can be implemented at the state level.”

Given the different transfer mechanisms and legal regimes among the states, the WGA and WSWC will not seek to develop prescriptive, “one-size-fits-all” recommendations, but will instead identify a range of tools and strategies that states can consider when addressing water transfers. A report is due to WSWC by late summer 2012.

Following the WSWC presentation, state water managers from Oregon, Colorado and California provided their perspectives on water transfers. It was clear that each state handled water transfers differently and faced unique challenges:

- In Oregon, water conservation efforts can provide water transfer benefits enjoyed by the water user and the environment.
- In Colorado, where “dry-up” of agricultural land to meet growing urban needs on the Eastern Slope of the Rocky Mountains is “unacceptable” (according to Jennifer Gimbel, Director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board), the state is funding a grant program looking for alternatives to agricultural water transfer methods. Some of these alternatives include partial and deficit irrigation methods, which, in some cases, can result in a 30-40 percent reduction in consumptive water use.
- California’s massive plumbing system provides opportunities to move water from north to south, but transfer potential can be significantly limited by Endangered Species Act restrictions intended to protect Delta smelt and salmon. Short-term transfers of water from the Sacramento Valley to southern parts of the state are also dependent upon the price of rice, which may or may not make a potential water sale look enticing to a rice farmer.

Much of the workshop’s focus and the topic of a field trip related to the collaborative efforts underway in the Deschutes River Basin, where irrigation districts, local municipalities and conservation groups are using water management and efficiency to meet key water needs for the next 15 years. Leasing and voluntary water transfers play an important role in freeing up water to meet future needs.

Family Farm Alliance members Steve Johnson (Central Oregon Irrigation District) and Marc Thalacker (Three Sisters Irrigation District) described to the workshop participants gathered in Bend how recent conservation measures undertaken by local agricultural water users has provided 84 cubic feet per second (cfs) of cumulative instream benefits to the



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Western Water Transfer Workshop (Cont'd from Pg 3)

Deschutes system.

“Water savings through canal piping efficiency projects within upper basin irrigation districts serve as supply sources for all identified basin needs, including agriculture, municipalities, and flow restoration,” said Johnson.

Benefits to Johnson’s district from the piping projects include reduced operations and maintenance costs, improved water management, reduced liabilities, power savings and the potential to generate hydro-power using the pressurized water.

Marc Thalacker reported similar successes, and noted local resolve to complete piping another 39 miles of canal in upcoming years. Oregon’s conserved water provisions have allowed the district to enhance instream flows while providing up to 25% more water on-farm. While the new piping projects and an innovative fish screen project are clear indications that good changes are happening, Thalacker pointed to the real reason for success along the Deschutes River: relationships.

“Cooperative partnership is the key to everything,” Thalacker told the workshop audience.

In the roundtable discussion that followed the Deschutes presentation, Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen described how Alliance representatives involved in a Colorado River Basin water sharing forum that set the groundwork for the WSWC water transfer discussions have pushed hard to find ways to streamline the regulatory process associated with developing new water supply enhancement infrastructure.

“The real reason we continue to push for improved water storage and conveyance infrastructure is not to support con-

tinued expansion of agricultural water demand,” said Keppen. “This is not happening in most places, anyway. Instead, we seek to mitigate for the water that has been reallocated away from agriculture towards growing urban, power, environmental and recreational demands in recent decades. If we

don’t find a way to restore water supply reliability for irrigated agriculture through a combination of new infrastructure, other supply enhancement efforts, and demand management – our country’s ability to feed and clothe itself and the world will be jeopardized.”

The Alliance has advocated for pinning down how much new water is needed for new uses, and then finding ways to support those uses in a sustainable way that doesn’t hurt irrigated agriculture. New infrastructure is one such way., and WSWC is also making progress on that front.

Keppen said there are two key areas where

agricultural and urban water users and conservation interests might find common cause. The first is regulatory reform to facilitate development of new water supplies, and the second is development of a set of principles to guide ag-to-urban water transfers.

“These two initiatives must be coupled for success to be achieved,” said Keppen.

WSWC is an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states. Since the Council was created by the governors, and since the members serve at their respective governor’s pleasure, the Council sees itself as being accountable to the Western Governors’ Association (WGA). Council members and staff work closely with the WGA staff on water policy issues of concern to the governors. Contact Tom Iseman at WGA (tiseman@westgov.org) for more information.



Tumalo Irrigation District in the Deschutes River Basin is replacing over 6 miles of open canal sections with large diameter conduit . This latest phase of construction will save over 530 acre-feet of water once lost to seepage.

House Interior, EPA Approps Bill Moves Forward

House Dems Halt Effort to Defund New ESA Listings

The U.S. House of Representatives has begun consideration of the fiscal year 2012 Interior-Environment spending bill, which makes steep cuts to water infrastructure programs administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The House has already voted to adopt an amendment to H.R. 2584, the "Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2012". The amendment, introduced by Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), struck language originally contained in the bill stipulating that no money is to be spent on any new endangered species listings.

