H. R. 2420

To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 6, 2011

Ms. Degette introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, 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; DEFINITION.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Colorado Wilderness Act of 2011".
- 6 (b) SECRETARY DEFINED.—As used in this Act, the
- 7 term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior or
- 8 the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

1	SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVA-
2	TION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.
3	(a) Additions.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wil-
4	derness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–77; 107 Stat. 756;
5	16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended—
6	(1) in paragraph (4) by striking "1993," and
7	inserting "1993, and certain lands managed by the
8	Gunnison Field Office which comprise approximately
9	3,325 acres, as depicted on a map titled 'Proposed
10	Powderhorn Wilderness Addition' and dated October
11	20, 2010,"; and
12	(2) by adding at the end the following para-
13	graphs:
14	"(22) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
15	River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
16	Management which comprise approximately 15,200
17	acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Bull
18	Gulch and Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness Areas',
19	dated October 20, 2010, which shall be known as
20	the Bull Gulch Wilderness.
21	"(23) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
22	River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
23	Management which comprise approximately 12,225
24	acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Bull
25	Gulch and Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness Areas',

dated October 20, 2010, which shall be known as
 the Castle Peak Wilderness.

"(24) Certain lands managed by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 325 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Maroon Bells Proposed Wilderness', dated October 20, 2010, which is hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area designated by Public Law 88–577.

"(25) Certain lands managed by the Gunnison Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 38,180 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Redcloud and Handies Peak Proposed Wildernesses', dated October 21, 2010, which shall be known as the Redcloud Peak Wilderness.

"(26) Certain lands managed by the Gunnison Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 16,350 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Redcloud and Handies Peak Proposed Wildernesses', dated October 21, 2010, which shall be known as the Handies Peak Wilderness.

"(27) Certain lands managed by the Royal
Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Pike National Forest which
comprise approximately 19,825 acres, as generally
depicted on a map titled 'Browns Canyon Proposed
Wilderness Area', dated October 20, 2010, which
shall be known as the Browns Canyon Wilderness.

"(28) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 16,690 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'McIntyre Hills Proposed Wilderness Area', dated October 20, 2010, which shall be known as the McIntyre Hills Wilderness.

"(29) Certain lands managed by the Glenwood Springs Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 11,701 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled 'Grand Hogback Proposed Wilderness Area', dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Grand Hogback Wilderness.

"(30) Certain lands managed by the Glenwood Springs Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the White River National Forest which comprise approximately 16,427 acres, as gen-

- 1 erally depicted on a map titled 'Flat Tops Addition
- 2 Proposed Wilderness Area', dated May 31, 2011,
- and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be
- deemed to be a part of the Flat Tops Wilderness
- 5 designated by Public Law 94–146.
- 6 "(31) Certain lands managed by the Grand
- 7 Junction Field Office which comprise approximately
- 8 25,881 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled
- 9 'Demaree Canyon Proposed Wilderness Area', dated
- May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Demaree
- 11 Canyon Wilderness.
- "(32) Certain lands managed by the Grand
- Junction Field Office which comprise approximately
- 14 30,557 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled
- 15 'South Shale Ridge and Little Book Cliffs Proposed
- Wilderness', dated May 31, 2011, which shall be
- known as the Little Bookcliffs Wilderness.
- 18 "(33) Certain lands managed by the Grand
- Junction Field Office which comprise approximately
- 20 27,569 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled
- 21 'South Shale Ridge and Little Book Cliffs Proposed
- Wilderness', dated May 31, 2011, which shall be
- known as the South Shale Ridge Wilderness.".
- (b) Further Additions.—The following lands in
- 25 the State of Colorado administered by the Bureau of Land

- 1 Management or the United States Forest Service are here-
- 2 by designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components
- 3 of the National Wilderness Preservation System:
- 4 (1) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
- 5 River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
- 6 Management or located in the White River National
- 7 Forest: which comprise approximately 21,900 acres,
- 8 as generally depicted on a map titled "Assignation
- 9 Ridge Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31,
- 10 2011, which shall be known as the Thompson Creek
- Wilderness.
- 12 (2) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
- 13 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management
- which comprise approximately 20,950 acres, as gen-
- erally depicted on a map titled "Badger Creek Pro-
- posed Wilderness Area", dated October 20, 2010,
- which shall be known as the Badger Creek Wilder-
- ness.
- 19 (3) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
- Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management
- 21 which comprise approximately 33,425 acres, as gen-
- erally depicted on a map titled "Beaver Creek Pro-
- posed Wilderness Area", dated October 20, 2010,
- 24 which shall be known as the Beaver Creek Wilder-
- 25 ness.

