

the populations of marine mammals exist, because this goes to how do you serve those marine mammals when they are in trouble; how do you get them when they are stranded; and why do you do that.

Do you know that Megatrend says that the leading development in America has been what they call watchable wildlife? More people are watching wildlife than all of the national sports in this country, than all the professional sports. That wildlife, a lot of it is marine wildlife.

Marine wildlife is important to the ecology of the ocean, the health of the ocean and the coastal communities, but it is also important for tourism, because people come to the coastlines and they want to see the wild animals that are in that coastal zone; and the wild animals in many cases are endangered.

I happen to represent an area where we have the southern sea otter population. It is not recovering very well. The recovery rate for the southern sea otter is unacceptable since 1995. Researchers have documented an increased rate in mortality, an 11 percent reduction in the population. In fact, last year 10 percent of the total population of this endangered animal was found dead, stranded on beaches in my district. That is 213 of the 2,090 animals left in this population were found dead, washed up on beaches just last year.

The southern sea otter is vital. It is vital to the health of our sea mammal community. It is vital to the tourism in our area; and I think it is just vital that we have beautiful animals like this to understand, protect, and to study.

Fortunately, the bill of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) will provide funds for the preparation and transportation of tissues from the deceased animals so the researchers can determine the cause of death and turn this trend around.

Mr. Speaker, my only reservation is that we not decrease funding for research and assistance for other existing marine mammal programs. In fact, we need to fully fund what is authorized in this bill. The majority of marine mammal strandings occur on the West coast; and, unfortunately, the strandings are increasing. So I hope that we will begin to be able to have enough money for the marine mammal recovery and not take this money from other marine mammal protection programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I ask that we increase funding for marine mammal protection and research. We need to support the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act, but not at the expense of other national marine fishery services programs.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to conclude by saying I believe this is an extremely important bill, and I would like to thank everyone who has had

something to do with it, from the Member level as well as from the staff level.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1934, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONVEYING LAND IN NEW MEXICO TO SAN JUAN COLLEGE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 293) to direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to convey certain lands in San Juan County, New Mexico, to San Juan College.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 293

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OLD JICARILLA ADMINISTRATIVE SITE.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.—Not later than one year after the date of completion of the survey referred to in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to San Juan College, in Farmington, New Mexico, subject to the terms, conditions, and reservations under subsection (c), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property (including any improvements on the land) not to exceed 20 acres known as the "Old Jicarilla Site" located in San Juan County, New Mexico (T29N; R5W; portions of sections 29 and 30).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of San Juan College. The cost of the survey shall be borne by San Juan College.

(c) TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND RESERVATIONS.—

(1) Notwithstanding exceptions of application under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 U.S.C. 869(c)), consideration for the conveyance described in subsection (a) shall be—

(A) an amount that is consistent with the Bureau of Land Management special pricing program for Governmental entities under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; and

(B) an agreement between the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and San Juan College indemnifying the Government of the United States from all liability of the Government that arises from the property.

(2) The lands conveyed by this Act shall be used for educational and recreational purposes. If such lands cease to be used for such purposes, at the option of the United States, such lands will revert to the United States.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture shall identify any reservations of rights-of-way for in-

gress, egress, and utilities as the Secretary deems appropriate.

(4) The conveyance described in subsection (a) shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(d) LAND WITHDRAWALS.—Public Land Order 3443, only insofar as it pertains to lands described in subsections (a) and (b), shall be revoked simultaneous with the conveyance of the property under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 293 was introduced by Senator PETE DOMENICI of New Mexico. The legislation would require the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to convey a 10 acre parcel of land known as the Old Jicarilla Site to San Juan College.

The Forest Service no longer requires its use and has not occupied the site for several years. The bill would require the site to be used for educational and recreational purposes.

Back in February of this year, our esteemed colleague, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), who has worked so hard on this bill, introduced H.R. 695 as the House companion. He worked diligently to see that his legislation passed the committee process, and finally it passed the House under suspension of the rules in early August. However, because the Senate would prefer the House to pass its version, S. 293, we are here today to do just that so this legislation might be enacted into law.

