Update on REPI and DoD Funds as Match

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The Nature Conservancy
My Main Message to You All.....

THANK YOU!!!!
Since the beginning of the program in FY 2005, the Administration has requested a total of $271.2 million for the program.

During that same period, Congress has appropriated $400.9 million – an increase of $129.7 million (almost 50%) over the requested level.

Your support has been critical – and will be even more critical in the future – both in terms of what DoD asks for and what Congress approves.
TNC proposed a full “DoD Funds as Match” provision for the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- Supported by DoD and the Armed Services Committees, but....
- Provision was blocked in the House by procedural objections from the House Natural Resources Committee
- A “standalone” bill (HR 4408) to overcome those objections was filed by Rep Bordallo of Guam, but we have not been able to get hearing time on the bill in the House NR Committee
- Will probably not make it into the final FY 2013 NDAA
We also proposed a parallel provision for the 2012 Farm Bill - would do the same, but only for USDA programs

– Supported by DoD, USDA (NRCS), and the Chairman of the House Ag Committee, but….
– Opposed by the Senate Ag committee staff (not clear why)
– Not in the committee bill adopted by the House Ag Committee last month
– Unclear whether or when the full House will consider the 2012 Farm Bill, and whether there will be an opportunity to file a “DoD funds as match” amendment
– Still a chance, but a long shot for this year
The Office of the Secretary of Defense has prepared a “DoD Funds as Match” legislative proposal for submission to Congress for next year’s NDAA

- Has to go through the full review process in DoD and with affected agencies (Office of Management and Budget, USDA, Interior) (Now thru January 2013)

- Will require the approval of the Armed Services Committees and “committee clearance” from House and Senate Ag Committees, the House Natural Resource Committee, and the Senate Energy and Public Works Committee (February thru October 2013)

The Continued Support of NCSL Will Be Vital
Conclusion

I want to leave you with three “takeaways”

• Maintaining and growing REPI funding next year and beyond will not be easy

• The DoD funds as match provision remains very important but also will require a lot of work on the Hill

• And, most importantly….your continued strong support will be vital for success in both efforts

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL THAT YOU DO