

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nampa and Meridian Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FACILITIES.

The Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, convey facilities to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District (in this Act referred to as the "District") in accordance with all applicable laws and pursuant to the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (contract No. 1425-99MA102500, dated 7 July 1999) between the Secretary and the District. The conveyance of facilities shall include all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any portion of the canals, laterals, drains, and any other portion of the water distribution and drainage system that is operated or maintained by the District for delivery of water to and drainage of water from lands within the boundaries of the District.

SEC. 3. LIABILITY.

Except as otherwise provided by law, effective on the date of conveyance of facilities under this Act, the United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence based on its prior ownership or operation of the conveyed property.

SEC. 4. EXISTING RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.

Nothing in this Act affects the rights of any person except as provided in this Act. No water rights shall be transferred, modified, or otherwise affected by the conveyance of facilities and interests to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District under this Act. Such conveyance shall not affect or abrogate any provision of any contract executed by the United States or State law regarding any irrigation district's right to use water developed in the facilities conveyed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of S. 3022.

For the last 6 years, the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Resources has pursued legislation to shrink the size and scope of the Federal Government through the defederalization of the Bureau of Reclamation assets.

S. 3022 continues this defederalization process by directing the Secretary of the Interior to convey, as soon as practical after the date of enactment, certain facilities to the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District, pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the district.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on this bill.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation conveys titles of land and facilities to the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District near Boise, Idaho. It is not controversial and is supported by the administration.

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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3022.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT OF 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 503) designating certain land in the San Isabel National Forest in the State of Colorado as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 503

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 "Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS.

(a) COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77; 107 Stat. 756; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(20) SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS.—Certain land in the San Isabel National Forest that—

"(A) comprises approximately 18,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Proposed Spanish Peaks Wilderness', dated February 10, 1999; and

"(B) shall be known as the 'Spanish Peaks Wilderness'."

(b) MAP; BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary"), shall file a map and boundary description of the area designated under subsection (a) with—

(A) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and boundary description under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77; 107 Stat. 756), except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and boundary description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and boundary description under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 3. ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allow the continuation of historic uses of the Bulls Eye Mine Road established before the date of enactment of this Act, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may provide.

(b) PRIVATELY OWNED LAND.—Access to any privately owned land within the wilderness areas designated under section 2 shall be provided in accordance with section 5 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134 et seq.).

SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 10 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77; 107 Stat. 756; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 503, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 1999, was introduced by Senator WAYNE ALLARD and will simply add the Spanish Peaks area to a list of areas designated as wilderness by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993.

I would like to take a moment to commend my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), for all his diligent work on the House version of this legislation, H.R. 898. H.R. 898 passed through the subcommittee and full committee by a voice vote. However, in the interest of time we are considering the Senate version today. Therefore, I urge all Members to support passage of S. 503, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 2000, under suspension of the rules.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume to join with the chairman in urging all Members to support this legislation.

The lands contained in this legislation contain headwaters in two spectacular 13,000-foot peaks that have been studied and considered for wilderness designation for nearly two decades. We support this legislation and would note that the House passed the legislation of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), H.R. 898, last year; and the Senate has now passed this amended version this last week. I want to commend our House colleagues for all the effort they put into working out some of the problems that were found in this legislation. We support this bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider S. 503, a companion to my bill H.R. 898, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 1999. This legislation will give permanent protection, in the form of wilderness, to the heart of the beautiful Spanish Peaks area in Colorado.

The bill is supported by several of my colleagues from Colorado, including Mr. SCHAFER, whose district includes the portion of the Spanish Peaks within Las Animas County. I am also pleased to be joined by Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. TANCREDO and Mr. MARK UDALL of Colorado. I greatly appreciate their assistance and support of this legislation.

Also, across the Capitol, Senator ALLARD sponsored this legislation that we consider on the House floor today. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Senator for his active support of this worthwhile legislation. I would also like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Subcommittee Chairman CHENOWETH-HAGE for their work in the Committee on Resources to

bring this bill to final passage and hopefully on to signature by the President.

Finally, I would offer a note of appreciation and thanks to the former Members of Congress whose efforts made today's legislation possible. First, approximately twenty years ago, Senator William Armstrong of Colorado began this worthwhile process by proposing wilderness in Colorado, and in 1986 Senator Armstrong proposed protected status and management for the Spanish Peaks. His efforts set in place the foundation upon which today's bill is built. Second, I would like to thank the former Congressman from the Second District, Mr. Skaggs. Together, he and I introduced this legislation in the 104th Congress and again in the 105th Congress, which passed the House but due to time constraints did not pass the Senate. The efforts by both of these individual legislators helped make this bill possible.

