

MARYLAND'S TEAM WILDLIFE

Teaming With Wildlife Coalition



Update

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The purpose of the Maryland TWW Coalition is:

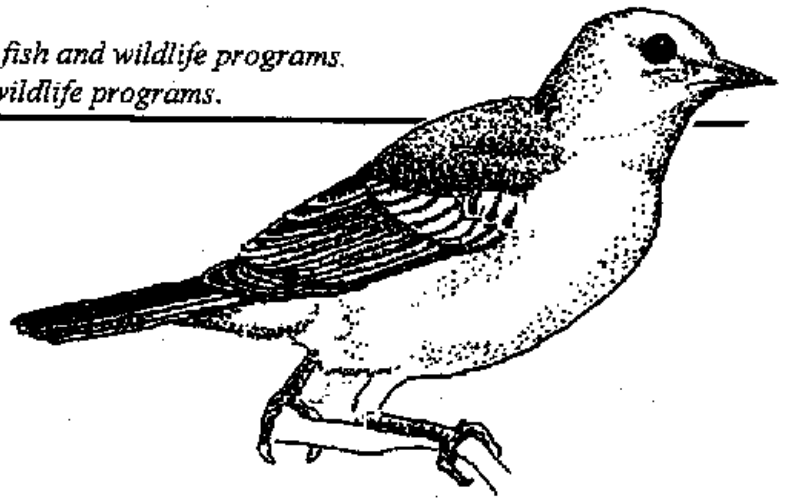
- To promote long-term consistent funding for state fish and wildlife programs.
- To promote public participation in state fish and wildlife programs.

March 2001

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Co-Chair: Edith Thompson, MD DNR, 580 Taylor Ave E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401; Phone (410) 260-8555; Fax (410) 260-8595; E-mail: ethompson@dnr.state.md.us or tabascocat@erols.com
TWW Home Page: www.teaming.com

Next meeting: TBA



Title III of the House-passed CARA. These amendments created a third sub-account for wildlife conservation within (P-R).

The language within Title III of the 107th Congress's CARA makes conforming changes to allow for deposits from the "CARA Fund."

Teaming With Wildlife
Is a call to action to ensure a place for wildlife
in its habitats and
in our lives forever.
Maryland TWW Coalition Message

CARA Re-Introduced in House!

It's now time to hit the CARA campaign trail once more! The Conservation & Reinvestment Act (CARA) was reintroduced in the House on February 14, 2001 by Reps. Don Young (R-AK), John Dingell (D-MI), Chris John (D-LA), Billy Tauzin (R-LA), James Hansen (R-UT), Nick Rahall II (D-WV), Dale Kildee (D-MI), John Cooksey (R-LA), and Jim Saxton (R-NJ). With a total of 60 recorded sponsors (as of 3/15/01) and still carrying the number H.R. 701, the new CARA is a lot like the old CARA, with a few relatively minor changes.

These changes are as follows:

- 1) The FY 2001 Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-553) included amendments to Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (P-R) that were similar to

CARA CO-SPONSOR DRIVE!

Goal of 218 c-sponsors set

Cara had 60 Co-Sponsors as of 3/15/01. Maryland's Reps. Albert Wynn (D) is recorded as a co-sponsor and Bob Ehrlich (R) staff assures us he has also signed on. Please thank them if you're in their district; otherwise.....

**CALL, WRITE, FAX
YOUR REPS!**

See attached sample letter

- 2) Amendments within the 107th CARA allow wildlife funding for native American tribes and Alaskan native corporations. The 107th CARA provides that 2 1/4% of Title III be

made available to Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations for wildlife conservation and recreation programs. Funds are distributed based upon a formula of 1/3 land area and 2/3 population.

