

more than three decades later, we have an opportunity to realize this objective.

Following several years of negotiations in the U.N. Conference on Disarmament, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] was completed and opened for signature in September 1996. Since then, over 140 countries have signed the document, including all five declared nuclear weapons states. For the treaty to enter into force, 44 key signatories, including the United States, must ratify the agreement prior to September 1998.

Mr. President, over the past few years I have had the privilege of participating on a steering committee of a project organized by the Henry L. Stimson Center on Eliminating Weapons of Mass Destruction. The objective of the group, which included such authorities on foreign policy and national security as Gen. Andrew Goodpaster and Ambassador Paul Nitze, was to consider concrete measures the United States could undertake to work toward the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. In our third and final report, released in March, we laid out several steps President Clinton and Congress can take now to ensure that future generations are safe from the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. Ratification of the CTBT was one of the three most urgent measures we recommended.

Enactment of a comprehensive test ban would do more to stem proliferation and reduce the nuclear threat than any other action we could take at this time. The details of the CTBT are technical and complex but the effect of the treaty is pure and simple: it would ban all nuclear test explosions. Not only would this constrain the development of more complex weapons but it would also protect our environment.

The United States already has a moratorium in effect on nuclear weapons tests and has not conducted such a test since 1992. It's time to make this moratorium permanent and ensure that others follow suit.

The administration has indicated its intent to present the CTBT to the Senate for advice and consent. However, to date it has not done so. I appreciate that the treaty is likely to be controversial in some quarters and that the Senate has only recently concluded a hotly contested debate on another important arms control treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC]. However, one of the problems we faced with the CWC was that it was not brought before the Senate as quickly as it could have been. For that and other reasons, we found ourselves in late April facing a deadline affecting our participation in the treaty.

Let's not put ourselves in that position again. Let's begin the debate on the treaty now so that our decision on ratification—which I fervently hope will be a positive one—can serve as a signal of encouragement to other countries.

Thirty-four years ago today, President Kennedy called on us to pause and consider the effects of a devastating nuclear conflict. He put us on a path to eliminating this threat. Let's honor his memory by fulfilling one of his grandest objectives. Let's act on and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Mr. President, I note 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.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

GREAT OUTDOORS WEEK

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to chat a little bit about recreation in America today and announce that Great Outdoors Week for 1997 began on Monday of this week.

From America's vast forests to her mighty rivers, to her majestic mountains, plains, and valleys, there is the recognition that this Nation is truly blessed with national and natural beauty beyond comparison. As a consequence, it is no wonder that our Nation and our national consciousness are defined in no small part by the great outdoors that we all enjoy.

Coming from my State of Alaska—which is, at least as far as I am concerned, America's premier outdoor State—I have lived near and experienced some of nature's greatest handiwork. I have fished, hunted, sailed, hiked, and camped in probably the best places on Earth.

So it is with great pleasure that I come before my colleagues to announce Great Outdoors Week for 1997.

The recreation community is in Washington this week to host a number of activities to remind those of us inside the beltway that outdoor recreation is a good thing for people, for communities, for the economy, and for conservation. Great Outdoors Week will bring together many people and groups who really care about America's great outdoors. Federal, State, and local officials, recreation enthusiasts, outdoor media, recreation associations, and the recreation industry will all take part in the events scheduled for this week.

I met last night with the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association—the manufacturers and the suppliers of recreation vehicles. There were some 250 to 300 people in the Russell rotunda at a very, very outstanding reception to kick off Great Outdoors Week for 1997.

Mr. President, as an outdoorsman and chairman of the Senate committee with responsibility for our Nation's public lands, I am also going to take an

active role in the other events scheduled for this week.

The work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources touches the lives of Americans in many ways but few ways more visible than in our oversight of the Nation's great outdoors. Great Outdoors Week really gives us an opportunity to focus on the value of recreation in our lives, and how we can do a better job of encouraging people of all ages to enjoy America's natural and national splendor.

The great outdoors is the main focus of our national recreation initiative. The acronym is REC, and it stands for three goals: reinvigorate, enhance, and conserve.

To reinvigorate and rebuild our national parks, forests, and other Federal lands that provide diverse recreation opportunities.

To enhance the visits Americans make to our public land legacy through improved access, facilities, and services.

To conserve America's natural resources that provide recreation opportunities, particularly through wildlife habitat restoration and protection. It also includes areas in our urban centers with strategies to protect open space, rivers, lakes, and to link parks and trails.

Last year, we passed the largest parks and conservation public lands bill that has passed this body since the 1940's. Containing 119 pieces of legislation, the bill increased park boundaries, designated historical trails and wild and scenic rivers, protected sensitive lands, and benefited virtually every State in this Nation.

It also protected the Presidio in San Francisco, one of the finest recreation areas in our country, by establishing a new management system which takes advantage of private sector expertise, contribution, and finance.

It will also create the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission. This is a nine-member panel which will examine the demand for recreation at federally managed lakes and reservoirs and help develop plans with the private sector to maximize recreational opportunities. A report is due next year, and we may write legislation to increase opportunities in this area.

Thankfully, after I wrote to the President last week, he told me that he will name the remaining four members of the nine-member commission this week so that they can get down to work.

On April 25 of this year, we held a seminar on outdoor recreation trends and benefits.

This Wednesday we will hold an oversight hearing on the stateside program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We will hold additional oversight hearings on other aspects of the outdoor recreation capabilities. At least one of them will be a field hearing out West. The committee report, hopefully, will follow.

Putting our heads together, we can decide what the Federal Government

can and should do to reinvigorate, to enhance, and to conserve America's outdoors.

Our national parks—our Nation's crown jewels—are losing some of their luster. We need to ensure that all Americans can enjoy and be proud of our parks system for years to come.

