

“(1) TRANSFER FROM SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture administrative jurisdiction over approximately 2,167 acres of lands and interests in land located in Duchesne and Wasatch Counties, Utah, that were acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for the Central Utah Project, as depicted on the maps entitled—

“(A) the ‘Dutch John Townsite, Ashley National Forest, Lower Stillwater’, dated February 1997;

“(B) The ‘Dutch John Townsite, Ashley National Forest, Red Hollow (Diamond Properties)’, dated February 1997; and

“(C) The ‘Dutch John Townsite, Ashley National Forest, Coal Hollow (Current Creek Reservoir)’, dated February 1997.

“(2) TRANSFER FROM SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior administrative jurisdiction over approximately 2,450 acres of lands and interests in lands located in the Ashley National Forest, as depicted on the map entitled ‘Ashley National Forest, Lands to be Transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) from the Forest Service’, dated February 1997.”

(3) In paragraph (3)(A), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following new sentence: “The boundaries of the Ashley National Forest and the Uinta National Forest are hereby adjusted to reflect the transfers required by this section.”

(4) In paragraph (3)(B), by striking “The transferred lands” and inserting “The lands and interests in land transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture under paragraph (1)”.

(5) Section 10(g)(5)(A) of such Act (112 Stat. 3050) is amended by striking “Daggett County” and inserting in lieu thereof “Dutch John”.

(b) ELECTRIC POWER.—Section 13(d) of such Act (112 Stat. 3053) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(1) AVAILABILITY.—The United States shall make available for the Dutch John community electric power and associated energy previously reserved from the Colorado River Storage Project for project use as firm electric service.”

SEC. 304. OREGON PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998.

Section 3 of the Oregon Public Lands Transfer and Protection Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–321; 112 Stat. 3022) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a), by striking paragraph (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(2) By striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(b) POLICY OF NO NET LOSS OF O & C LAND AND CBWR LAND.—In carrying out sales, purchases, and exchanges of land in the geographic area, the Secretary shall ensure that on October 30, 2008, and on the expiration of each 10-year period thereafter, the number of acres of O & C land and CBWR land in the geographic area is not less than the number of acres of such land on October 30, 1998.”

SEC. 305. NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION.

Section 4 of Public Law 90–209 is amended—

(1) by inserting “with or” between “practicable” and “without” in the final sentence thereof; and

(2) by adding at the end thereof a new sentence as follows: “Funds reimbursed to either Department shall be retained by the Department and may, without further appropriation be expended, in accordance with the Historic Preservation Act, as amended.”

SEC. 306. NATIONAL PARKS OMNIBUS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1998.

Section 603(c)(1) of Public Law 105–391 is amended by striking “10” and inserting in lieu thereof “15”.

SEC. 307. GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Section 201(d) of Public Law 105–355 is amended by inserting “and/or Tropic Utah,” after the words “school district, Utah,” and by striking “Public Purposes Act,” and the remainder of the sentence and inserting in lieu thereof “Public Purposes Act.”

SEC. 308. SPIRIT MOUND.

Section 112(a) of division C of Public Law 105–277 (112 Stat. 2681–592) is amended—

(1) by striking “is authorized to acquire” and inserting in lieu thereof “is authorized: (1) to acquire”;

(2) by striking “South Dakota.” and inserting in lieu thereof “South Dakota; or”;

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(2) to transfer available funds for the acquisition of the tract to the State of South Dakota upon the completion of a binding agreement with the State to provide for the acquisition and long-term preservation, interpretation, and restoration of the Spirit Mound tract.”

SEC. 309. AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 702(5) of division II of the Public Law 104–333 (110 Stat. 4265), is amended by striking “Secretary of Agriculture” and inserting in lieu thereof “Secretary of the Interior”.

SEC. 310. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENTRANCE AND RECREATIONAL USE FEES.

(a) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to retain and expend revenues from entrance and recreation use fees at units of the National Park System where such fees are collected under section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–6a), notwithstanding the provisions of section 4(i) of such Act. Fees shall be retained and expended in the same manner and for the same purposes as provided under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (section 315 of Public Law 104–134, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601–6a note).

(b) Nothing in this section shall affect the collection of fees at units of the National Park System designated as fee demonstration projects under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program.

(c) The authorities in this section shall expire upon the termination of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program.

SEC. 311. NATIONAL PARKS OMNIBUS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1998.

Section 404 of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–391; 112 Stat. 3508; 16 U.S.C. 5953) is amended by striking “contract terms and conditions,” and inserting “contract terms and conditions,”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2804

(Purpose: To make further amendments to H.R. 149, as reported by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources)

On page 5, strike lines 4 through 11 and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

On page 5 at the end of section 101 add the following new paragraphs:

“(11) Section 103(c)(2) (110 Stat. 4099) is amended by striking ‘consecutive terms.’ and inserting ‘consecutive terms, except that upon the expiration of his or her term, an appointed member may continue to serve until his or her successor has been appointed.’