- 1 (4) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
 2 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
 3 located in the San Isabel National Forest which
 4 comprise approximately 33,525 acres, as generally
 5 depicted on a map titled "Grape Creek Proposed
 6 Wilderness Area", October 20, 2010, which shall be
 7 known as the Grape Creek Wilderness.
 - (5) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 21,110 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Bangs Canyon Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Bangs Canyon Wilderness.
 - (6) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 14,089 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Granite Creek, Unaweep and Palisade Proposed Wilderness", dated June 14, 2011, which shall be known as the Granite Creek Wilderness.
 - (7) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 26,914 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Granite Creek,

- Unaweep and Palisade Proposed Wilderness", dated
 June 14, 2011, which shall be known as the Palisade Wilderness.
 - (8) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Uncompanger National Forest, which comprise approximately 39,392 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Granite Creek, Unaweep and Palisade Proposed Wilderness", dated June 14, 2011, which shall be known as the Unaweep Wilderness.
 - (9) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junction Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and San Juan Field Office and in the Manti-LaSal National Forest which comprise approximately 65,448 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Sewemup Mesa Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Sewemup Mesa Wilderness.
 - (10) Certain lands managed by the Kremmling Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 33 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Platte River Addition Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be

- deemed to be part of the Platte River Wilderness designated by Public Law 98–550.
- 3 (11)Certain lands managed by the 4 Uncompangere Field Office of the Bureau of Land 5 Management or located in the Uncompangere Na-6 tional Forest which comprise approximately 22,604 7 generally depicted on a map titled 8 "Roubideau Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 9 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Roubideau 10 Wilderness.
 - (12) Certain lands managed by the Uncompander Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the Uncompander National Forest which comprise approximately 13,288 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Norwood Canyon Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Norwood Canyon Wilderness.
 - (13) Certain lands managed by the San Juan Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 25,947 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Cross Canyon Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Cross Canyon Wilderness.

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- 1 (14) Certain lands managed by the San Juan 2 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management 3 which comprise approximately 33,467 acres, as gen-4 erally depicted on a map titled "McKenna Peak Pro-5 posed Wilderness Area", May 31, 2011, which shall 6 be known as the McKenna Peak Wilderness.
 - (15) Certain lands managed by the San Juan Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management Certain lands which comprise approximately 14,598 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Weber-Menefee Mountain Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Weber-Menefee Mountain Wilderness.
 - (16) Certain lands managed by the Uncompanier and San Juan Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management which comprise approximately 41,133 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Dolores River Canyon Proposed Wilderness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be known as the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness.
 - (17) Certain lands managed by the San Juan Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or located in the San Juan National Forest which comprise approximately 32,050 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled "Snaggletooth Proposed Wil-

- derness Area", dated May 31, 2011, which shall be
- 2 known as the Snaggletooth Wilderness.
- 3 (c) West Elk Addition.—Certain lands in the
- 4 State of Colorado administered by the Gunnison Field Of-
- 5 fice of the Bureau of Land Management, the United
- 6 States Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation
- 7 which comprise approximately 5,000 acres, as generally
- 8 depicted on a map titled "West Elk Addition Proposed
- 9 Wilderness Area", dated December 13, 2010, are hereby
- 10 designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of
- 11 the National Wilderness Preservation System and are
- 12 hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part
- 13 of the West Elk Wilderness designated by Public Law 88–
- 14 577. The boundary adjacent to Blue Mesa Reservoir shall
- 15 be 50 feet from the high water mark.
- 16 (d) Blue Mesa Reservoir.—If the Bureau of Rec-
- 17 lamation determines that lands within the West Elk Wil-
- 18 derness Addition are necessary for future expansion of the
- 19 Blue Mesa Reservoir, the Secretary shall by publication
- 20 of a revised boundary description in the Federal Register
- 21 revise the boundary of the West Elk Wilderness Addition.
- 22 (e) Maps and Descriptions.—As soon as prac-
- 23 ticable after the date of enactment of the Act, the Sec-
- 24 retary shall file a map and a boundary description of each
- 25 area designated as wilderness by this section with the

- 1 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
- 3 Resources of the Senate. Each map and boundary descrip-
- 4 tion shall have the same force and effect as if included
- 5 in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical
- 6 and typographical errors in the map or boundary descrip-
- 7 tion. The maps and boundary descriptions shall be on file
- 8 and available for public inspection in the Office of the Di-
- 9 rector of the Bureau of Land Management, Department
- 10 of the Interior, and in the Office of the Chief of the Forest
- 11 Service, Department of Agriculture, as appropriate.
- 12 (f) STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS.—Lands within the
- 13 exterior boundaries of any wilderness area designated
- 14 under this section that are owned by the State of Colorado
- 15 or by a private entity shall be included within such wilder-
- 16 ness area if such lands are acquired by the United States.
- 17 Such lands may be acquired by the United States only
- 18 as provided in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
- 19 seq.).