- 3) The 107th CARA provides an additional \$50 million to the Historic Preservation program to fund this program at its authorized level (\$150 million).
- 4) The 107th CARA provides \$10 million for the Maritime Heritage programs within the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994.
- 5) The 107th CARA does not provide funding for the agriculture programs included in Title VII of the 106th Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 2000. The House Agriculture Committee is gearing up for a reauthorization of the 1996 Farm Bill and reviewing many conservation programs in the 107th Congress.
- 6) The 107th Congress fully funds both PILT and RRS at their authorized levels. The 106th CARA included a very complicated method of allocating interest proceeds based upon appropriation levels of a given year. The 107th CARA simply provides the funding for these two programs.
- 7) The 107th CARA clarifies and consolidates Social Security and Medicare language adopted during floor consideration for H.R. 701 during the 106th Congress.

A summary of the bill is attached.

The co-sponsor drive is steaming ahead, with a goal of 218 co-sponsors. Remember that CARA had 315 votes in the House last year. Among Maryland's Congressional Delegation, Reps. Albert Wynn (D) is a co-sponsor and Bob Ehrlich's staff assures us he is also on board. Those in their districts should write to thank them! Everyone else, get going on your Reps! An updated list of addresses and contact information is attached.

The Maryland Teaming With Wildlife Coalition (TWW) met with the staff of our Maryland

Congressional Delegation over February and March to re-establish their commitment to CARA. Staff of Reps. Albert Wynn and Bob Ehrlich were quick to commit to co-sponsoring the new CARA.

Staff from Rep. Gilchrest's office indicated that he was waiting for some related issues to be resolved, but plans to co-sponsor in May. Gilchrest is now the Chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Sub-Committee of the House Resources Committee and is a key player in the future success of CARA.

Rep. Morella's staff has made positive and supporting comments, but no commitments were made, but was a strong leader in support of CARA in the last Congress. Reps. Cardin and Cantor also made some positive statements but no commitments yet. The Coalition has been able to schedule an appointment with Bartlett. Rep. Hoyer continues to have philosophical problems with the bill proposed in CARA and has indicated the Coalition should allow Congress to have intent to follow through on the 6 year funding for some CARA programs in the Interior Appropriations before starting a new campaign for the full CARA.

"All things are ready if our minds be so!"

*Shakespeare
Henry V*

Back on the Campaign Trail

Happy trails to us! We once again have the honor of working side by side on this historic cause.

Our House champions are fully engaged in making CARA a top priority again. Of course we must fulfill our role again too. It will be critical that the leaders of the CARA coalition (YOU) re-energize to impress upon both the White House and Members of Congress that we still want and NEED CARA for this country!

It is important to try to get CARA to the House floor as soon as possible. Rep. Don Young, who was our fearless leader in the last Congress as

Chairman of the House Resources Committee, is now co-chairing this committee with Rep. Jim Hanson (R-UT). Rep. Young is chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and is expected to turn the bulk of his attention to those matters as the 107th Congress settles in. It is not known whether Rep. Hanson or another leader will be able to backfill the loss of leadership that this will mean to CARA.

Congressional CARA leaders are pushing hard on the reintroduction and passage of the whole CARA package, some say to help ensure that appropriators and the Bush administration do commit to funding the 'CARA-like' programs included in the FY01 Interior Appropriations (P.L. 106-291) for 6 years.

P.L. 106-291 included a 6-year budget commitment, subject to annual appropriations, that commits funding to a variety of conservation programs in a Land Conservation Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement (LCPII) Trust fund. Programs include the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a \$50 million/year competitive grant program for state fish and wildlife programs, as well as a variety of federal programs. CARA leaders want \$1.76 billion, as promised in funding for this package in the FY02 budget. The package promised \$1.92 billion in FY03, \$2.08 billion in FY04, \$2.24 billion in FY05, and \$2.4 billion in FY06. See Update on FY01 Approps for more information.

"Once more into the breach, my friends! Once more!"

Shakespeare

Henry V

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Governor's Association, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation, The Wildlife Society, the American Birding Association and other CARA leaders are actively engaged again this year. Hill and media events are in the works. Stay tuned!

