

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 750

To provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, 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. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop
6 Protection Study Act ”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Rising dramatically from the Great Plains,
2 the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides
3 a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in
4 the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colo-
5 rado. The portion of the range within and adjacent
6 to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests also
7 includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and pro-
8 vides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

9 (2) The open space character of this mountain
10 backdrop is an important esthetic and economic
11 asset for adjoining communities, making them at-
12 tractive locations for homes and businesses.

13 (3) Rapid population growth in the northern
14 Front Range area of Colorado is increasing rec-
15 reational use of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National
16 Forests and is also placing increased pressure for
17 development of other lands within and adjacent to
18 that national forest.

19 (4) Efforts by local governments and other enti-
20 ties have provided important protection for portions
21 of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern
22 Denver metropolitan area. However, some portions
23 of the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado
24 remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their
25 open space qualities.

1 (5) It is in the national interest for the Federal
2 Government, in collaboration with local communities,
3 to assist in identifying options for increasing the
4 protection of the mountain backdrop in the northern
5 Front Range area of Colorado.

6 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to identify
7 options that may be available to assist in maintaining the
8 open space characteristics of lands that are part of the
9 mountain backdrop of communities in the northern section
10 of the Front Range area of Colorado.

11 **SEC. 2. COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN**
12 **BACKDROP STUDY.**

13 (a) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Secretary of Agri-
14 culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and
15 in consultation with appropriate State and local agencies,
16 shall review the lands within the study area and not later
17 than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act
18 shall report to Congress regarding the following:

19 (1) The present ownership of such lands.

20 (2) Which undeveloped land may be at risk of
21 development.

22 (3) Identification of and recommendations con-
23 cerning actions that could be taken by the United
24 States, the State of Colorado, or any other parties

1 to preserve the open and undeveloped character of
2 such lands.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, the
4 following definitions apply:

5 (1) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
6 means all lands in southern Boulder, northern Jef-
7 ferson, and northern Gilpin Counties, Colorado, that
8 are situated west of Colorado State Highway 93,
9 south and east of Colorado State Highway 119, and
10 north of Colorado State Highway 46, excluding
11 lands within the city limits of the cities of Boulder
12 or Golden, Colorado.

13 (2) UNDEVELOPED LAND.—The term “undevel-
14 oped land” means land that—

15 (A) is located within the study area;

16 (B) is free or primarily free of structures;

17 and

18 (C) the development of which is likely to
19 adversely affect the scenic, wildlife, or rec-
20 reational value of the study area.

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