



H.R. 50 - Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 50 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Rep. George Don Young (R-AK) on January 16, 2007. The bill was considered by the Committee on Natural Resources and was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 50 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 23, 2007.

Summary

This legislation reauthorizes both the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 through the year 2012.

This authorizes \$5 million for each of the 5 years authorized in the Act for the protection of elephants and \$10 million for each of the 5 years for tigers and rhinoceroses.

Background

In 1994, the U.S. Congress passed a law to establish the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. Grants are awarded from this fund for anti-poaching programs, habitat and ecosystem management, development of nature reserves, wildlife surveys and monitoring, management of human-wildlife conflict, public awareness campaigns, and other conservation efforts related to rhino and tiger survival.

The African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 authorizes the United States to use designated funding to establish a grant program supporting the conservation of African elephants in the wild.

The Secretary of the Interior has reviewed nearly 1,200 conservation proposals and has funded 612 projects in more than 40 range countries. With an investment of \$28.7 million and \$92 million in private matching funds, these two acts have been largely instrumental in preventing the extinction of these species through much, if not all, of their historic habitat.

Cost

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 50 would result in additional spending of \$68 million over the 2008-2012 period. (An additional \$7 million would be spent after 2012.) Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Staff Contact

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