New CARA in Senate

In the Senate, there is a draft companion of the newly re-introduced House CARA, H.R. 701.

The Maryland TWW Coalition has met with staff of Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes' offices. Both were positive about the bill but somewhat pessimistic about the impacts of the President's proposed tax cuts on the ability of Congress to provide adequate funds for CARA as well as other new and expensive priorities, election finance reform.

The Senate Energy Committee listed CARA legislation first in its annual summation of priorities that it submitted last week to the Senate Budget Committee. Although the energy committee said it can't provide any details until a Bush administration budget makes an appearance, it did say it "may revisit" the issue. In its letter to the Senate Budget Committee the Senate Energy Committee said CARA-lite does not do enough. It said LCPII "fails to meet many of the goals included in the legislation reported by this Committee last Congress. The Committee continues to support full funding of programs under the conservation spending categories added to the Budget Act last year."

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) plans to introduce a CARA bill in the next few weeks based on legislation the committee produced in the last Congress. Landrieu staff told Federal Parks and Recreation that her 2001 CARA bill would be built around a "mark" that Murkowski and ranking committee Democrat Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) prepared for the committee last year, but with some changes, yet to be revealed.

CARA and The White House

Earlier this month, CARA Congressional champions met with top White House to demonstrate why CARA would fulfill the President's pledge to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The House leaders pointed out that not only would CARA do that but also, as we well know, fund other important needs like state-level wildlife conser-

vation, coastal conservation, historic preservation, urban parks, etc. The bipartisan group of House leaders impressed upon them the need for swift enactment of CARA in this Congress, this year! This was a critical meeting and there will be more to come.

The Bush administration has not weighed in on CARA per se, but it does include full funding for the state and federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and elimination of a Park Service maintenance backlog. It does not include funding for the second year of the FY01 Interior Appropriations LCPH. A detailed Bush budget was due April 3 but it has been delayed until April 9.

The real power in the budget comes from the spending caps it imposes. For natural resources, from which these appropriations come, the House committee approved a \$2.2 billion decrease, from \$28.8 billion in fiscal 2001 to \$26.7 billion, which further limits the ability of appropriators to commit funds to another year of CARA-like appropriations.

Primary Senate CARA sponsors of last year, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) have written to President Bush with a plea for CARA-lite money.

"As you prepare the fiscal year 2002 budget request, we urge you to include appropriate funding for natural resource protection, including full funding for the conservation spending category authorized under (CARA-lite)," wrote the senators. Thirty-three House members made a similar pitch to Bush last month. The bipartisan signatories were led by Reps. James McGovern (D-Mass.) and Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.)

Update on FY01 Approps

At our last Coalition meeting, the Coalition asked that DNR develop a list of projects for the use of FY01 Commerce-Justice-State Department Appropriation (P.L. 106-553) funds. The discussion centered on the limited amount of funding (approx. \$650,000) anticipated for one year. It was agreed that this was not enough to support the establishment of a long list of new

projects, based on broad public input. So, the Coalition requested a list of projects that represent the DNR's priorities for projects that are currently under-funded or planned but not funded at all.

DNR is working on this list and expects to make it available for Coalition review in April. It will also be shared with appropriate citizen DNR advisory commissions, including the Wildlife Advisory Commission. Meanwhile, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has set a deadline for April 16th for DNR to submit its "comprehensive plan" which seems to be no more than a statement of DNR's authority over fish and wildlife in the state and its eligibility for this funding and a statement about its process and intent to develop a plan for the use of funds that includes fish and wildlife conservation, recreation and education programs.

To refresh our memory about this source of new funds for FY01: In the 106th Congress, the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill (P.L. 106-553), included \$50 million for state fish and wildlife conservation, recreation and education programs. The bill set up a sub-account within the existing Pittman-Robertson Fund, which currently receives funding from a federal excise tax on sport weapons and ammunition.

