

from public to private property and back the other way. As a result, restoring habitat on private lands may in certain cases be the most effective investment for survival of species also found on Bureau of Land Management and other public lands.

For a moment, let me take an example where 90 percent of the land in the watershed is owned by the Bureau of Land Management but the source of the watershed problem is the 10 percent that is privately owned. In this case, the problem is most likely not going to be solved if the Bureau of Land Management can only spend money for improvements on the BLM land. The result will be that the watershed problem is either not going to be solved, or else the Bureau of Land Management is going to end up wasting money funding improvements only on the Bureau of Land Management lands.

There is a simple and straightforward solution: Give the Bureau of Land Management clear authority to work with willing private landowners on cooperative watershed restoration projects in cases where this will do the most good for the whole watershed. This way, the public's and the watershed's concerns—taxpayers', industries', and environmental concerns—all get addressed.

To be eligible for funding under this legislation, the project site on private land must be in the same watershed as the Bureau of Land Management lands. But the private land does not have to border directly with the Bureau of Land Management lands. The key consideration ought to be the biological and ecological connections between the private lands and the Bureau of Land Management lands.

Taking for a second what happens if salmon use both forks of a river in a single watershed, but only one of the forks contains public land, this legislation would allow the Bureau of Land Management to spend money on private land in the other fork where this would benefit the survival or recovery of the species as a whole in the watershed. The Bureau of Land Management would also be authorized to spend money on private lands where this would provide for immediate protection to the threatened or endangered species found on the public land or where spending the money on private land is more beneficial to the overall recovery of the species.

Now, at the same time, we do not want the Bureau of Land Management spending taxpayer money on projects that benefit only the private landowners. To ensure that this does not happen, the amendment requires there be a benefit to fish, wildlife, or other resources on public lands. The Secretary must also determine that the project is in the public interest in order for the Bureau of Land Management to purchase them.

Finally, Mr. President, my amendment provides important protections for private property owners participating in cooperative watershed res-

toration efforts. From start to finish, the process is completely voluntary. Under the amendment, the Bureau of Land Management can only enter into watershed restoration agreements that are mutually agreed to by the Secretary, as well as by the private landowner. If there is any part of the agreement that the private landowner objects to, that landowner can simply say no to the agreement.

What we have, Mr. President, is an amendment that, in my view, will be good for watershed restoration efforts. It will be good in terms of maximizing taxpayer funds during these tough times, and it fully protects the rights of private landowners. I hope this will be adopted.

I thank the Senator from Washington. Both he and his staff have been very helpful, as well as the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this amendment proposed by the Senator from Oregon is, indeed, relevant to the subject matter of this bill. It is one, as he has already eloquently pointed out, that attempts to bring people together, people who have differing views often, and not only individuals with differing views but Government agencies, especially the Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners, in a way that benefits fish and wildlife, in a way that benefits the environment, and in a way which is entirely voluntary.

He has worked with me and my office on all of the details of this proposal. I am delighted to say from the point of view of this Senator and the managers of the bill, the proposal is not only acceptable, but one for which I have an enthusiastic response and full support.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am informed that this amendment has been cleared by the manager on the other side of the aisle. Under those circumstances, from my perspective, it is ripe for a vote and for acceptance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5352) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WYDEN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is obvious that the Interior appropriations bill is open for amendment. We are open for business. We have now heard an amendment proposed by the Senator from South Dakota. We have accepted one by the Senator from Oregon.

For the information of Members, under the previous order, at 3 o'clock,

the Chair is to recognize the Senator from Arkansas to introduce an amendment on grazing fees, which, obviously, will be a very controversial amendment. I hope there will be a full and complete debate on that amendment this afternoon so that it is ready for a vote tomorrow. It will not, under the unanimous-consent agreement, come to a vote today, but we can move this bill forward and make progress on this bill by having a thorough debate on that issue, one that, while it is controversial, is certainly relevant to this appropriations bill.

In the meantime, the floor is open for any other Member who wishes to introduce an amendment to begin discussion, and perhaps conclude it if the amendment is not a controversial one. I invite other Members of the Senate who are within the sound of this debate to bring those amendments to the floor and we will deal with them as expeditiously and fairly as we possibly can.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to speak for 4 or 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair and thank the floor manager, my good friend, the senior Senator from the State of Washington.

AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON MIDEAST OIL

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, my purpose in rising is to simply draw some attention to what is certainly evident to this Senator from Alaska; and that is, our increasing dependence on Mideast oil sources. As we have seen within the last few weeks, there has been a crisis as a consequence of the efforts of Saddam Hussein to once again provide the world with a reflection on how we have become more and more dependent on imported oil from the Mideast. We had United States cruise missile attacks against Iraq again, highlighting the crucial dependence that the United States has become accustomed to in its dependence on imported oil.

I think it is fair to say the administration's policy is one that is really absent. It is difficult to identify just what our policy is, as far as energy is concerned. Back in 1973 when the United States was approximately one-third dependent on imported oil, we entered into a national security analysis because we were concerned that that increasing dependence would lessen U.S.

leverage in dealing with our neighbors in the Mideast. As a consequence, Mr. President, we established the strategic petroleum reserve. That was in response to the Arab oil embargo of 1973.

Again, I remind my colleagues that in 1973 we were approximately one-third dependent on imported oil, so we authorized the creation of SPRO, the strategic petroleum reserve, in Louisiana in salt caverns, where there was the commitment by this Nation to have an emergency supply of oil on hand, approximately a 90-day supply. We filled SPRO with some 600,000 barrels, which cost us about \$17 billion, because we were paying a relatively high price for oil at that time, about \$27 per barrel.