“(12) Section 103(c)(9) (110 Stat. 4100) is amended by striking ‘properties administered by the Trust’ and insert in lieu thereof ‘properties administered by the Trust and all interest created under leases, concessions, permits and other agreements associated with the properties’;

“(13) Section 104(d) (110 Stat. 4102) is amended as follows:

“(1) by inserting ‘(1)’ after ‘FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES.—’;

“(2) by striking ‘(1) The authority’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘(A) The authority’;

“(3) by striking ‘(A) the terms’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘(i) the terms’;

“(4) by striking ‘(B) adequate’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘(ii) adequate’;

“(5) by striking ‘(C) such guarantees’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘(iii) such guarantees’;

“(6) by striking ‘(2) The authority’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘(B) The authority’;

“(7) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3) respectively;

“(8) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by this section)—

“(A) by striking ‘The authority’ and inserting in lieu thereof ‘The Trust shall also have the authority’;

“(B) by striking ‘after determining that the projects to be funded from the proceeds thereof are creditworthy and that a repayment schedule is established and only’; and

“(C) by inserting after ‘and subject to such terms and conditions,’ the words ‘including a review of the creditworthiness of the loan and establishment of a repayment schedule,’; and

“(9) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by this section) by inserting before ‘this subsection’ the words ‘paragraph (2) of.’”

On page 26, strike lines 10 through 13 and insert in lieu thereof the following: “as follows: ‘Monies reimbursed to either Department shall be returned by the Department to the account from which the funds for which the reimbursement is made were drawn and may, without further appropriation, be expended for any purpose for which such account is authorized.’”

On page 28, line 20, strike “contract” and insert “contract”.

The amendment (No. 2804) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 149), as amended, was passed.

COMMUNITY FOREST RESTORATION ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1288) to provide incentives for collaborative forest restoration projects on National Forest System and other public lands in New Mexico, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Community Forest Restoration Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) A century of fire suppression, logging, and livestock grazing has altered the ecological balance of New Mexico’s forests.

(2) Some forest lands in New Mexico contain an unnaturally high number of small diameter trees that are subject to large, high intensity wildfires that can endanger human lives, livelihoods, and ecological stability.

(3) Forest lands that contain an unnaturally high number of small diameter trees have reduced biodiversity and provide fewer benefits to human communities, wildlife, and watersheds.

(4) Healthy and productive watersheds minimize the threat of large, high intensity wildfires, provide abundant and diverse wildlife habitat, and produce a variety of timber and non-timber products including better quality water and increased water flows.

(5) Restoration efforts are more successful when there is involvement from neighboring communities and better stewardship will evolve from more diverse involvement.

(6) Designing demonstration restoration projects through a collaborative approach may—

(A) lead to the development of cost effective restoration activities;

(B) empower diverse organizations to implement activities which value local and traditional knowledge;

(C) build ownership and civic pride; and

(D) ensure healthy, diverse, and productive forests and watersheds.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote healthy watersheds and reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires, insect infestation, and disease in the forests in New Mexico;

(2) to improve the functioning of forest ecosystems and enhance plant and wildlife biodiversity by reducing the unnaturally high number and density of small diameter trees on Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Municipal forest lands;

(3) to improve communication and joint problem solving among individuals and groups who are interested in restoring the diversity and productivity of forested watersheds in New Mexico;

(4) to improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees;

(5) to encourage sustainable communities and sustainable forests through collaborative partnerships, whose objectives are forest restoration; and

(6) to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate ecologically sound forest restoration techniques.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(2) the term "stakeholder" includes: tribal governments, educational institutions, landowners, and other interested public and private entities.

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

(a) The Secretary shall establish a cooperative forest restoration program in New Mexico in order to provide cost-share grants to stakeholders for experimental forest restoration projects that are designed through a collaborative process (hereinafter referred to as the "Collaborative Forest Restoration Program"). The projects may be entirely on, or on any combination of, Federal, Tribal, State, County, or Municipal forest lands. The Federal share of an individual project cost shall not exceed eighty percent of the total cost. The twenty percent matching may be in the form of cash or in-kind contribution.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—To be eligible to receive funding under this Act, a project shall—

(1) address the following objectives—

(A) reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions, structures, and species composition, including the reduction of non-native species populations;

(B) re-establish fire regimes approximating those that shaped forest ecosystems prior to fire suppression;

(C) preserve old and large trees;

(D) replant trees in deforested areas if they exist in the proposed project area; and

(E) improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees;

(2) comply with all Federal and State environmental laws;