The language in P.L. 106-553 for this sub-account mirrors the Teaming With Wildlife language in CARA to a large extent, including the conservation planning language, the distribution formula (2/3 population to 1/3 land area), the 25% state matching requirement, the prohibition on diversion of funds, the 10% cap on use of funds for recreation programs, and the prohibition of use of funds to oppose the regulated taking of wildlife.

Persistence Pays!
Maryland's Share of CJS
FY01 Appropriations:
~\$650,000!
for state fish and wildlife!

Maryland Coalition Members (125)

Teaming With Wildlife

1. Allegany County Bird Club
2. Allegany/Garrett Sportsman's Assoc.
3. American Assoc. of Zoos & Aquariums
4. American Birding Association
5. American Chestnut Land Trust
6. American Fisheries Society
7. Anacostia Watershed Society
8. Anne Arundel Bird Club
9. Anne Arundel Co. Forestry Board
10. Antietan Photographic Society
11. Appalachian Conservation Biology
12. Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center
13. Assateague Coastal Trust
14. Audubon Society of Central Maryland
15. Audubon Naturalist Society
16. The Backyard Naturalist
17. Baltimore City Dept. of Planning
18. The Baltimore News
19. The Behnke Nurseries Company
20. Biohabitats, Inc.
21. Biotreck Naturalists, Inc.
22. Buck Wear, Inc.
23. Captain Seaweed & Crew
24. Caroline Co. Bird Club
25. Caroline Co. Econ. Dev. Commission
26. Carroll Co. Bird Club
27. Carroll Co. Rec. & Parks Adv. Board
28. Cecil County Forestry Board
29. The Charles Co. Garden Club
30. Charles County Tourism
31. The Chesapeake Audubon Soc.
32. Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
33. C. Mason Ross Associates
34. Conservation Treaty Support Fund
35. Ecological Restoration & Management
36. Ecosystem Recovery Institute
37. Environmental Concern
38. Eyes of Paint Branch
39. Frederick City Dept. of Recreation
40. Frederick County Bird Club
41. Friends of Montgomery Village Wildlife
42. Friends of the Northwest Branch
43. Garrett Com. College Wildlife Club
44. Garrett Com. College Student Gov. Ass'n.
45. Greater Baltimore Canoe Club, Inc.
46. Great Meadow Garden Club
47. G.S. Images
48. Harford Bird Club
49. Harford Co. Dept. of Parks & Rec.
50. Helen's Plant-A-Tarium
51. Ronald R. Helinski, Consultant
52. Herring Run Watershed Assoc.
53. Howard Co. Bird Club
54. Howard Co. Councilman Guy Guzzone
55. Howard County Rec & Parks Dept.
56. Izaak Walton League of America (Nat'l)
57. IWLA Maryland Division
58. Frederick Chapter #1
59. Sligo Chapter
60. Washington County
61. Intern'l Assoc. of Tropical Foresters
62. Kent County Forestry Board
63. Kollar Nurseries, Inc.
65. Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Comm.
66. Magothy River Land Trust
67. MD Coastal and Watershed Resources Advisory Committee
68. Maryland Heritage Alliance
69. Maryland Native Plant Society
70. Maryland Ornithological Society
71. Maryland Sportsman's Association
72. Maryland Wildlife Advisory Comm.
73. Meyer's Station
74. Mid-Maryland Pheasants Forever
75. Monitor International
76. Montgomery Co. Forestry Board
77. Mt. Rainier Nature/Recreation Center
78. Nanticoke Watershed Alliance
79. The Nature Nook
80. Ocean City Convention & Visitor's Bur.
81. Ocean Pines Rec. & Parks Dept.
82. Oregon Ridge Nat. Ctr. & Park Council
83. Ornith. Soc. of Cecil County
84. Osprey Photography Workshops & Tours
85. Outlaws Unlimited
86. Parks & People Foundation
87. Patuxent Bird Club
88. Patuxent River 4H Center
89. Petro Design/Build, Inc.
90. Pickering Creek Env. Center
91. Piney Run Recreation & Cons. Council
92. P.G. Co. Audubon Society
93. Preservation Maryland
94. Queen Anne's Conservation Association
95. Queen Anne's Co. Parks & Rec. Dept.
96. Resource Management, Inc.
97. The Salisbury Zoological Park
98. Save Our Streams
99. Severn River Association
100. Smith Building Supply
101. The Society of American Foresters
102. Southern Maryland Audubon Society
103. Survival Products
104. Urban Wildlife Resources
105. Washington Co. Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, Inc.
106. Washington County Ornith. Society
107. The Waterfowl Festival
108. Watershed Protection Coalition, Inc.
109. Wicomico Co. Bird Club
110. The Wild Bird Center-Annapolis
111. The Wild Bird Center-Bowie
112. The Wild Bird Center-Waldorf
113. The Wild Bird Market Place
114. The Wildfowl Trust of N.A.
115. The Wildlife Authority
116. The Wildlife Habitat Council

