

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3027

To authorize the conveyance of four small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge for the purposes of addressing a long-term boundary discrepancy.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2015

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SALMON, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. MCSALLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the conveyance of four small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge for the purposes of addressing a long-term boundary discrepancy.

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.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Meers Point Boundary  
5       Clarification Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The term “ad-  
2           ministrative costs” refers to any costs necessary to  
3           transfer the Federal Land from the United States to  
4           the Property Owner, such as—

5                   (A) boundary surveys;

6                   (B) boundary marking;

7                   (C) title work;

8                   (D) closing costs;

9                   (E) recording fees; and

10                  (F) Level 1 contaminant reports.

11           (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal  
12           Land” means the land that is owned by the United  
13           States and managed cooperatively by the Bureau of  
14           Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;  
15           located within lots 34, 35, 37, and 38 in section 13  
16           of Township 5 South, Range 22 West; and identified  
17           in the survey as those portions of lots 34, 35, 37,  
18           and 38 that are within the boundary of the Imperial  
19           National Wildlife Refuge.

20           (3) PROPERTY OWNER.—The term “Property  
21           Owner” means the current landowner or landowners  
22           of those properties described in Quit Claim Deeds,  
23           dated July 1, 1992, and filed in Yuma County, Ari-  
24           zona at DKT 1816, page 740; DKT 1816, page  
25           748; DKT 1816, page 752; and State of Arizona,

1 State Land Department Special Land Use Permit  
2 No. 23–113167–17, dated August 27, 2008, and  
3 identified in this Act as—

4 (A) lot 34, State of Arizona “lease lot”;

5 (B) lot 35;

6 (C) lot 37; and

7 (D) lot 38.

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

10 (5) SURVEY.—The term “Survey” means a sur-  
11 vey of Meers Point that shall—

12 (A) be conducted by the Secretary, acting  
13 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

14 (B) cover those portions of lots 34, 35, 37,  
15 and 38 that are currently within the boundary  
16 of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge; and

17 (C) determine the exact acreage and legal  
18 description of the Federal Land to be conveyed  
19 under this Act.

20 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO PROPERTY**  
21 **OWNERS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—After completion of the survey,  
23 the Secretary shall convey to each Property Owner by  
24 quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United

1 States in and to that Federal Land within each Property  
2 Owner's lot.

3 (b) CONSIDERATION.—

4 (1) PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—As  
5 consideration for the conveyance of the Federal  
6 Land under this section, each Property Owner shall  
7 pay to the Secretary a percentage of the total ad-  
8 ministrative costs incurred by the United States in  
9 an amount that equals the proportion of the acreage  
10 conveyed to each Property Owner to the total acre-  
11 age conveyed under subsection (a) to all Property  
12 Owners. Such consideration shall be paid by a Prop-  
13 erty Owner to the Secretary on or before the date  
14 of the conveyance.

15 (2) WAIVER FOR STATE.—Payment is hereby  
16 waived for any conveyance of Federal Land under  
17 this Act to the State of Arizona.

18 (c) LIABILITY.—Effective on the date of conveyance  
19 of Federal Land to a Property Owner under this section,  
20 the United States shall not be held liable by any court  
21 for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission,  
22 or occurrence relating to the land conveyed, except for  
23 damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the  
24 United States or by its employees or agents prior to the  
25 date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the

1 liability of the United States beyond that provided in chap-  
2 ter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known  
3 as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”) on the date of the en-  
4 actment of this Act.

5 (d) PROPERTY OWNER DISCRETION.—The convey-  
6 ance of Federal Land in accordance with this Act shall  
7 be subject to a Property Owner’s compliance with the pro-  
8 visions of this section.

9 **SEC. 4. DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.**

10 Any amounts paid to the Secretary under section 3,  
11 shall remain available to the Secretary, without further  
12 appropriation until expended, for visitor services and re-  
13 source protection at Imperial National Wildlife Refuge.

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