

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1196

To amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to extend the interim protection of the Spanish Peaks planning area in the San Isabel National Forest, Colorado.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS (for himself, Mr. McINNIS, and Ms. DEGETTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to extend the interim protection of the Spanish Peaks planning area in the San Isabel National Forest, Colorado.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5               (1) The two volcanic peaks in Huerfano and  
6       Las Animas Counties, Colorado, known as the Span-  
7       ish Peaks or Wayatoya, are easterly extensions of  
8       the Rocky Mountains and served as landmarks to  
9       some of Colorado's earliest settlers.

1           (2) The portion of the San Isabel National For-  
2       est encompassing the Spanish Peaks is within an  
3       area designated on the National Register of Natural  
4       Landmarks and has outstanding scenic, geological,  
5       and other values.

6           (3) Public Law 96–560 provided for the man-  
7       agement of the Spanish Peaks as a wilderness study  
8       area so as to maintain the options of Congress re-  
9       garding possible designation of these lands as com-  
10      ponents of the National Wilderness Preservation  
11      System.

12          (4) Section 10 of the Colorado Wilderness Act  
13      of 1993 (Public Law 103–77) required continued  
14      management of these lands, known as the Spanish  
15      Peaks planning area, as a wilderness study area dur-  
16      ing a three-year period extending through August  
17      13, 1996, and required the submission to Congress  
18      of a report concerning the status of private property  
19      holdings within the planning area.

20          (5) Since 1993, the United States has acquired,  
21      with the consent of their owners, many of the lands  
22      within the Spanish Peaks planning area that were in  
23      private ownership in 1993.

24          (6) Acquisition by the United States of some or  
25      all of the rest of such non-Federal lands would be

1       desirable in order to facilitate management of lands  
2       within the Spanish Peaks planning area as wilder-  
3       ness, but neither such acquisitions nor enactment of  
4       legislation to designate some or all of the planning  
5       area as wilderness was completed prior to the end of  
6       the period during which the planning area was re-  
7       quired to be managed as a wilderness study area.

8               (7) Therefore, continued management of the  
9       Spanish Peaks planning area as a wilderness study  
10      area is desirable in order to retain the options of  
11      Congress concerning possible designation of lands  
12      within the planning area as wilderness.

13      (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to require  
14      continued management of the Spanish Peaks planning  
15      area as a wilderness study area until Congress can deter-  
16      mine which if any of the lands within the planning area  
17      are to be designated as wilderness.

18      **SEC. 2. WILDERNESS STUDY EXTENSION, SPANISH PEAKS**

19                       **PLANNING AREA, COLORADO.**

20      Section 10(d) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993  
21      (Public Law 103–77; 107 Stat. 765) is amended by strik-  
22      ing “for a period of three years from the date of enact-  
23      ment of this Act,” and inserting “until Congress deter-  
24      mines otherwise,”.

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