Sample letter to House Members
Write Now!

April XX, 2001

The Honorable XXX XXXX

(see attached addresses. Send this letter to Cardin, Cummings, Morella, and Gilchrest)

(for Bartlett and Hoyer, take out the first sentence)

(for Ehrlich and Wynn, send a simple thank you for supporting CARA this year)

Dear Representative XXX:

Thank you for your support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), H.R. 701, last year. As you know this historic legislation received 315 votes and passed the House in May of 2000, but did not reach the Senate floor. CARA has been reintroduced in the House. Please continue your leadership to provide long-term and consistent funds for state and local conservation programs by co-sponsoring CARA, H.R. 701, this year.

CARA would bring approximately \$38 million per year into Maryland for much needed state fish and wildlife conservation, education and recreation programs, as well as coastal resource protection and restoration, land conservation and outdoor recreation. A one-year appropriation was passed in the 106th Congress for FY01 which provides funding for some of CARA's elements (primarily federal programs), but the significance of CARA's true legacy is long-term, consistent funding for state and local level conservation.

Consistent, reliable funding is critical to successful conservation efforts. Many conservation and education programs are cumulative in effect; an inability to continue programs due to lack of funds not only causes these programs to fail but can also be counter productive, with considerable waste of public funds. With most land held by private landowners and because resources for fish and wildlife programs are limited, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) relies more and more heavily on partnerships with private landowners and organizations to accomplish their mandate. Without reliable funding, such partnerships are fragile because commitment cannot be guaranteed throughout the life of the agreements. When commitments to conserve a diversity of fish and wildlife species fails at the state and local level, restoration of species listed as threatened or endangered becomes a heavy, federal burden.

A coalition of over 6000 organizations supports CARA and is the largest and most diverse coalition in support of pending Congressional CONSERVATION legislation in the history of the United States. In Maryland, 125 organizations and business are striving to ensure that our wildlife, coasts and open spaces are part of lives and memories of many generations to come. Maryland has always been a leader in environmental conservation, largely because of your support and leadership. Please demonstrate this leadership by co-sponsoring CARA (H.R. 701) now!

Sincerely,

Congressional Addresses For CARA 2001

Revised 3/01

ORIGINAL BILL SPONSORS in House

Co-Chairman Don Young (R-AK)
House Committee on Resources
2111 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5765

Co-Chairman James Hansen (R-UT)
House Committee on Resources
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2761

Congressman John Dingell (D-MI)
2328 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4071

KEY SENATE MEMBERS

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5824

Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK)
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Senator Paul S. Sarbanes
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Fax: (202) 225-1389
email: rep.morella@mail.house.gov

*Gilchrest is Chair of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans
**Hoyer is on the House Appropriations Committee.
***Maryland Delegation Co-Sponsors of CARA in 107th