20 SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

- 21 (a) In General.—Subject to valid existing rights,
- 22 lands designated as wilderness by this Act shall be man-
- 23 aged by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness
- 24 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act, except that,
- 25 with respect to any wilderness areas designated by this

- 1 Act, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective
- 2 date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a ref-
- 3 erence to the date of enactment of this Act.
- 4 (b) Grazing.—Grazing of livestock in wilderness
- 5 areas designated by this Act shall be administered in ac-
- 6 cordance with the provisions of section 4(d)(4) of the Wil-
- 7 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), as further inter-
- 8 preted by section 108 of Public Law 96–560, and the
- 9 guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101–
- 10 405 of the 101st Congress.
- 11 (c) State Jurisdiction.—As provided in section
- 12 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)),
- 13 nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the ju-
- 14 risdiction or responsibilities of the State of Colorado with
- 15 respect to wildlife and fish in Colorado.
- 16 (d) Buffer Zones.—
- 17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act creates
- a protective perimeter or buffer zone around any
- area designated as wilderness by section 2.
- 20 (2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS.—The
- fact that an activity or use on land outside the areas
- designated as wilderness by section 2 can be seen or
- heard within the wilderness shall not preclude the
- activity or use outside the boundary of the wilder-
- 25 ness.

1	(e) Military Helicopter Overflights.—
2	(1) In general.—Nothing in this Act restricts
3	or precludes—
4	(A) low-level overflights of military heli-
5	copters over the areas designated as wilderness
6	by section 2, including military overflights that
7	can be seen or heard within any wilderness
8	area;
9	(B) military flight testing and evaluation;
10	or
11	(C) the designation or creation of new
12	units of special use airspace, or the establish-
13	ment of military flight training routes over any
14	wilderness area.
15	(2) Aerial Navigation training exer-
16	cises.—The Colorado Army National Guard,
17	through the High-Altitude Army National Guard
18	Aviation Training Site, may conduct aerial naviga-
19	tion training maneuver exercises over the wilderness
20	areas designated by this Act—
21	(A) in a manner consistent with the memo-
22	randum of understanding dated August 4,
23	1987, among the Colorado Army National
24	Guard, the Bureau of Land Management, and
25	the Forest Service; or

1	(B) in a manner consistent with a subse-
2	quent memorandum of understanding entered
3	into between the Colorado Army National
4	Guard, the Bureau of Land Management, and
5	the Forest Service.
6	(f) Running Events.—The Secretary may continue
7	to authorize competitive running events currently per-
8	mitted in the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Area and
9	Handies Peak Wilderness Area in a manner compatible
10	with the preservation of such areas as wilderness.
11	(g) LAND TRADES.—If the Secretary trades privately
12	owned land within the perimeter of the Redcloud Peak
13	Wilderness Area or the Handies Peak Wilderness Area in
14	exchange for Federal land, then such Federal land shall
15	be located in Hinsdale County, Colorado.
16	SEC. 4. WATER.
17	(a) Effect on Water Rights.—Nothing in this
18	Act—
19	(1) affects the use or allocation, in existence on
20	the date of enactment of this Act, of any water,
21	water right, or interest in water;
22	(2) affects any vested absolute or decreed condi-
23	tional water right in existence on the date of enact-
24	ment of this Act, including any water right held by
25	the United States;

1	(3) affects any interstate water compact in ex-
2	istence on the date of enactment of this Act;
3	(4) authorizes or imposes any new reserved
4	Federal water rights; and
5	(5) shall be considered to be a relinquishment
6	or reduction of any water rights reserved or appro-
7	priated by the United States in the State on or be-
8	fore the date of the enactment of this Act.
9	(b) Midstream Areas.—
10	(1) Purpose.—The purpose of this subsection
11	is to protect for the benefit and enjoyment of
12	present and future generations—
13	(A) the unique and nationally important
14	values of areas designated as wilderness by sec-
15	tion 2(b) (including the geological, cultural, ar-
16	chaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific,
17	recreational, environmental, biological, wilder-
18	ness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational,
19	and scenic resources of the public land); and
20	(B) the water resources of area streams,
21	based on seasonally available flows, that are
22	necessary to support aquatic, riparian, and ter-
23	restrial species and communities.
24	(2) Wilderness water rights.—

