

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 405

To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada,
for use as a heliport.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

A BILL

To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark
County, Nevada, for use as a heliport.

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. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO CLARK COUN-**
4 **TY, NEVADA.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) the Las Vegas Valley in the State of Ne-
7 vada is the fastest growing community in the United
8 States;

1 (2) helicopter tour operations are conflicting
2 with the needs of long-established residential com-
3 munities in the Valley; and

4 (3) the designation of a public heliport in the
5 Valley that would reduce conflicts between helicopter
6 tour operators and residential communities is in the
7 public interest.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
9 a suitable location for the establishment of a commercial
10 service heliport facility to serve the Las Vegas Valley in
11 the State of Nevada while minimizing and mitigating the
12 impact of air tours on the Sloan Canyon National Con-
13 servation Area and North McCullough Mountains Wilder-
14 ness.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

16 (1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term “Con-
17 servation Area” means the Sloan Canyon National
18 Conservation Area established by section 604(a) of
19 the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and
20 Natural Resources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2010).

21 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Clark
22 County, Nevada.

23 (3) HELICOPTER TOUR.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “helicopter
2 tour” means a commercial helicopter tour oper-
3 ated for profit.

4 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “helicopter
5 tour” does not include a helicopter tour that is
6 carried out to assist a Federal, State, or local
7 agency.

8 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior.

10 (5) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness”
11 means the North McCullough Mountains Wilderness
12 established by section 202(a)(13) of the Clark Coun-
13 ty Conservation of Public Land and Natural Re-
14 sources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2000).

15 (d) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey
17 to the County, subject to valid existing rights, for no con-
18 sideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States
19 in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (e).

20 (e) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land to
21 be conveyed under subsection (d) is the parcel of approxi-
22 mately 229 acres of land depicted as tract A on the map
23 entitled “Clark County Public Heliport Facility” and
24 dated May 3, 2004.

25 (f) USE OF LAND.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel of land conveyed
2 under subsection (d)—

3 (A) shall be used by the County for the op-
4 eration of a heliport facility under the condi-
5 tions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3); and

6 (B) shall not be disposed of by the County.

7 (2) IMPOSITION OF FEES.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any operator of a heli-
9 copter tour originating from or concluding at
10 the parcel of land described in subsection (e)
11 shall pay to the Clark County Department of
12 Aviation a \$3 conservation fee for each pas-
13 senger on the helicopter tour if any portion of
14 the helicopter tour occurs over the Conservation
15 Area.

16 (B) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any
17 amounts collected under subparagraph (A) shall
18 be deposited in a special account in the Treas-
19 ury of the United States, which shall be avail-
20 able to the Secretary, without further appro-
21 priation, for the management of cultural, wild-
22 life, and wilderness resources on public land in
23 the State of Nevada.

24 (3) FLIGHT PATH.—Except for safety reasons,
25 any helicopter tour originating or concluding at the

1 parcel of land described in subsection (e) that flies
2 over the Conservation Area shall not fly—

3 (A) over any area in the Conservation Area
4 except the area that is between 3 and 5 miles
5 north of the latitude of the southernmost
6 boundary of the Conservation Area;

7 (B) lower than 1,000 feet over the eastern
8 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
9 Area; or

10 (C) lower than 500 feet over the western
11 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
12 Area.

13 (4) REVERSION.—If the County ceases to use
14 any of the land described in subsection (d) for the
15 purpose described in paragraph (1)(A) and under
16 the conditions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3)—

17 (A) title to the parcel shall revert to the
18 United States, at the option of the United
19 States; and

20 (B) the County shall be responsible for any
21 reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to
22 the United States.

23 (g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall
24 require, as a condition of the conveyance under subsection
25 (d), that the County pay the administrative costs of the

- 1 conveyance, including survey costs and any other costs as-
- 2 sociated with the transfer of title.