Today, Mr. President, we are 50.4 percent dependent on foreign oil. The Department of Energy, Mr. President, predicts that by the year 2000 this country will be 66 percent dependent on foreign oil. I do not think there is any question about the stability in the Mideast. It remains one of the most unstable areas in the world. We had sent up to half a million troops over there in 1991 and 1992 during the gulf war to protect—protect what, Mr. President—protect the international oil supply stream because it was crucial to the Western World.

We have seen earlier this year our troops bombed in their barracks in Saudi Arabia. We have seen Iraqi missiles shoot our planes down. We have seen F-117 stealth fighter bombers en route to the area. They are there now.

What is the administration doing about it? Well, they are after Saddam Hussein, but they are not doing one single solitary thing to lessen our dependence on imported oil. As we attempt to negotiate with the Mideast, we see a certain reluctance by our neighbors in the Mideast to rally with the United States to take appropriate action against Saddam Hussein, whether it be Saudi Arabia or whether it be Kuwait. It is rather noticeable that as we attempt to address this renegade, we are doing it pretty much alone. Oh, surely the thoughts of the other countries are with us, and their good wishes are with us, but they do not stand with us with personnel or an open commitment. I find that rather ironic.

Earlier this year, Mr. President, we were looking at Saddam Hussein to relieve our dependence on imported oil. When we were in conflict with Saddam Hussein back in 1991 and 1992, I think we were looking at roughly \$1 billion worth of oil coming from Iraq each quarter. So here we are at one time committed to try to put him in a cage, and a few years later we are looking at Iraq under the regime of Saddam Hussein to relieve our dependence on other Mideast countries.

The point that I want to make, Mr. President, is that on one hand we seem to have the inconsistency of creating the strategic petroleum reserve at great expense when we were 33 percent dependent on foreign oil, and now we

are talking about selling a portion of it. We are talking about selling a portion of it. Perhaps that will come up in some of the debate on the Interior appropriations bill relative to generating revenues, but we have already seen our President in his budget proposal, in the outyears, in the year 2002, propose to sell \$1.5 billion worth of SPRO in order to meet his budget projections.

So, Mr. President, one can say that SPRO is now being used, to some extent, as a piggy bank in order to meet budgetary requirements. While much of that oil was paid for when prices were prevailing at \$27 a barrel, it is interesting to note we are selling it at somewhere in the area of \$18 or \$19.

So on one hand, Mr. President, we have a situation where we continually fail to recognize our increasing dependence on Mideast oil; on the other, we sell down the oil that we have put aside to take care of whatever energy supply disruption may occur, and we fail to recognize the prediction by the Department of Energy that by the year 2000 we will be two-thirds dependent on foreign oil.

We produce less crude oil now in the United States than we did in 1955. Imports of foreign oil significantly affect our economy. It has been estimated that we spend approximately \$150 million per day on foreign oil. That is more than \$50 billion per year. One looks at the trade deficit. Nearly half of it is the cost of imported oil. The other half is with our trading partners, to a large degree, Japan and others.

But three times we have seen international oil supply interruptions affect U.S. economic and national security interests. We saw it in 1973 in the Arab oil embargo, in the 1979 Iraq-Iran war, and, of course, in the 1991 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Is the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, any more stable today than it was in 1973? Of course it is not. And the response of the administration toward opening up domestic fields here in the United States, to spur employment, keep our dollars home and lessen our dependence, is sorely lacking.

In conclusion, Mr. President, to suggest that the most promising area in ANWR cannot be opened safely, with the advanced technology we have, is clearly selling American ingenuity and technology short. I recognize my time is limited. Other Senators are here to proceed with debate. But I remind my colleagues to consider the merits of just where we are going relative to our increased dependence on imported oil. One of these days we are going to have a crisis in the Mideast, and the public is going to blame this body. They are going to blame this Government. They are going to blame this administration for not having the foresight to decrease our dependence on foreign oil by taking the necessary measures at home to stimulate resource development protection, which we can do safely with ANWR.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO- PRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5353 TO COMMITTEE
AMENDMENT ON PAGE 25, LINES 4-10

(Purpose: To increase the fee charged for grazing on federal land)

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. GORTON. Would the Senator from Arkansas withhold?

Mr. BUMPERS. Happy to.

Mr. GORTON. Do we have a special order to proceed to a particular amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is the amendment of the Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment found on page 25 be laid aside and the amendment from the Senator from Arkansas be considered.

Mr. BUMPERS. We object.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The regular order is for the clerk to report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS], for himself, Mr. GREGG and Mr. KERRY, proposes an amendment numbered 5353 to the committee amendment on page 25 lines 4-10.

Mr. BUMPERS. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the pending Committee amendment ending on line 4 on page 25, add the following:

SEC. . GRAZING FEES.

(a) GRAZING FEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall charge a fee for domestic livestock grazing on public rangelands as provided for in section 6(a) of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1905(a)) and Executive Order 12548 (51 F.R. 5985).

(b) DETERMINATION OF FEE.—(1) Permittees or lessees, including related persons, who own or control livestock comprising less than 2,000 animal unit months on the public rangelands pursuant to one or more grazing permits or leases shall pay the fee as set forth in subsection (a).

(2) Permittees or lessees, including related persons, who own or control livestock comprising more than 2,000 animal unit months on the public rangelands pursuant to one or more grazing permits or leases shall pay the fee as set forth in subsection (a) for the first