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Prepared by the staff of the Conservative Action Team

*For additional information contact Neil Bradley at 202-226-2273
or Sheila Moloney at 6-2075*

ADDITIONAL MEASURES:

S 1629--OREGON LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2000

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing S. 1629 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Information from Interior and Agriculture indicates that the exchanges could affect grazing allotments, but CBO estimates that any impact on grazing receipts would be insignificant.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes. The bill specifically allows the federal government to swap federal land for private land and it gives the Agriculture and Interior Secretaries a new authority to retain any cash payments received in these exchanges and to spend them, without further appropriation action, to purchase other land in Oregon. After the exchange there will be 4,371 fewer acres of federal land.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, Section 8 (but fails to cite a specific authority) and Article IV, Section 3 (make rules concerning property owned by the United States).

Summary: S. 1629 provides that upon the request of Clearwater Land Exchange--Oregon (an Oregon partnership), the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall exchange certain federal lands in the state of Oregon for certain private lands in the state. The BLM and Forest Service will acquire river corridors which they claim will improve the efficiency of their protection efforts for threatened and endangered fish. Specifically, the Secretary of the Interior would convey about 50,320 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in exchange for about 44,150 acres of private land. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture would convey 3,901 acres of federal land within the Malheur National Forest in exchange for about 5,700 acres of private land within the Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman, and Umatilla National Forests.

S.2327--COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY

Cost to Taxpayer: S. 2327 authorizes a total of \$6 million for the next 3 fiscal years for a commission on oceans, of which \$3.5 million has already been appropriated (in 1999) but not spent.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes. The bill authorizes a new 16 member commission to study the oceans and establishes a "multidisciplinary science advisory panel of experts in the sciences of living and non-living marine resources" to assist the commission. The bill further gives authorization for the committee to secure information from any agency or department and administer oaths to witnesses appearing before the commission. The report is due 18 months after the Commission is established, and 120 days after receiving the report the President shall submit to Congress a proposal

on how to implement the Commission's recommendations.

Constitutional Authority: No House Committee report was filed and no authority is cited in the Senate report.

Summary: A similar commission in 1966 led directly to the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1970, laid the groundwork for enactment of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1972, as well as the Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976.

H.R. 3468 -- DUCHESNE CITY WATER RIGHTS CONVEYANCE ACT

Cost to Taxpayer: CBO estimates the bill would have no significant impact on the budget.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: No, the bill transfers certain water rights to the city of Duchesne, Utah.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to provide a specific citation of authority.

H.R. 4275 -- COLORADO CANYONS AND BLACK RIDGE CANYONS ACT

Cost to Taxpayer: A CBO cost estimate is not available.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: Yes, the bill:

- C Creates a 112,450 acre Conservation Area from public lands,
- C Creates a 70,279 acre wilderness area to be part of the National Wilderness Preservation System;
- C Authorizes the acquisition of non-federal land within the exterior boundaries of the Conservation or Wilderness areas; and
- C Creates a ten-member Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council.

Constitutional Authority: None cited.

Other Information: National Journal reports that at least one rancher in the area supports these designations as an alternative to the possible designation of the area as a national monument by President Clinton.

H.R. 3236 -- AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE WEBER BASIN PROJECT FACILITIES

Cost to Taxpayer: CBO estimates that the costs of handling non-project water would be less than \$500,000 a year. While reimbursement is not required under the bill, it is the Secretary of Interior's intention to seek reimbursement before entering into any contract for non-project water.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill authorizes the Secretary

of the Interior to enter into contract with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District for impounding, storing, or carrying non-project water using federally operated facilities.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to provide a specific citation of authority.

H.R. 4033 -- BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT

Cost to Taxpayer: CBO estimates that enactment would cost \$134 million over the 2002-2005 period, subject to appropriations.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill reauthorizes and modifies the grant program to assist local police departments in purchasing bulletproof vests. The bill limits individual grants to 50% of the purchase cost and clarifies that units of local government with less than 100,000 residents will receive priority consideration for grants and a guarantee of 50% funding.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to provide a specific citation of authority.

H.R. 4864 -- VETERANS CLAIMS ASSISTANCE ACT

Cost to Taxpayer: CBO estimates that the bill would cost \$4 million in 2001 and \$7 to \$8 million annually thereafter, subject to appropriations. CBO estimates that the VA will have to hire an additional 110 claims adjudicators to comply with the legislation. CBO does not estimate that this new claims handling process will result in any significant increase in benefit payments.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill would require the VA to draft regulations that specify what information is necessary to establish a claim, pursue any records necessary to help establish a claim, and provide medical exams to veterans who need them to substantiate their claims. This is more assistance than is provided to veterans under current law.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to provide a specific citation of authority.

H.Con.Res 375 - SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Cost to the Taxpayer: No cost, only a sense of Congress resolution.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: No.

Constitutional Authority: No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the bill.

Summary: The concurrent resolution recognizes that American youth are faced with many "oppressive issues" such as drugs, violence, and "family stress," causing their future to be at risk. It also encourages

Americans to spend time with youth to transmit values and heritage. The resolution resolves that Congress recognize the importance of youth to the United States' future, support the goals of National Youth Day, which takes place annually on a Saturday near the beginning of the school year, and encourage the people of the United States to participate in activities that support the goals of Gen. Colin Powell's youth initiative, The Alliance for Youth.

H.R. 4924 -- TRUTH IN REGULATION ACT

Cost to Taxpayer: A CBO cost estimate is not available, but the bill authorizes \$5.2 million for each fiscal year 2001 through 2003.

Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations: The bill would direct the General Accounting Office to conduct independent evaluations at the request of a Congressional Committee on proposed rules that may have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or which meet other certain criteria. The pilot program would expire in three years.

Constitutional Authority: None cited.

The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of almost 60 House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).