

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

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OCTOBER 28, 2009.—Ordered to be printed
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Mr. DICKS, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2996]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2996), making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows;

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

REFERENCES

SECTION 1. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, namely:

aging the monuments and partnering with other Federal, international, and private entities.

Migratory Bird Management, Law Enforcement, and International Affairs.—The conference agreement provides \$134,743,000 for migratory bird management, law enforcement and international affairs instead of \$133,593,000 as proposed by the House and \$133,573,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Within the funds provided for migratory birds, law enforcement and international programs, there are increases of \$500,000 for new urban treaties as a part of the Department-wide youth initiative, \$1,000,000 for joint ventures under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, \$2,000,000 for law enforcement operations, \$1,000,000 for the wildlife without borders program, and \$150,000 for the Caddo Lake Ramsar Center. The increase for joint ventures is intended to provide all approved joint ventures with sufficient base funding.

The conferees are aware of the impacts of the chytrid disease on amphibian species worldwide. Amphibian species are disappearing at over 200 times their historic rate. The conferees urge the Service to use a portion of the increase provided for the wildlife without borders program to work with the international conservation community to establish conservation and captive breeding programs as well as to support the development and testing of novel methods to combat amphibian chytrid to conserve the most imperiled of these species.

Fisheries.—The conference agreement provides \$148,345,000 for the fisheries program instead of \$144,195,000 as proposed by the House and \$143,695,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Within the funds provided for fisheries and aquatic resource conservation, there is: \$2,150,000 to conduct scientific review of the Klamath, North Coast, and Central Valley hatchery operations in California; \$1,000,000 for mass marking fisheries in the Great Lakes; \$500,000 general increase for fish hatchery operations; \$500,000 for native freshwater mussel recovery; \$1,300,000 to establish a Fisheries Resource Office in West Virginia to focus on aquatic species restoration and management in the Appalachian Highlands; \$2,000,000 to control the spread of and eradicate invasive quagga and zebra mussels; and \$200,000 for sea otter and Steller sea lion conservation in Alaska.

The conference agreement includes \$2,000,000 above the President's request for the Service to respond to the urgent nationwide problem of invasive mussels entering lakes and rivers in the U.S. These mussels crowd out native species and encrust any hard surface, including municipal water supply pipes and boat motors. They are easily spread by watercraft from one location to another and are nearly impossible to eradicate once established. For example, the infestation of quagga mussels in Lake Mead was first found in 2007. The number of quagga mussels has grown to 3 trillion since then and is likely irreversible. Today, infestation by quagga and zebra mussels and Asian clams is threatening the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe. The introduction of these aquatic nuisance species to the Lake Tahoe region could have devastating effects to the regional economy, including effects on recreation, tourism, property values, and other infrastructure. Therefore, the conferees strongly