

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 972

To clarify the effect of designating a National Monument on certain land
in Chafee County, Colorado.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. GARDNER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To clarify the effect of designating a National Monument on
certain land in Chafee County, Colorado.

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 “Browns Canyon Na-
5 tional Monument Clarification Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term “Na-
9 tional Monument” means the National Monument
10 described in section 3(a).

(2) RECREATION AREA.—The term “Recreation Area” means the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area in the State.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
7 of Colorado.

8 SEC. 3. EFFECT OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONU-
9 MENT.

(a) EFFECT ON COOPERATIVE ADMINISTRATION.—

The designation of a National Monument under chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code, on land on which the Recreation Area is located shall not affect the arrangements for cooperative administration of the Recreation Area by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the State.

17 (b) EFFECT ON GRAZING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the laws (including regulations) and policies followed by the Secretary in issuing and administering grazing permits or leases for the National Monument shall continue to apply.

(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—There shall be no curtailment of grazing in the land on which the National Monument is located simply because of a

1 designation of the land as a National Monument
2 under chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code.

3 (3) ADJUSTMENTS.—Any adjustments in the
4 numbers of livestock permitted to graze in the Na-
5 tional Monument shall be based on revisions in the
6 normal grazing and land management planning and
7 policy setting process, giving consideration to legal
8 mandates, range condition, and the protection of
9 range resources from deterioration.

10 (c) EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—The designation of
11 the National Monument—

12 (1) shall not—

13 (A) affect the use or allocation, in exist-
14 ence on the date on which the National Monu-
15 ment is designated, of any water, water right,
16 or interest in water;

17 (B) affect any vested absolute or decreed
18 conditional water right in existence on the date
19 on which the National Monument is designated,
20 including any water right held by the United
21 States;

22 (C) affect any interstate water compact in
23 existence on the date on which the National
24 Monument is designated; or

1 (D) authorize or impose any new reserved
 2 Federal water rights; and

3 (2) shall not be considered to be a relinquish-
 4 ment or reduction of any water rights reserved or
 5 appropriated by the United States in the State on
 6 or before the date on which the National Monument
 7 is designated.

8 **SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
 10 date on which the National Monument is designated, the
 11 Secretary, in coordination with the State, shall complete
 12 a comprehensive management plan for the conservation
 13 and protection of the National Monument.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—The management plan shall—

15 (1) describe the appropriate uses and manage-
 16 ment of the National Monument, in accordance
 17 with—

18 (A) this Act; and

19 (B) the purposes for which the National
 20 Monument is established;

21 (2) be developed with opportunities for public
 22 input;

23 (3) be prepared in close consultation with ap-
 24 propriate Federal, State, county, and local agencies;
 25 and

1 (4) concentrate visitorship within the Recre-
2 ation Area and the public land west of the Arkansas
3 River.

4 (c) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS.—In devel-
5 oping the management plan under subsection (a), the Sec-
6 retary may incorporate any provision of any other applica-
7 ble land management plan, including the Arkansas River
8 Recreation Management Plan or a successor plan.

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