"It is unfortunate that members of the House today voted to support listings that recklessly endanger jobs in New Mexico and nationwide," said Rep. Steve Pearce (NEW MEXICO). "These listings come at the behest of special interest groups, lobbyists, and lawyers, who spend millions to advance their agenda while ignoring the needs of the American people. Thousands of New Mexican jobs are at stake over the listing of the dunes sagebrush lizard alone. During these difficult economic times, we cannot afford to needlessly sacrifice even a single job."

The ESA rider would have prevented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) from listing new species or increasing protections for already-listed plants and animals (see related story, page 7). Many Western Republicans in the House are critical of the ESA success record, since only 20 of 1,374 species listed have actually recovered. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), chairman of the subcommittee that wrote the bill, said the rider was intended to encourage stakeholders to push for a reauthorization of the ESA, which was signed into law in 1973, and last reauthorized by Congress in 1988.

Other stakeholders do not want to see ESA reauthorization brought to Capitol Hill.

"We'd rather not have the House work on a reauthorization on the Endangered Species Act," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species program director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Rodger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife, agreed, and said the next step should be to give the Interior Department time to pursue administrative improvements to ESA.

House committees had previously approved a fiscal year (FY) 2012 spending bill, which funds the Department of the Interior and EPA, among several other federal agencies. In total, the measure includes \$27.5 billion in spending, a reduction of \$2.1 billion below last year's level.

The House's FY 2012 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill contains steep cuts for key federal water infrastructure and natural resources programs.

The \$7.1 billion appropriated for the EPA amounts to \$1.5 billion less than FY 2011 levels. One billion dollars of the proposed cut to the EPA would come from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which help finance state and local water infrastructure improvements across the country. Appropriators reasoned that these funds received \$6 billion through the economic stimulus legislation and a portion of that funding remains available.

USFWS programs were funded to the level of \$1.2 billion, which equates to a cut of 21 percent. The hardest hit of USFWS funding streams are for land acquisition and grants, whereas as programs for endangered species recovery remain a priority.

As of this writing, other EPA amendments limiting the agency's implementation of new Clean Water Act guidance and regulating carbon under the Clean Air Act are still in the appropriations bill, with significant Democratic opposition.

"The House bill contains two important Clean Water Act policy provisions that Western water users should pay attention to," said Mark Limbaugh, the Family Farm Alliance representative in Washington.

The first regards EPA's definition of navigable waterway. The bill prohibits EPA from changing this definition under the Clean Water Act. This provision was expected since the House included similar language in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which funds the Corps of Engineers, an agency that shares Clean Water Act enforcement responsibilities with the EPA.

Second, the bill includes the House-passed "Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011," language to clarify congressional intent on the dual regulation of pesticides near navigable waterways. The courts recently determined that EPA's current permitting process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) was insufficient for pesticide users who spray over water. The decision mandated that EPA issue additional permits under the Clean Water Act. The clarification language included in the House's FY 2012 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill would exempt pesticide users who spray over water from obtaining a second permit under the Clean Water Act.

The Family Farm Alliance has testified before Congressional committees several times in recent years, expressing concerns about expanded Clean Water Act jurisdiction that the House amendments intend to address.

House Passes Bill Limiting EPA's Ability to Trump States

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives voted 239-184 to pass HR 1818, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011, which limits EPA's ability to override state and federally-approved water quality standards and permits.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mica (R-FL) and Rep. Rahall (D-WV) and signals the bipartisan frustration with the EPA and their recent actions to overturn state water quality standards and permits, such as mountain-top mining, as not stringent enough to protect the environment.

While the bill faces tough sledding in the Democratic controlled Senate, it does send a clear message to the Obama Administration, which has stated the president would veto the bill if sent to his desk for signature, about congressional concerns with what many consider EPA regulatory overreach.

Three amendments were added to the bill, including one offered by Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.) that would require EPA to analyze the impacts to job creation and the economy arising from its actions. Rep. Steve Cohen (Tenn.) secured approval for an amendment that would preserve EPA's authority to oversee regulation of pipelines like the one that recently burst and spilled into the Yellow-



Rep. John Mica (R- FLORIDA) was a co-sponsor of the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011.

