Public Law 105–363
105th Congress

An Act

To amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to authorize the acquisition of additional acreage for the historic site to permit the development of visitor and administrative facilities and to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts for the acquisition of real and personal property, and for other purposes.

Nov. 10, 1998
[S. 1718]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, CONNECTICUT.

(a) ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR VISITOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.—Section 4 of the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 101–485; 104 Stat. 1171) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR VISITOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES; LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) ACQUISITION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—To preserve and maintain the historic setting and character of the historic site, the Secretary may acquire not more than 15 additional acres for the development of visitor and administrative facilities for the historic site.

"(B) PROXIMITY.—The property acquired under this subsection shall be contiguous to or in close proximity to the property described in subsection (b).

"(C) MANAGEMENT.—The acquired property shall be included within the boundary of the historic site and shall be managed and maintained as part of the historic site.

"(2) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall keep development of the property acquired under paragraph (1) to a minimum so that the character of the acquired property will be similar to the natural and undeveloped landscape of the property described in subsection (b).

"(3) AGREEMENTS.—Prior to and as a prerequisite to any development of visitor and administrative facilities on the property acquired under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall enter into one or more agreements with the appropriate zoning authority of the town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, and the town of Wilton, Connecticut, for the purposes of—

"(A) developing the parking, visitor, and administrative facilities for the historic site; and

"(B) managing bus traffic to the historic site and limiting parking for large tour buses to an offsite location.".

(b) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—Section 7 of the Weir Farm National Historic Site Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C.

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461 note; Public Law 101–485; 104 Stat. 1173) is amended by striking "$1,500,000" and inserting "$4,000,000".

SEC. 2. ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILCOX RANCH, UTAH, FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The lands within the Wilcox Ranch in eastern Utah are prime habitat for wild turkeys, eagles, hawks, bears, cougars, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and many other important species, and Range Creek within the Wilcox Ranch could become a blue ribbon trout stream.

(2) These lands also contain a great deal of undisturbed cultural and archeological resources, including ancient pottery, arrowheads, and rock homes constructed centuries ago.

(3) These lands, while comprising only approximately 3,800 acres, control access to over 75,000 acres of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) Acquisition of the Wilcox Ranch would benefit the people of the United States by preserving and enhancing important wildlife habitat, ensuring access to lands of the Bureau of Land Management, and protecting priceless archeological and cultural resources.

(5) These lands, if acquired by the United States, can be managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources at no additional expense to the Federal Government.

(b) ACQUISITION OF LANDS.—As soon as practicable, after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall acquire, through purchase, the Wilcox Ranch located in Emery County, in eastern Utah.

(c) FUNDS FOR PURCHASE.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to use not more than $5,000,000 from the land and water conservation fund established under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–5) for the purchase of the Wilcox Ranch under subsection (b).

(d) MANAGEMENT OF LANDS.—Upon payment by the State of Utah of one-half of the purchase price of the Wilcox Ranch to the United States, or transfer by the State of Utah of lands of the same such value to the United States, the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the State of Utah all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to those Wilcox Ranch lands acquired under subsection (b) for management by the State Division of Wildlife Resources for wildlife habitat and public access.

SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, without consideration and for educational related purposes, to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida, a nonprofit corporation authorized to do business in the State of Arizona, all right, title, and interest of the United States, if any, to a parcel of real property consisting of approximately 16 acres in Yavapai County, Arizona, which is more fully described as the parcel lying east of the east right-of-way boundary of the Willow Creek Road in the southwest one-quarter of the southwest one-quarter (SW¼SW¼) of section 2, township 14 north, range 2 west, Gila and Salt River meridian.

(b) TERMS OF CONVEYANCE.—Subject to the limitation that the land to be conveyed is to be used only for educational related purposes, the conveyance under subsection (a) is to be made without

any other conditions, limitations, reservations, restrictions, or terms by the United States. If the Secretary of the Interior determines that the conveyed lands are not being used for educational related purposes, at the option of the United States, the lands shall revert to the United States.

16 USC 47–1 note.

SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE, EL PORTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, CALIFORNIA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF EXCHANGE.—If the non-Federal lands described in subsection (b) are conveyed to the United States in accordance with this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the party conveying the non-Federal lands all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of land consisting of approximately 8 acres administered by the Department of Interior as part of the El Portal Administrative Site in the State of California, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Portal Administrative Site Land Exchange", dated June 1998.

(b) RECEIPT OF NON-FEDERAL LANDS.—The parcel of non-Federal lands referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 8 acres, known as the Yosemite View parcel, which is located adjacent to the El Portal Administrative Site, as generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (a). Title to the non-Federal lands must be acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior, and the conveyance shall be subject to such valid existing rights of record as may be acceptable to the Secretary. The parcel shall conform with the title approval standards applicable to Federal land acquisitions.

(c) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—If the value of the Federal land and non-Federal lands to be exchanged under this section are not equal in value, the difference in value shall be equalized through a cash payment or the provision of goods or services as agreed upon by the Secretary and the party conveying the non-Federal lands.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall process the land exchange authorized by this section in the manner provided in part 2200 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subtitle.

(e) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Upon completion of the land exchange, the Secretary shall adjust the boundaries of the El Portal Administrative Site as necessary to reflect the exchange. Lands acquired by the Secretary under this section shall be administered as part of the El Portal Administrative Site.

(f) MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for inspection in appropriate offices of the Department of the Interior.

(g) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the land exchange under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

Approved November 10, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1718:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105–328 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):
Oct. 2, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 10, considered and passed House, amended.
Oct. 14, Senate concurred in House amendment.