

Ag Law Weekly



Top Headlines in Agricultural & Food Law News

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Proposed: Definition for “habitat” under ESA

Last week the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed a rule defining the term “habitat” under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS and the NMFS have argued that the definition for “habitat” should be broader than the current definition for “critical habitat” under ESA. This proposed definition could potentially affect the current definition of “critical habitat” and, by extent, affect ongoing legal cases. Read more [here](#).



Oregon Cattlemen’s challenge to Clean Water Act rule dismissed

On August 7, a federal judge dismissed the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association’s challenge to the Trump administration’s [Navigable Waters Protection rule](#). The Navigable Waters rule, which went into effect June 22, protects non-navigable small streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act, which the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association argued adversely affected ranchers in the state. The judge dismissed the case due to lack of standing, but will allow for it to be refiled with additional details. Read more [here](#).



Environmental groups sue over new NEPA regulations

On Thursday of last week, several environmental groups sued the Trump administration over recent changes to the National Environmental Policy Act. The changes, proposed in January of this year, would have an effect on what types of projects receive NEPA review and what kinds of environmental impacts will be considered during the NEPA process. The groups argued that these proposed rules would “eliminate reviews for many projects, curtail the harmful impacts that are considered, and hinder public participation.” Read about the proposed changes [here](#) and [here](#) and read the complaint filed [here](#).

From the NALC

Farm Stress & Mental Health: Where Can You Turn?: According to the CDC, [agricultural professions have one of the highest suicide rates in the country](#). Knowing that, numerous organizations have created resources, contacts and mobile task force units to provide help for individuals facing a mental health crisis. While we recognize these issues are not specifically law related, they affect our stakeholders, their families and larger communities. As a result, for anyone asking “where can I go?”, the Center has created a state-by-state compilation of state specific mental health resources and contacts, with resources for both farm and rural families and also the general public. It’s available [here](#).

