

GET INVOLVED

Previously only available in a newsletter, CSF is now pleased to offer a more interactive version of *Tracking The Capitols*, which allows you to search for specific legislation or regulations on issues—and in the states—that you are most interested in. This new service allows you to gain information at a time of your choosing, instead of waiting for the weekly newsletter, and also allows you to refine your search criteria to provide you with only the information you wish to see.

CSF invites you to sign up for customized legislative and regulatory email alerts by clicking the “Sign up for email alerts” button at the top of the page. In so doing, you can self-select the states and issues that you are most interested in, and will receive an email alert sent to your inbox with timely updates on a schedule of your choosing (daily or weekly).



THE NEW TRACKING THE CAPITOLS

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON LEGISLATION IMPACTING THE SPORTSMEN'S COMMUNITY WITH PERSONALIZED EMAIL ALERTS

STEP 1: REGISTER FOR FREE AT congressionalsportsmen.org/legislative-alerts/register

STEP 2: CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR A LINK TO CONFIRM YOUR ACCOUNT, SET A PASSWORD, AND COMPLETE THE ACTIVATION

STEP 3: ONCE YOUR PASSWORD IS SET, VISIT THE **Tracking The Capitols** PAGE TO SET UP PERSONALIZED ALERTS



CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION

WORKING WITH CONGRESS, GOVERNORS, AND STATE LEGISLATORS TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE HUNTING, FISHING, RECREATIONAL SHOOTING AND TRAPPING IN THE HALLS OF GOVERNMENT SINCE 1989

FARM BILL (GLOSSARY OF TERMS)

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a land-conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to restore environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance - the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) encourages partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. Through the program, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding to project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

Sodbuster aims to dis-incentivize converting native grassland to cropland by restricting crop insurance coverage on prairies wholly or partially that is newly converted from native and. This provision was established in the 2008 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Conservation Compliance requires producers to have a conservation plan approved by and on file with USDA if they plant annually tilled crops on highly erodible soil, and prohibits producers from planting on erodible wetlands or converting wetlands for crop production. The 2014 Farm Bill requires producers, and any affiliated individuals or entities to comply with these provisions that participate in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Voluntary Public Access- Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) enables state and tribal governments to increase public access to private lands for recreational opportunities and enhance habitat for game, fish, and other wildlife. VPA-HIP is a competitive grant program that offers states and American Indian governments funding to develop public access programs for private lands. The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program by providing technical assistance and blank grants to land. The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program by providing technical assistance and blank grants to land.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS - TAKE THE POLLS

CSF is interested in hearing your opinion on various sportsmen-related policy issues. There is a section containing the current poll, as well as results of polls that have been conducted previously.

CURRENT POLL - Which of the following conservation programs do you feel is the most important as Congress seeks to reauthorize the Farm Bill in 2018?

Latest Policy Updates

Sportsmen's priorities included in FY2018 Omnibus on March 22

Senate Commerce Committee passes the Modern Fish Act (S. 1520) with bipartisan support on February 28

House Natural Resources Committee holds hearing on Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 4647) and Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (HR 2591) on February 15

Georgia State Senate passes Youth Outdoors Passport Act (SB 332) on February 13