(3) include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as well as appropriate Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Municipal government representatives in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project;

(4) incorporate current scientific forest restoration information; and

(5) include a multi-party assessment to—

(A) identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and the desired future condition; and

(B) report, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on the ground results;

(6) create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives, that are consistent with the purposes of this Act, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps where appropriate;

(7) not exceed four years in length;

(8) not exceed a total annual cost of \$150,000, with the Federal portion not exceeding \$120,000 annually, nor exceed a total cost of \$450,000 for the project, with the Federal portion of the total cost not exceeding \$360,000;

(9) leverage Federal funding through in-kind or matching contributions; and

(10) include an agreement by each stakeholder to attend an annual workshop with other stakeholders for the purpose of discussing the cooperative forest restoration program and projects implemented under this Act. The Secretary shall coordinate and fund the annual workshop. Stakeholders may use funding for projects authorized under this Act to pay for their travel and per diem expenses to attend the workshop.

SEC. 6. SELECTION PROCESS.

(a) After consulting with the technical advisory panel established in subsection (b), the Secretary shall select the proposals that will receive funding through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

(b) The Secretary shall convene a technical advisory panel to evaluate the proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations regarding which proposals would best meet the objectives of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The technical advisory panel shall consider eligibility criteria established in section 5, the effect on long term management, and seek to use a consensus-based decision making process to develop such recommendations. The panel shall be composed of 12 to 15 members, to be appointed by the Secretary as follows:

(1) A State Natural Resource official from the State of New Mexico.

(2) At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies.

(3) At least one tribal or pueblo representative.

(4) At least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration.

(5) Equal representation from—

(A) conservation interests;

(B) local communities; and

(C) commodity interests.

SEC. 7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

The Secretary shall establish a multi-party monitoring and evaluation process in order to assess the cumulative accomplishments or adverse impacts of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The Secretary shall include any interested individual or organization in the monitoring and evaluation process. The Secretary also shall conduct a monitoring program to assess the short and long term ecological effects of the restoration treatments, if any, or a minimum of 15 years.

SEC. 8. REPORT.

No later than five years after the first fiscal year in which funding is made available for this program, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. The report shall include an assessment on whether, and to what extent, the projects funded pursuant to this Act are meeting the purposes of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 2805

(Purpose: To authorize the appropriation of \$5 million each year)

At the end of the bill add the following:

"SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 annually to carry out this Act."

The amendment (No. 2805) was agreed to.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1288), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 1288

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

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(2) comply with all Federal and State environmental laws;

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(B) report, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on the ground results;

(6) create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives, that are consistent with the purposes of this Act, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps where appropriate;

(7) not exceed four years in length;

(8) not exceed a total annual cost of \$150,000, with the Federal portion not exceeding \$120,000 annually, nor exceed a total cost of \$450,000 for the project, with the Federal portion of the total cost not exceeding \$360,000;

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SEC. 8. REPORT.

No later than five years after the first fiscal year in which funding is made available for this program, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. The report shall include an assessment on whether, and to what extent, the projects funded pursuant to this Act are meeting the purposes of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 annually to carry out this Act.

GAS HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (H.R. 1753) to promote research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of gas hydrate resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1753

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 "Gas Hydrate Research and Development Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONTRACT.**—The term "contract" means a procurement contract within the meaning of section 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—The term "cooperative agreement" means a cooperative agreement within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(4) **GRANT.**—The term "grant" means a grant awarded under a grant agreement, within the meaning of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

(5) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term "institution of higher education"

means an institution of higher education, within the meaning of section 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a)).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

(7) **SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.**—The term "Secretary of Commerce" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(8) **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**—The term "Secretary of Defense" means the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

(9) **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—The term "Secretary of the Interior" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the Minerals Management Service.

SEC. 3. GAS HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a program of gas hydrate research and development.

(2) **DESIGNATIONS.**—The Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate individuals to carry out this section.

(3) **MEETINGS.**—The individuals designated under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 120 days after the date on which all such individuals are designated and not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—

(A) review the progress of the program under paragraph (1); and

(B) make recommendations on future activities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

(b) **GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.**—

(1) **ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.**—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises to—

(A) conduct basic and applied research to identify, explore, assess, and develop gas hydrate as a source of energy;

(B) assist in developing technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of gas hydrate resources;

(C) undertake research programs to provide safe means of transport and storage of gas produced from gas hydrates;

(D) promote education and training in gas hydrate resource research and resource development;

(E) conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of hydrate degassing (including both natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(F) develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through gas hydrates.

(2) **COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.**—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be made available based on a competitive merit-based process.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall establish an advisory panel consisting of experts from industry, institutions of higher education, and Federal agencies to—

(1) advise the Secretary on potential applications of gas hydrate;

(2) assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the gas hydrate research