Let me close by saying that my good friend the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) has done a great job on this legislation, and I urge everyone to support the passage of S. 293 under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, S. 293, like H.R. 695 passed by the House on August 2, 1999, would direct the Secretary of Interior to convey approximately 20 acres of real property and improvements at an abandoned and surplus ranger station administrative site in San Juan County, New Mexico, to San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. The Forest Service has determined that the Old Jicarilla Site, as the site is known, is of no further use because the Forest Service moved its operations to a new administrative facility in Bloomfield, New Mexico, several years ago. In fact, the site has been unoccupied for several years.

With over one-third of the land in New Mexico under Federal ownership, it is often difficult for local communities to find appropriate sites for educational and recreational purposes. This bipartisan legislation will overcome this hurdle by conveying surplus Federal lands to San Juan College.

The college would pay for all lands to be conveyed in accordance with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and would use the site for educational and recreational purposes. In the event that the land ceased to be used for such purposes, it would revert to the United States.

According to Dr. James C. Henderson, president of San Juan College, "San Juan College has grown to be the fourth largest college in New Mexico. The college serves the people of the northwest quadrant of the State in numerous ways, by providing business and industrial training, life-long learning opportunities, and various academic and technical degree programs."

The transfer of the Old Jicarilla Site to San Juan College would allow the college to better serve the surrounding community by offering new programs that meet the needs of that community. In addition, the facilities would be available to other civic organizations, such as the Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club.

This legislation creates a situation in which the Federal Government, the State of New Mexico, the people of San Juan County, and, most importantly, the students and faculty of San Juan College, all benefit.

I would like to thank Dr. Henderson, Ms. Marjorie Black, his executive assistant, and the staff of San Juan College, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management for their hard work directed towards making this transfer a reality.

In addition, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) for her work, as well as my New Mexico colleagues in the Senate, Senator BINGAMAN, and, in particular, Senator DOMENICI for beginning this effort in the last Congress and continuing his efforts again in this Congress. I thank Members for their consideration in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to ask my colleagues to pass Senate 293, the Old Jicarilla Site Conveyance Act of 1999. It does allow the college to be able to administer a piece of unwanted land that is now owned by the Federal Government.

For those who do not live in the Rocky Mountain West, you might think, well, gosh, why is no other land available? But in San Juan County, 90 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government, which is why a piece of legislation like this is needed.

This bill passed the Senate in the last Congress but did not pass the House before we went to adjournment. It is a very simple bill and it is just something that is part of the routine business that we have to do and need to get done.

I want to thank my colleagues for their work on this, particularly the gentleman from northern New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), Senator PETE DOMENICI, and Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, who sponsored this in the Senate and passed it last year. With your assistance, we will pass it and make it possible for San Juan College to continue the great education that it provides to so many New Mexicans.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 293.

The question was taken.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT OF 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 323) to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument was established for the preservation of its spectacular gorges and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest;

(2) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent upland include a variety of unique

ecological, geological, scenic, historical, and wildlife components enhanced by the serenity and rural western setting of the area;

(3) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent land provide extensive opportunities for educational and recreational activities, and are publicly used for hiking, camping, and fishing, and for wilderness value, including solitude;

(4) adjacent public land downstream of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has wilderness value and offers unique geological, paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources;

(5) public land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument contributes to the protection of the wildlife, viewshed, and scenic qualities of the Black Canyon;

(6) some private land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has exceptional natural and scenic value that would be threatened by future development pressures;

(7) the benefits of designating public and private land surrounding the national monument as a national park include greater long-term protection of the resources and expanded visitor use opportunities; and

(8) land in and adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Gorge is—

(A) recognized for offering exceptional multiple use opportunities;

(B) recognized for offering natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources; and

(C) worthy of additional protection as a national conservation area, and with respect to the Gunnison Gorge itself, as a component of the national wilderness system.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "Conservation Area" means the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 57,725 acres surrounding the Gunnison Gorge as depicted on the Map.

(2) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA—1/22/99". The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Department of the Interior.

(3) PARK.—The term "Park" means the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park established under section 4 and depicted on the Map.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in the State of Colorado as generally depicted on the map identified in section 3. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument is hereby abolished as such, the lands and interests therein are incorporated within and made part of the new Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and any funds available for purposes of the monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Upon enactment of this title, the Secretary shall transfer the lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management which are identified on the map for inclusion in the park to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4), and the Act