

enjoy with the need to preserve these mountain vistas.

So we returned to the fundamental concept of how our system of government should work. I went directly to the people of the 44th district and sought their participation and input on how best to draft legislation that would reflect their commitment to both environmental preservation and private property rights protection. The result of their efforts is contained in the bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, the best way our constituents can be heard on matters such as these is if Congress and not the administration takes this action. With all due respect to those who serve in Washington, the people who live in this area know better than any Federal worker how to resolve these issues. Therefore, it was encouraging that very early on the Secretary of the Interior took a personal interest in this effort and publicly supported the congressional process as the preferred vehicle for this designation.

I thank the Secretary and the Bureau of Land Management offices out of Washington, Sacramento, and Palm Springs for working with me on this issue.

With this bill, we are able to protect private property rights with strong buffer zone language, willing seller provisions, and clearly worded access language. And we are able to further protect these mountains by prohibiting further withdrawals, curbing motorized vehicle use, and controlling cattle grazing.

I have said many times that I would not go forth with a bill which does not protect the rights of those individuals who live within the proposed boundary lines and those who live right at the foot of the mountains. This bill strikes an appropriate balance by protecting the rights of affected constituents as well as these unique mountains.

I wish to thank the gentleman from Utah (Chairman HANSEN) and his able staff, Allan Freemyer and Tod Hull, for assisting me in this process so that I can achieve this balance.

In addition, I would like to thank the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy under the direction of Bill Havert, the Desert Chapter of the Building Industry Association and its executive director, Ed Kibbey, and the local branch of the Sierra Club and its head Joan Taylor.

Too often environmentalists and private property rights advocates are at odds with each other. In my heart, I believe that we can work to achieve the goals of each group for the betterment of all. It may be the more difficult course to choose, but one well worth taking.

So I would like to thank my many colleagues, my legislative director, Linda Valter, and the rest of my staff who have helped me along the way.

Mr. Speaker, as a child, my parents drove our family all over this wonderful country visiting national parks and

awe-inspiring land throughout the West. Now my constituents have given me the opportunity to do something that will allow future families the same privilege. I hope they will all join me to achieve this worthy goal.

Mr. HANSEN. 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3676, 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.

COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA AND BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WILDERNESS ACT OF 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to establish the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4275

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 "Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that certain areas located in the Grand Valley in Mesa County, Colorado, and Grand County, Utah, should be protected and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. These areas include the following:

(1) The areas making up the Black Ridge and Ruby Canyons of the Grand Valley and Rabbit Valley, which contain unique and valuable scenic, recreational, multiple use opportunities (including grazing), paleontological, natural, and wildlife components enhanced by the rural western setting of the area, provide extensive opportunities for recreational activities, and are publicly used for hiking, camping, and grazing, and are worthy of additional protection as a national conservation area.

(2) The Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Study Area has wilderness value and offers unique geological, paleontological, scientific, and recreational resources.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important values of the public lands described in section 4(b), including geological, cultural, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, environmental, biological, wilderness, wildlife education, and scenic resources of such public lands, by establishing the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness in the State of Colorado and the State of Utah.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "Conservation Area" means the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area established by section 4(a).

(2) COUNCIL.—The term "Council" means the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council established under section 8.

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "management plan" means the management plan developed for the Conservation Area under section 6(h).

(4) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Proposed Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area" and dated July 18, 2000.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(6) WILDERNESS.—The term "Wilderness" means the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness so designated in section 5.

SEC. 4. COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area in the State of Colorado and the State of Utah.

(b) AREAS INCLUDED.—The Conservation Area shall consist of approximately 122,300 acres of public land as generally depicted on the Map.

SEC. 5. BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

Certain lands in Mesa County, Colorado, and Grand County, Utah, which comprise approximately 75,550 acres as generally depicted on the Map, are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Such component shall be known as the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.

SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT.

(a) CONSERVATION AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the Conservation Area in a manner that—

(1) conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the Conservation Area specified in section 2(b); and

(2) is in accordance with—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(B) other applicable law, including this Act.

(b) USES.—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the Conservation Area as the Secretary determines will further the purposes for which the Conservation Area is established.

(c) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Conservation Area and the Wilderness and all land and interests in land acquired for the Conservation Area or the Wilderness by the United States are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) the operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, and all amendments thereto. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect discretionary authority of the Secretary under other Federal laws to grant, issue, or renew rights-of-way or other land use authorizations consistent with the other provisions of this Act.

(d) OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area—

(A) before the effective date of a management plan under subsection (h), shall be allowed only on roads and trails designated for

use of motor vehicles in the management plan that applies on the date of the enactment of this Act to the public lands in the Conservation Area; and

(B) after the effective date of a management plan under subsection (h), shall be allowed only on roads and trails designated for use of motor vehicles in that management plan.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE USE.—Paragraph (1) shall not limit the use of motor vehicles in the Conservation Area as needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency.

