

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 153

To establish certain requirements relating to the transfer or disposal of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. HEFLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish certain requirements relating to the transfer or disposal of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes.

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.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Bureau of Land Management presently
6 holds title to 1,800,000,000 acres of public land;

7 (2) much of this land is marginal in value and
8 left over from the 19th century;

1 (3) in many cases, the costs of maintaining and
2 surveying this land far exceed the actual value of
3 these parcels;

4 (4) the agency is presently facing a sizable
5 budget backlog which is hampering its ability to
6 properly manage all of this property;

7 (5) under the Federal Land Policy and Man-
8 agement Act of 1976, the Bureau is required to
9 identify public lands suitable for sale, exchange, or
10 transfer; and

11 (6) the transfer of some of these parcels could
12 effect budget savings and greater management effi-
13 ciencies for the Bureau.

14 **SEC. 2. ACQUISITION OF LANDS BY THE BUREAU OF LAND**
15 **MANAGEMENT.**

16 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided by section 3,
17 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act may not be obligated
19 or expended by the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in
20 this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) for the acquisition
21 of any lands or interests therein which are to be adminis-
22 tered by the Bureau of Land Management.

23 (b) ACQUISITION WITH DONATED FUNDS OR PRO-
24 CEEDS FROM THE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS OR BY EX-
25 CHANGE.—After the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 the Secretary may only acquire lands or interests therein
2 for administration by the Bureau of Land Management
3 by exchange, donation, or from amounts made available
4 from the Fund pursuant to section 3.

5 **SEC. 3. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND SALE AND**
6 **ACQUISITION FUND.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Bu-
8 reau of Land Management Land Sale and Acquisition
9 Fund (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Fund”).

10 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Fund shall be adminis-
11 tered by the Secretary.

12 (c) DEPOSITS INTO FUND.—There shall be deposited
13 into the Fund—

14 (1) all amounts received by the Secretary from
15 the disposal of any lands or interests therein admin-
16 istered by the Bureau of Land Management; and

17 (2) all amounts received by the United States
18 by gift for acquisition of lands to be administered by
19 the Bureau of Land Management.

20 (d) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—Amounts may be
21 made available from the Fund for the acquisition of lands
22 or interests therein to be administered by the Bureau of
23 Land Management.

1 **SEC. 4. INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN AN-**
2 **NUAL BUDGET REQUESTS RELATING TO THE**
3 **TRANSFER OR DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC LANDS.**

4 Annual budget requests submitted by the Secretary
5 shall be accompanied by information as to whether the Bu-
6 reau of Land Management, through preparation of land-
7 use plans pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Man-
8 agement Act of 1976, has identified public lands which
9 are suitable for transfer to other management or for dis-
10 posal through exchange or otherwise, the transfer or dis-
11 posal of which have been delayed because of incomplete
12 surveys or other reasons. If enactment of additional legis-
13 lation would be desirable in order to facilitate the transfer
14 or disposal of public lands described in the request, the
15 Secretary may include a proposal for such additional legis-
16 lation in such request.

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