

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

September 15, 1997

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LAST WEEK:

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS DOMINATE CONGRESSIONAL DOCKET -
With less than three weeks remaining in Fiscal Year 1997, the House and Senate focused attention on the thirteen appropriations bills which must be passed before September 30th. Among these, H.R. 2160, the Agriculture Appropriations bill was the subject of committee staff negotiations last week. Conference action by Members may begin as early as next week on that legislation.

LEGISLATION OF NOTE-

The following bills of significance to NRCS and conservation were recently introduced:

Bill	Member	Purpose
H.R. 2374	Lowey (NY))	Amends the federal water Pollution Control Act to provide funding to States for estuary conservation and management
H.R. 2377	Smith (OR)	Would amend federal policy on migrant agricultural workers
S. 1150	Lugar (IN)	Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1997

THIS WEEK:

AIR QUALITY HEARING -

House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Smith, R-OR) will hold a hearing on the potential impact on agriculture of new air quality standards issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Witnesses will include Administrator, Carol Browner of the EPA as well as some scientific and public interest representatives.

Sept. 16 10:00 am 1300 Longworth Bldg.

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LOOKING AHEAD:

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Don Young, AK) will hold a hearing on H.R. 1842 sponsored by Helen Chenoweth R-ID. H.R. 1842 would prohibit the use of any appropriated funds from being used to carry out the American Heritage River Initiative.

Sept. 24 11:00 a.m. 1324 Longworth Bldg.

FIRE AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Young,R-AK) will hold a hearing on the impact of setting fires to manage federal forests and allowing natural fires to burn. The panel also will examine if such fires would violate air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency and how those standards affect the use of fire as a forest management tool. Witnesses scheduled to attend include EPA Administrator, Carol Browner; USDA Secretary, Dan Glickman; and Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt.

Sept. 30 11:00 am 1324 Longworth Bldg.

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