

News!

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SENATE STIMULUS UPDATE

Friday evening a bipartisan group of senators reached a deal on a \$780 billion stimulus package. The package is expected to more closely resemble the Obama stimulus framework. At time of publication, details of the bi-partisan proposal were not available and the status of the \$55 million for the HPF is unknown. A vote on the deal is expected late Friday night or Saturday. An update on the stimulus and HPF status will be provided Monday morning.



Interior Deputy Secretary Nomination/Possible NPS Director Candidates

On January 26th, the Obama administration announced the nomination of David J. Hayes to be Interior Department deputy secretary under Secretary Salazar. Hayes headed the Interior Department transition team for President Obama and served in the same position in the Clinton administration from 1999 to 2001. He has worked recently as a partner with the Latham & Watkins law firm and also served as vice chairman of the board of directors of American Rivers.

A number of names have surfaced as possible candidates for Park Service director. Among the names of Park Service veterans we are hearing are, in alphabetical order: Dan Arnberger, former Alaska regional director now retired; John Donahue, superintendent of Delaware Water Gap National Park; Mike Finley, former superintendent of Yellowstone National Park; John Jarvis, Pacific Northwest regional director; and Dan Kimball, superintendent of Everglades National Park.



Omnibus Public Lands Bill Faces Hurdles in House

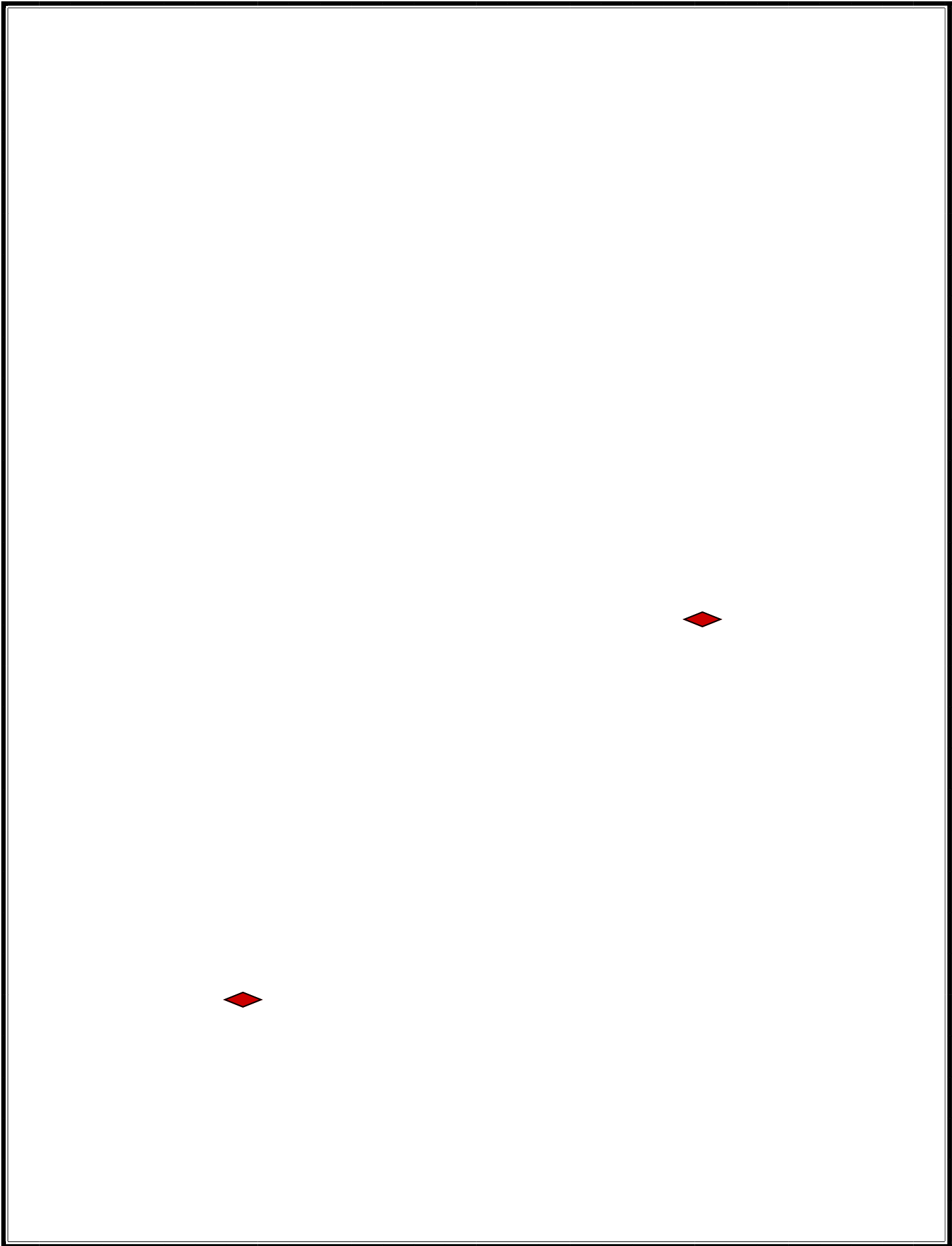
The omnibus public lands bill (S.22) could face a tough vote in the House as early as next week. Due to threats of amendments by conservative western Republicans, House leadership will bring the bill up for a vote under a procedure called "Suspension of the Rules" which requires a two-thirds majority (291 votes) to pass.

If the bill does not pass under Suspension of the Rules, House leaders can still bring the measure up under normal procedures and risk the bill being amended. If the bill is amended, it would have to go back to the Senate where there is a chance of a filibuster which could stall further consideration.

The most controversial item in S.22 is the authorization of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). The measure also would authorize Save Americas Treasures and Preserve America and designate three new national parks, designate several national trails, designate more than 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, designate 2.2 million acres of wilderness, and designate 10 national heritage areas.



	<p>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</p> <p>March 8-11 NCSHPO Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.</p>
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January 28-29 – NCSHPO Executive Committee Meeting, Washington D.C.
March 8-11 – NCSHPO Annual Meeting/Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.