The mountains known as the Spanish Peaks are two volcanic peaks in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties. The eastern peak rises to 12,683 feet above sea level, while the summit of the western peak reaches 13,626 feet. The two served as landmarks for Native Americans as well as some of Colorado's other early settlers.

With this history, it's not surprising that the Spanish Peaks portion of the San Isabel National Forest was included in 1977 on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The Spanish Peaks area has outstanding scenic, geologic, and wilderness values, including a spectacular system of over 250 free standing dikes and ramps of volcanic materials radiating from the peaks. The lands covered by this bill are not only beautiful and part of a rich heritage, but also provide an excellent source of recreation. The State of Colorado has designated the Spanish Peaks as a natural area, and they are a popular destination for hikers seeking an opportunity to enjoy an unmatched vista of southeastern Colorado's mountains and plains.

The Forest Service originally reviewed and recommended the Spanish Peaks area for possible wilderness designation in 1979. The process since then has involved several steps, and during that time, the Forest Service has been able to acquire most of the inholdings within Spanish Peaks area. So the way is now clear for Congress to finish the job and designate the Spanish Peaks area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The bill before the House today would designate as wilderness about 18,000 acres of the San Isabel National Forest, including both of the Spanish Peaks as well as the slopes below and between them. This includes most of the lands originally recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service, but with boundary revisions that will exclude some private lands. I would like to note that Senator ALLARD and I have made significant efforts to address local concerns about the wilderness designation, including: (1) adjusting the boundary slightly to exclude certain lands that are likely to have the capacity for mineral production; and (2) excluding from the wilderness a road used by locals for access to the beauty of the Spanish Peaks. Senator ALLARD and I did not act to introduce this bill until a local consensus was achieved on this wilderness designation.

The bill itself is very simple. It would just add the Spanish Peaks area to the list of

areas designated as wilderness by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. As a result, all the provisions of that Act—including the provisions related to water—would apply to the Spanish Peaks area just as they do to the other areas on that list. Like all the areas now on that list, the Spanish Peaks area covered by this bill is a headwaters area, which for all practical purposes eliminates the possibility of water conflicts. There are no water diversions within the area.

Mr. Speaker, I close my statement by thanking all of my fellow members for your time and by urging all Members of the House to vote yes in support of passage of S. 503.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 503.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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IMPROVEMENT OF NATIVE HIRING WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 748) to improve Native hiring and contracting by the Federal Government within the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 748

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

SECTION 1. REPORT.

(a) Within six months after the enactment of this Act the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") shall submit a report detailing the progress the Department has made in the implementation of the provisions of sections 1307 and 1308 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The report shall include a detailed action plan on the future implementation of the provisions of sections 1307 and 1308 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. The report shall describe, in detail, the measures and actions that will be taken, along with a description of the anticipated results to be achieved during the next three fiscal years. The report shall focus on lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior in Alaska and shall also address any laws, rules, regulations and policies which act as a deterrent to hiring Native Alaskans or contracting with Native Alaskans to perform and conduct activities and programs of those agencies and bureaus under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

(b) The report shall be completed within existing appropriations and shall be transmitted to the Committee on Resources of the United States Senate; and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In furtherance of the goals of sections 1307 and 1308 of the Alaska National Interest

Lands Conservation Act and the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) implement pilot programs to employ residents of local communities at the following units of the National Park System located in northwest Alaska:

- (A) Bering Land Bridge National Preserve,
- (B) Cape Krusenstern National Monument,
- (C) Kobuk Valley National Park, and
- (D) Noatak National Preserve; and

(2) report on the results of the programs within one year to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(b) In implementing the programs, the Secretary shall consult with the Native Corporations, non-profit organizations, and Tribal entities in the immediate vicinity of such units and shall also, to the extent practicable, involve such groups in the development of interpretive materials and the pilot programs relating to such units.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

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Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 748 directs the Secretary of the Interior to complete and submit a report within 6 months after enactment of this act on the progress the Department has made in implementing section 1307 and 1308 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, called ANILCA.

Since ANILCA was enacted, the Department has failed to implement these two sections of the bill. This bill further requires the Secretary to include a detailed action plan for the implementation of ANILCA section 1307 and 1308 to consult with Alaska Native Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, nonprofit organizations, and tribal entities in the immediate vicinity of the park units. It further requires the Secretary, to the extent possible, to involve such groups in developing materials and pilot programs.

I urge an aye vote on this important legislation for the Alaska Natives.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 748, legislation intended to encourage the Department of the Interior to improve Native hiring and contracting within the State of Alaska.

As I understand it, this legislation is supported by the Department of the Interior. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska