

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Proposed Legislation on Wyoming Public Lands Wilderness Designation

July 27, 1992

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I am pleased to submit for congressional consideration and passage the "Wyoming Public Lands Wilderness Act".

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), (43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*), directs the Secretary of the Interior to review the wilderness potential of the public lands.

The review of the areas identified in Wyoming began immediately after the enactment of FLPMA and has now been completed. Approximately 577,504 acres of public lands in 42 areas in Wyoming met the minimum wilderness criteria and were designated as wilderness study areas (WSAs). These WSAs were studied and analyzed during the review process and the results documented in nine environmental impact statements and one instant study area report.

Based on the studies and reviews of the WSAs, the Secretary of the Interior is recommending that all or part of 21 of the WSAs, totaling 240,364 acres of public lands, be designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. From these 21 WSAs, the Secretary proposes to designate 20 wilderness areas by consolidating two WSAs into one wilderness area.

I concur with the Secretary of the Interior's recommendations and am pleased to recommend designation of the 20 areas (totaling 240,364 acres) identified in the enclosed draft legislation as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The proposed additions represent the diversity of wilderness values in the State of Wyoming. These range from the badlands of Adobetown and the Honeycomb Buttes, to the canyon of the Sweetwater River, to the subalpine regions of the Ferris Mountains and Raymond Mountain. These areas span a wide variety of Wyoming landforms, ecosystems, and other natural systems and features. Their inclusion in the wilderness system will improve the geographic distribution of wilderness areas in Wyoming, and

will complement existing areas of congressionally designated wilderness. They will provide new and outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation.

The enclosed draft legislation provides that designation as wilderness shall not constitute a reservation of water or water rights for wilderness purposes. This is consistent with the fact that the Congress did not establish a Federal reserved water right for wilderness purposes. The Administration has established the policy that, where it is necessary to obtain water rights for wilderness purposes in a specific wilderness area, water rights would be sought from the State by filing under State water laws. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Administration that the designation of wilderness areas should not interfere with the use of water rights, State water administration, or the use of a State's interstate water allocation.

The draft legislation also provides for access to wilderness areas by Indian people for traditional cultural and religious purposes. Access by the general public may be limited in order to protect the privacy of religious cultural activities taking place in specific wilderness areas. In addition, to the fullest extent practicable, the Department of the Interior will coordinate with the Department of Defense to minimize the impact of any overflights during these religious cultural activities.

I further concur with the Secretary of the Interior that all or part of 30 of the WSAs encompassing 337,140 acres are not suitable for preservation as wilderness.

Also enclosed are a letter and report from the Secretary of the Interior concerning the WSAs discussed above and a section-by-section analysis of the draft legislation. I urge the Congress to act expeditiously and favorably on the proposed legislation so that the natural resources of these WSAs in Wyoming may be protected and preserved.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH

*July 27 / Administration of George Bush, 1992*

*Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dan Quayle, President of the Senate.*

## Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Science Foundation

*July 27, 1992*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I transmit herewith the annual report of the National Science Foundation for Fiscal Year

1991.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,  
July 27, 1992.

## Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Situation in Somalia

*July 27, 1992*

The tragedy in Somalia, where vast numbers of people are suffering and dying from famine caused by a senseless civil war, requires the urgent attention of the international community. We strongly support the proposals of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to mobilize the international community to meet these urgent humanitarian needs and to convince the warring Somali factions to end the fighting. We urge the Security Council at its meeting today to take the actions needed to accelerate the delivery of food and medicine and to promote a peaceful settlement of this dispute.

The United States stands ready to do its part to support these efforts. We have com-

mitted \$63 million over the past 2 years for humanitarian relief including airlifts of food and medical supplies. We will commit additional resources as needed. However, more must be done to create conditions where this vital assistance can reach the people who so desperately need it.

First and foremost, it is imperative that the leaders of the Somali factions themselves put the needs of their own people first and allow the food to reach all Somalis in need. We urge the United Nations to move as quickly as possible to deploy an effective number of security guards to permit relief supplies to move into and within Somalia. We are prepared to contribute generously to fund such an effort.

## White House Fact Sheet: The State of Wisconsin's Two-Tier Welfare Demonstration Project

*July 27, 1992*

The President today announced approval of a second Federal waiver for the State of Wisconsin's welfare reform effort. The waivers will enable Wisconsin to implement a two-tier welfare benefit. Recipients of Aid

to Families with Dependent Children welfare benefits who are new arrivals to Wisconsin would receive the benefit level paid