Source: <http://vote-fl.org/Intro.aspx?State=FL&Id=FLMicaJohnL>

Job Opportunity: OFS Executive Director

Oregonians for Food & Shelter (OFS), a 501(c)(6) non-profit association located in Salem, Oregon is seeking a full-time, **Executive Director** to start ideally on or before **January 23, 2012**. Starting salary commensurate with experience. Competitive benefits include family medical, retirement plan and more. The Director, reporting to the OFS Board of Directors and managing a staff of two, is responsible for the successful continuation of the OFS mission: *"to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology."*

For a detailed job description, information on OFS and application requirements – email your **name, current job position, mailing address, daytime phone number and salary expectations** to ofs.directors.job@gmail.com Completed applications must be received by 5:00 P.M. (PDT), September 9, 2011. The Selection Committee plans to begin interviews in October and make a final decision around December 1, 2011. All applicant information submitted will be kept confidential.

stone River (MONTANA).

Environmental activists and their allies in urban media centers have blasted the House action. American Rivers called the bill "one of the most sweeping attacks on clean, safe water in our nation's history."

"Americans should be appalled by this attack on public health, recreation, and our many local economies that depend on clean water and healthy rivers," said Katherine Baer, senior director of the clean water program at American Rivers

The *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial board opined, "Strip-mine rubble dumped into creeks, mercury that builds up in lake fish, and sewage washing up on beaches. What's the best way to control such pollution? For nearly 40 years, the job has gone to Washington, not a crazy-quilt of state jurisdictions."

The Family Farm Alliance for over two years has been monitoring EPA rulemaking and has urged Congress to provide increased oversight and conduct oversight hearings to improve transparency of several administrative processes underway at EPA.

Western Water Users Question Administration's New Endangered Species Settlement Agreement

A recent much-publicized agreement between the federal government and one of the most litigious environmental groups in America has Western water users on edge, awaiting the final decision of a federal judge.

An agreement announced earlier this month with two litigious environmental activist groups builds on a multi-year work plan that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on May 10, 2011. If approved by the Court, the work plan will enable the agency to systematically, over a period of six years, review and address the needs of more than 250 candidate species to determine if they should be added to the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

"For more than 35 years, the Endangered Species Act has prevented the probable extinction of hundreds of species across the Nation and contributed to the recovery of many others," said USFWS Director Dan Ashe. "The ESA represents a commitment to protect and preserve our natural heritage out of a deeply held understanding of the direct link between the health of our ecosystems and our own well-being. This work plan will allow the Service to more effectively focus our efforts on providing the benefits of the ESA to those imperiled species most in need of protection."

Background

These two settlement agreements are the culmination of what is known as the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") multidistrict litigation. This case was formed in 2010 by combining 13 federal court cases filed by either the WildEarth Guardians ("WEG") or the Center for Biological Diversity ("CBD")—two of the most litigious environmental activists organizations in the West—regarding 113 species.

On May 10, 2011, USFWS announced its settlement agreement with the WEG with the promise that the agreement would help the USFWS "prioritize its workload." That settlement agreement was opposed by the CBD who wanted other species added to the list.

The Justice Department obliged the requests of the CBD and on July 12, 2011 filed the second agreement, now pending before the District of Columbia Federal District Court, that would require the USFWS to make 1,201 decisions on proposed listing and critical habitat designations for 1,053 species.

The settlement agreements require the USFWS to work on a very strict time schedule. At least 94 decisions have to be made by Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 and 61 decisions are to be completed by the end of FY 2012. A total of over 1,200 decisions have to be made by FY 2016.

"In this instance, the Obama Administration has given what appears to be a significant victory to two small environmental groups that filed lawsuits for the purpose of creating a pretext for the Administration to do this very thing," said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

What the USFWS Did Not Disclose

Unfortunately, the predictably enormous costs and all the other damage that will come from agreeing to these listings are completely unknown. All of those problems will not be likely identified until after the 2012 election.

According to recent research conducted by the Budd-Falen law firm (WYOMING), the cost of the settlement agreements to the American taxpayer will be over \$206 million - just to process the paperwork. That figure excludes the payment of attorney fees to the CBD and WEG. The amount of those payments has not been publically released.

What is even more distressing to Budd-Falen and others is that the settlement agreements go far outside the bounds of the original multi-district litigation. The original litigation dealt with 133 species for which the Justice Department agreed that the USFWS had failed to follow the procedural ESA requirements. In contrast, the settlement agreements expanded that number to include 1,053 species; 940 of which were not part of a federal court complaint.

Karen Budd-Falen believes the USFWS public announcement, which will "address the needs of more than 250 candidate species", is misleading.

"Just look at the list attached to the settlement agreements and read the settlement agreements themselves," she said. "The official species list that has to be considered contains 1,053 species. While technically 1,053 species is "more than" 250 candidate species, my children could not get away with that kind of creative factual accounting."

Concerns of Western Water Users

Western producers who have seen firsthand the economic impacts that can accompany ESA single species management are wary and concerned. Litigation that often surrounds ESA listings and federal agency management decisions adds a whole new level of costs and uncertainty for farmers and ranchers who rely on federal water projects located in areas where ESA-protected fish and wildlife live.

