

WSF Appropriations Tracker

FY18 Edition – version: 19-Sep-17

Summary

The House has now passed its version of every appropriations bill. They have wrapped all bills into two “minibus” bills that have now passed the whole House. The Senate has passed no bills, but most of these Senate bills have been cleared the first step of committee passage. Notably, Interior has not yet passed Senate committee (and not Defense, Financial Services, or Homeland Security).

This sets up the same situation we have seen in recent years: the final appropriation for FY 2018 will be worked out in a large omnibus bill at some time between December 2017 and February 2018 give or take a month. Until the Senate Interior subcommittee is closer to voting on its bill, we will not know for sure what is in that version.

Issue	House	Senate	Final
Bighorn Sheep Conservation / “Risk of Contact”	<p>The Interior bill includes the “placeholder” language directing FS, BLM to collaborate with ARS “on research involving the risk of disease transmission between domestic and bighorn sheep.”</p> <p>The Agriculture bill also directs ARS to study disease transmission.</p>		
Grazing Permits	<p>Extends the program for extensions on renewals.</p> <p>Includes the requirement to provide alternative grazing in cases of drought or wildfire.</p>		
Sheep Station	<p>The Agriculture bill recognizes “valuable contributions” to research and also the opportunity “to expand other research initiatives [through] work with various stakeholders ... to propose mission improvements”.p</p>		