We have at least an \$8 billion backlog in unfunded projects and programs.

Yellowstone needs about \$300 million in road repairs.

Yosemite needs \$178 million in repairs after January's floods.

Each year, another 1 percent of the National Parks Service roads fall from fair to poor or failing.

We are working to leave a legacy everyone can be proud of—a new, reinvigorated, world-class National Park System.

Mr. President, an expanded fee demonstration program, major concession reform, a bonding initiative, and additional private-sector sponsorships are all under consideration in this Congress. Our system of parks includes State and local parks as well. Capital needs of State and local recreation systems for 1995–99 are over \$27 billion, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association, but we have a problem. The stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund has been shut down.

Over 30 years ago, in a bipartisan effort, Congress and the President created the Land and Water Conservation Fund referred to as the LWCF. It is funded primarily by offshore oil and gas revenues which now exceed \$3 billion. My committee has authorized land and water conservation funding to the year 2015 with an annual ceiling of \$900 million.

The LWCF stateside program promotes a unique partnership among Federal, State, and local governments. It provides matching grants that enable State and local governments to create recreation facilities, parks, and playgrounds. Because they are matching grants, they double the impact.

The stateside LWCF program has helped finance 37,500 national parks and recreation projects—campgrounds, trails, playgrounds, recreation centers, and gyms. It has also helped in my State of Alaska. We have had a number of very effective State and local parks which received a stateside LWCF grant. The demand continues to increase. As a matter of fact, in fiscal year 1995 over \$600 million was requested.

But I want to explain very briefly, Mr. President, that the recent balanced budget agreement between the administration and the congressional budget negotiators provided \$700 million over 5 years for the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That is the portion of the fund used for land acquisition by the Federal land management agencies. The administration wants \$315 million of that to buy Headwaters Forest and the New World Mine. This is not what LWCF was designed to do. The remaining \$385 million, according to the ad-

ministration, would be spent for Federal land purchases. That is hardly a State matching program. This means the stateside matching land and water conservation fund program would still remain unfunded.

So what would Americans get for their \$700 million? More Federal land acquisitions over the next 5 years chosen by politicians in Washington, DC, rather than the people. State and local recreation projects, the ones closest to the people, get nothing, and that is too bad because those are matching funds and we get twice the bang for the buck. We need to save the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program and I have asked appropriators to provide some money to keep the matching grant program alive.

When Congress authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund, it had two parts. One part dealt with Federal acquisitions. The other provided matching grants for State and local governments to purchase and develop parks and recreation facilities. The administration is trying to abolish the second half, and Congress should simply not let that happen. In fiscal years 1996 and 1997, Congress and the administration simply zeroed out those funds.

Mr. President, let me show you a couple of charts, and I will conclude my remarks. This chart shows the Land and Water Conservation Fund authorizations and appropriations. As one can see, the stateside LWCF appropriations in green have dramatically decreased. Of course, the authorizations have gone way up. What we have here is a dropoff from 1983 to 1995 down to 1996 where there is zero money provided for stateside LWCF matching grants. That is probably the greatest single significance of what the Federal role is. It is in matching, if you will, so that Federal appropriations can come on and the priorities can be addressed in an appropriate manner that represent the will and attitudes of States and local communities.

There is just one other chart that I want to show, and that is the receipts. Where does the money come from? It comes from a dedicated fund, the Outer Continental Shelf areas where revenues now exceed more than \$3 billion a year. There is very little from recreation fees. There is some from the motor fuel tax and surplus property sales. The funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund comes from offshore revenues, but the Appropriations Committee has seen fit to use those funds for other expenditures.

So, Mr. President, during Great Outdoors Week and every other week of the year, I ask that we all remember the value of outdoor recreation to Americans. We are blessed with a great natural bounty. It is our duty to conserve it. As a consequence, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the necessity of having a meaningful stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program which would provide matching grants benefiting the States and allowing the priorities at hand to be met.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR THURMOND

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure I come to the floor today to speak about a distinguished colleague and dear personal friend, Senator STROM THURMOND. I, like so many American citizens, have admired the senior Senator from South Carolina for his outstanding service to the United States in this chamber, and for the life he has lived through military service in World War II to his years of teaching, coaching, and practicing law in the Palmetto State.

The accomplishments and achievements which have been a part of Senator THURMOND's life are truly outstanding. Accordingly, his reach across this country, particularly the Southeast, is remarkable. One can go to the Georgia/South Carolina border, traveling along Interstate 20 to Florence, SC, and be driving on the Strom Thurmond Highway. Or one can take a stroll through the U.S. Capitol and walk into the beautiful Strom Thurmond room, so designated in 1991. These are just two of the many facilities named for the distinguished Senator because of his courage and patriotism. He has set a fine example for all Americans—from the students he taught from 1923–28 in Edgefield, McCormick, and Ridge Spring, SC, to the pages, interns, and staffers to whom he has been so gracious, friendly, and helpful since his arrival in the Senate in 1954.

Senator THURMOND has served diligently on the Armed Services, Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. He has not only been a champion for his State, supporting such vital missions as those performed at the Savannah River site, but also a leader on security issues for our Nation as a whole. There is no question that his knowledge, understanding, and expertise in military affairs and foreign policy has strengthened our national security and helped to maintain the status of the United States as the world's preeminent military and economic power.

As a soldier, the Senator's record was no less impressive. In World War II, Senator THURMOND volunteered for active service on the day we declared war and flew his glider behind enemy lines during the D-day invasion with the 82d Airborne Division.

Following these heroics, he was awarded 18 decorations, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for Valor, and the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster. His military service continued as he was promoted to major general in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1959. This is where he continued to serve in distinguished fashion for the next 36 years.

With the rest of his military and political career well documented and chronicled on the floor by my colleagues, I would just like to close now