"This whole settlement agreement would be laughable, if not for the fact that some of us in the rural West have seen firsthand the economic devastation that can occur when sin-

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ESA Settlement Raises Eyebrows (Cont'd from Pg 7)

gle-species biological opinions are actually implemented,” said Keppen.

Currently, nearly 1,400 U.S. species are listed under the ESA. Once a plant or animal is listed as threatened or endangered with extinction, federal officials must designate critical habitat for it and require review by USFWS officials for any federal action that could impact it. These reviews often come in the form of biological opinions, similar to the ones prepared every year on large Western federal irrigation projects (including Columbia River operations, California’s Central Valley Project, and the Klamath Project operations) by federal fisheries agencies. These biological opinions often direct stored water away from its originally intended use – irrigation – and toward the alleged needs of ESA-protected fish.

“Water beneficially used for decades by farmers is now being taken to meet the asserted needs of species listed under the ESA without any due process,” said Keppen. “These federally mandated reallocations have had significant adverse impacts on the West and its ability to meet the challenges of competing demands for water supplies.”

Farmers and ranchers fear that the settlement underway could open the flood gates for new listings under the ESA.

“This potentially could be just another set up for failure that portends a grim future for Western rural communities that rely on healthy agriculture and forestry economies,” said Alliance president Patrick O’Toole, who operates a sheep and cattle ranch in Wyoming.

There are also concerns that other agencies – including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – will be forced to consult with federal wildlife officials over the impacts of its decisions to the newly protected species. EPA could eventually be forced to adopt more stringent pollution control requirements to protect imperiled species once a settlement is reached with the Department of Interior.

“Sue and Settle”

The amount of radical environmental litigation in the United States is staggering, and WildEarth Guardians is a driving force behind this movement in the Western United States. According to research conducted by the Budd-Falen law firm of Cheyenne, Wyoming, from 2000 to 2009, just nine environmental groups, including WildEarth Guardians, filed 3,313 cases filed against the federal government for “enforcement” of environmental statutes. Many of these cases end up getting “settled” with the federal government.

Karen Budd-Falen explains how the system works.

“An activist environmental group like the Center of Bio-

logical Diversity files federal court litigation against a federal agency like USFWS, complaining that the agency failed to timely act on a petition to list a species,” Budd-Falen. “The environmental group cannot get the court to tell USFWS how it should make its decision; the court can only require a “timely” decision be made. USFWS loses the case because it almost never makes a decision in the amount of time required by Congress.”

When the activist group and the “losing” federal agency move into the settlement phase, the federal government ends up paying the environmental attorneys for filing the litigation.

“So, not only does USFWS have to go back and remake its decision, your tax dollars paid an environmental group to sue the fishery agency,” says Budd-Falen.

Funds awarded to the “prevailing” litigants are taken from the “losing” federal agencies’ budget. There is no oversight in spending this money, which could otherwise be funding on-the-ground programs to protect public lands, national forests, wildlife, and other land uses.

“Instead, nonprofit, tax exempt groups are making millions of dollars, while ranchers and other citizens are being forced to expend millions of their own money to intervene or participate in these lawsuits to protect their way of life when they have no chance of the same attorney fee recovery if they prevail,” Budd-Falen said.

Other Costs

With the new USFWS settlement, the government has agreed to pay attorneys fees—not just for the litigation but also for the petitions that were prepared to try to get the 251 species listed in the first place.

“This bone if being offered to two environmental groups who are not even the biggest ESA litigators in America,” said Budd-Falen. “And while the WildEarth Guardians have agreed to limit listing petitions, none of the other litigious environmental groups are bound by a similar limit. Plus, if USFWS does not follow the new work plan time table or come to what some environmental group thinks is the right conclusion on one of the 251 species, federal court, here we come.”

Pat O’Toole fears that the proposed settlement could have a chilling effect in rural areas at a time where only 6 percent of our farmers are younger than 35.

“Our country needs to encourage policies that can attract and retain young farmers for the future of American agriculture, and America’s food supply,” said O’Toole. “Why in the world would any perspective Western farmer want to enter a profession that will be further constrained by the uncertainties attached to this latest ‘settlement’ proposal?”

“Why in the world would any perspective young Western farmer want to enter a profession that will be further constrained by the uncertainties attached to this latest ‘settlement’ proposal?”

Patrick O’Toole

Thank You to Our New and Supporting Members!

JULY 2011

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San Luis Water District

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Hohokam Irrigation and Drainage District (AZ)

Monsanto Company (MO)

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District (ID)

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (CA)

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Bill Watson Farms, Inc (WA)

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Mick and Leslie James (AZ)

DONOR SUPPORT

Make your tax-deductible gift to the Alliance today! Grassroots membership is vital to our organization. Thank you in advance for your loyal support. If you would like further info, please contact Dan

Keppen at his NEW e-mail address: dankeppen@charter.net, or visit our website:

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