

Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014

- **Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (S.738)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Wicker / Cosponsors: Pryor, Baucus, Cochran, Boozman, Collins, Inhofe

Authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to allow any state to provide federal duck stamps electronically. E-duck stamps are valid for 45 days to allow for the physical stamps to arrive in the mail.

Amounts collected from the sale of duck stamps are deposited in the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and used without further appropriation for waterfowl conservation projects.

- **Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act (S.1505)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Thune / Cosponsors: Klobuchar, Hagan, Boozman, Cochran, Enzi, Rubio

Exempts lead fishing equipment and shot, bullets, projectiles, propellants and primers with lead from the Toxic Substances Control Act, leaving the existing authority to State Fish and Game Agencies and the FWS. Does not apply to any other federal, state or local regulatory authorities.

- **Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (S.1212)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Udall (CO) / Cosponsors: Risch, Bennet, Hagan, Klobuchar, Tester, Barrasso, Crapo, Thune, Begich, Pryor, Enzi, Heller, Murkowski, King, Collins

Enables states to allocate a greater portion of federal Pittman-Robertson funding to create and maintain shooting ranges on public lands. States will also be allowed to access these funds for longer period of time, and the bill encourages federal land agencies to cooperate with state and local authorities to maintain shooting ranges.

- **Duck Stamp Subsistence Waiver**

Sponsor: Murkowski (introduced bill in the 112th Congress).

Grants the Secretary of the Interior the authority to make limited waivers of Duck Stamp requirements for certain subsistence users.

- **Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act (S.847)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Crapo / Cosponsor: Risch

Permits the Secretary of the Interior to authorize permits for re-importation of legally harvested Polar Bears from approved populations in Canada before the 2008 ban.

- **Farmer and Hunter Protection Act**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Pryor / Cosponsors: Boozman, Cochran, Landrieu, Wicker

Authorizes USDA extension offices to determine normal agricultural practices rather than the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In some instances, FWS has interpreted the Migratory Bird Act to treat hunting of migrating birds on rolled rice fields as baiting. Baiting migratory birds with grain is illegal and can result in fines up to \$10,000 and the halting of hunting on the grounds considered baited. Normal agricultural practices are not considered baiting. This bill aims to set clear criteria on what constitutes “normal agricultural practices” by having the FWS refer to local USDA extension offices for the determination.

- **Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act (S.170)**

Lead Sponsor: Senator Murkowski / Cosponsors: Manchin, Barrasso, Portman, Enzi, Risch, Crapo, Thune, Vitter, Heller, Hoeven, Flake, Wicker, Collins

Requires Bureau of Land (BLM) and Forest Service managed lands to be open to recreational hunting, fishing and shooting unless specifically closed by the agencies (“open unless closed”). The legislation does not impact National Parks or National Wildlife Refuges, and would not prevent BLM or FS from implementing new management plans to add new limits or prohibitions on hunting/shooting.

- **Permits for Film Crews of Five People or Less.**

Stand-alone bill hasn't been introduced in the Senate.

Directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to require annual permits and assess annual fees for commercial filming activities on Federal land for film crews of five persons or fewer.

The current rules for filming and photographing on federal lands and waterways are burdensome on individual journalists and small film crews wishing to participate in these activities on federal lands. This section prohibits additional fees from being assessed on individuals or small film crews that possess permits.

- **Making Public Lands Public**

Stand-alone bill hasn't been introduced in the Senate.

Requires 1.5% (up to \$10M) of annual LWCF funding be made available to secure -- through rights-of-way, the acquisition of lands, or interests from willing sellers -- recreational public access to existing federal lands that have significantly restricted access to hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities.

- **Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization (S.368)**
Lead Sponsor: Heinrich / Cosponsors: Heller, Baucus, Bennet, Crapo, Tester, M. Udall, T.Udall, Wyden

This bill permanently reauthorizes FLTFA, a program that enables the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell public land to private owners, counties, companies and others for ranching, community development and other conservation projects. This “Land for Land” approach creates jobs and generates funding for BLM, USFS, NPS and USFWS to acquire critical in-holdings from willing sellers.

Prior to July 2011, BLM completed hundreds of sales, generating over \$117 million and funding 39 conservation projects. At least 80% of funds from the sale or exchange of public land must be used to acquire high priority lands. Revenue would be generated for funding the program through the sale of lands in both current and future BLM Resource Management Plans (RMP) rather than only those in place on the date of reauthorization.

The cost of the bill is offset by transferring \$1M annually over 10 years from the Federal Land Disposal Account to the Treasury for deficit reduction.

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act Reauthorization (S.741)**
Lead Sponsor: Vitter / Cosponsors: Boxer, Baucus, Blunt, Boozman, Cardin, Cochran, Coons, Crapo, Inhofe, Johnson, Landrieu, Portman, Whitehouse, Wicker, Collins

Reauthorizes NAWCA through fiscal year 2017. NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations, state and local governments, and private landowners for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands critical to the habitat of migratory birds. Over the last 20 years, this program has funded over 1,600 projects that conserved more than 20 million acres of wetlands across North America. NAWCA is also cost-effective, with every dollar of federal funding traditionally generating three dollars in non-federal money.

The bill reduces the annual authorization level to \$50 million a year, \$14 million more than the average amount appropriated for NAWCA over the last six years.

- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization (S.51)**
Lead Sponsor: Senator Boxer / Cosponsors: Baucus, Cardin, Cochran, Collins, Landrieu, Roberts, Stabenow, Tester, T. Udall, Vitter, Whitehouse

Reauthorizes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), a non-profit that preserves and restores native wildlife species and habitats. NFWF directs public conservation dollars to pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded over 11,600 grants to more than 4,000 organizations in the United States, investing a total of \$2 billion for conservation. The bill authorizes \$25 million annually between FY2014 and FY2019.