1	(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall en-
2	sure that any water rights within the wilderness
3	designated by section 2(b) required to fulfill the
4	purposes of such wilderness are secured in ac-
5	cordance with subparagraphs (B) through (G).
6	(B) State Law.—
7	(i) Procedural requirements.—
8	Any water rights for which the Secretary
9	pursues adjudication shall be appropriated,
10	adjudicated, changed, and administered in
11	accordance with the procedural require-
12	ments and priority system of State law.
13	(ii) Establishment of water
14	RIGHTS.—
15	(I) In general.—Except as pro-
16	vided in subclause (II), the purposes
17	and other substantive characteristics
18	of the water rights pursued under this
19	paragraph shall be established in ac-
20	cordance with State law.
21	(II) Exception.—Notwith-
22	standing subclause (I) and in accord-
23	ance with this Act, the Secretary may
24	appropriate and seek adjudication of
25	water rights to maintain surface water

1	levels and stream flows on and across
2	the wilderness designated by section
3	2(b) to fulfill the purposes of such
4	wilderness.
5	(C) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall
6	promptly, but not earlier than January 1, 2015,
7	appropriate the water rights required to fulfill
8	the purposes of the wilderness designated by
9	section 2(b).
10	(D) REQUIRED DETERMINATION.—The
11	Secretary shall not pursue adjudication for any
12	instream flow water rights unless the Secretary
13	makes a determination pursuant to subpara-
14	graph (E)(ii) or (F).
15	(E) Cooperative enforcement.—
16	(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
17	not pursue adjudication of any Federal
18	instream flow water rights established
19	under this paragraph if—
20	(I) the Secretary determines,
21	upon adjudication of the water rights
22	by the Colorado Water Conservation
23	Board, that the Board holds water
24	rights sufficient in priority, amount,

1	and timing to fulfill the purposes of
2	this subsection; and
3	(II) the Secretary has entered
4	into a perpetual agreement with the
5	Colorado Water Conservation Board
6	to ensure full exercise, protection, and
7	enforcement of the State water rights
8	within the Wilderness to reliably fulfill
9	the purposes of this subsection.
10	(ii) Adjudication.—If the Secretary
11	determines that the provisions of clause (i)
12	have not been met, the Secretary shall ad-
13	judicate and exercise any Federal water
14	rights required to fulfill the purposes of
15	the Wilderness in accordance with this
16	paragraph.
17	(F) Insufficient water rights.—If the
18	Colorado Water Conservation Board modifies
19	the instream flow water rights obtained under
20	subparagraph (E) to such a degree that the
21	Secretary determines that water rights held by
22	the State are insufficient to fulfill the purposes
23	of this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate and

exercise Federal water rights required to fulfill

1	the purposes of this Act in accordance with sub-
2	paragraph (B).

- (G) Failure to comply.—The Secretary shall promptly act to exercise and enforce the water rights described in subparagraph (E) if the Secretary determines that—
 - (i) the State is not exercising its water rights consistent with subparagraph(E)(i)(I); or
 - (ii) the agreement described in subparagraph (E)(i)(II) is not fulfilled or complied with sufficiently to fulfill the purposes of this Act.
- (3) Water resource facility.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for development of any new irrigation and pumping facility, reservoir, water conservation work, aqueduct, canal, ditch, pipeline, well, hydropower project, transmission, other ancillary facility, or other water, diversion, storage, or carriage structure in the wilderness designated by section 2(b).

(c) Access and Operation.—

- (1) Definition.—As used in this subsection, the term "water resource facility" means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures.
 - (2) Access to water resource facilities.—Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the Secretary shall allow reasonable access to water resource facilities in existence on the date of enactment of this Act within the areas described in sections 2(b) and 2(c), including motorized access where necessary and customarily employed on routes existing as of the date of enactment of this Act.
 - (3) Access routes.—Existing access routes within such areas customarily employed as of the date of enactment of this Act may be used, maintained, repaired, and replaced to the extent necessary to maintain their present function, design, and serviceable operation, so long as such activities have no increased adverse impacts on the resources and values of the areas described in sections 2(b)

- and 2(c) than existed as of the date of enactment of this Act.
 - Subject to the provisions of this subsection and subsection (a)(4), the Secretary shall allow water resource facilities existing on the date of enactment of this Act within areas described in sections 2(b) and 2(c) to be used, operated, maintained, repaired, and replaced to the extent necessary for the continued exercise, in accordance with Colorado State law, of vested water rights adjudicated for use in connection with such facilities by a court of competent jurisdiction prior to the date of enactment of this Act. The impact of an existing facility on the water resources and values of the area shall not be increased as a result of changes in the adjudicated type of use of such facility as of the date of enactment of this Act.
 - (5) Repair and maintenance.—Water resource facilities, and access routes serving such facilities, existing within the areas described in sections 2(b) and 2(c) on the date of enactment of this Act shall be maintained and repaired when and to the extent necessary to prevent increased adverse

- 1 impacts on the resources and values of the areas de-
- 2 scribed in sections 2(b) and 2(c).

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