(e) WILDERNESS.—Subject to valid existing rights, lands designated as wilderness by this Act shall be managed by the Secretary, as appropriate, in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act, except that, with respect to any wilderness areas designated by this Act, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Hunting, trapping, and fishing shall be allowed within the Conservation Area and the Wilderness in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the States of Colorado and Utah.

(2) AREA AND TIME CLOSURES.—The head of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (in reference to land within the State of Colorado), the head of the Utah Division of Wildlife (in reference to land within the State of Utah), or the Secretary after consultation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (in reference to land within the State of Colorado) or the head of the Utah Division of Wildlife (in reference to land within the State of Utah), may issue regulations designating zones where, and establishing limited periods when, hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be prohibited in the Conservation Area or the Wilderness for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.

(g) GRAZING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall issue and administer any grazing leases or permits in the Conservation Area and the Wilderness in accordance with the same laws (including regulations) and Executive orders followed by the Secretary in issuing and administering grazing leases and permits on other land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) GRAZING IN WILDERNESS.—Grazing of livestock in the Wilderness shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101-405 of the 101st Congress.

(h) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive management plan for the long-range protection and management of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness and the lands described in paragraph (2)(E).

(2) PURPOSES.—The management plan shall—

(A) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness;

(B) take into consideration any information developed in studies of the land within the Conservation Area or the Wilderness;

(C) provide for the continued management of the utility corridor, Black Ridge Communications Site, and the Federal Aviation Administration site as such for the land designated on the Map as utility corridor, Black

Ridge Communications Site, and the Federal Aviation Administration site;

(D) take into consideration the historical involvement of the local community in the interpretation and protection of the resources of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness, as well as the Ruby Canyon/Black Ridge Integrated Resource Management Plan, dated March 1998, which was the result of collaborative efforts on the part of the Bureau of Land Management and the local community; and

(E) include all public lands between the boundary of the Conservation Area and the edge of the Colorado River and, on such lands, the Secretary shall allow only such recreational or other uses as are consistent with this Act.

(i) NO BUFFER ZONES.—The Congress does not intend for the establishment of the Conservation Area or the Wilderness to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the Conservation Area or the Wilderness. The fact that there may be activities or uses on lands outside the Conservation Area or the Wilderness that would not be allowed in the Conservation Area or the Wilderness shall not preclude such activities or uses on such lands up to the boundary of the Conservation Area or the Wilderness consistent with other applicable laws.

(j) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire non-federally owned land within the exterior boundaries of the Conservation Area or the Wilderness only through purchase from a willing seller, exchange, or donation.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be managed as part of the Conservation Area or the Wilderness, as the case may be, in accordance with this Act.

(k) INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES OR SITES.—The Secretary may establish minimal interpretive facilities or sites in cooperation with other public or private entities as the Secretary considers appropriate. Any facilities or sites shall be designed to protect the resources referred to in section 2(b).

(l) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the lands designated as wilderness by this Act are located at the headwaters of the streams and rivers on those lands, with few, if any, actual or proposed water resource facilities located upstream from such lands and few, if any, opportunities for diversion, storage, or other uses of water occurring outside such lands that would adversely affect the wilderness or other values of such lands;

(B) the lands designated as wilderness by this Act generally are not suitable for use for development of new water resource facilities, or for the expansion of existing facilities;

(C) it is possible to provide for proper management and protection of the wilderness and other values of such lands in ways different from those utilized in other legislation designating as wilderness lands not sharing the attributes of the lands designated as wilderness by this Act.

(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) Nothing in this Act shall constitute or be construed to constitute either an express or implied reservation of any water or water rights with respect to the lands designated as a national conservation area or as wilderness by this Act.

(B) Nothing in this Act shall affect any conditional or absolute water rights in the State of Colorado existing on the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as establishing a precedent with regard to any future national conservation area or wilderness designations.

(D) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting, altering, modifying, or amending any of the interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportion water among and between the State of Colorado and other States.

(3) COLORADO WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of the law of the State of Colorado in order to obtain and hold any new water rights with respect to the Conservation Area and the Wilderness.

(4) NEW PROJECTS.—

(A) As used in this paragraph, the term “water resource facility” means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures. Such term does not include any such facilities related to or used for the purpose of livestock grazing.

(B) Except as otherwise provided by section 6(g) or other provisions of this Act, on and after the date of enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for the development of any new water resource facility within the wilderness area designated by this Act.

(C) Except as provided in this paragraph, nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect or limit the use, operation, maintenance, repair, modification, or replacement of water resource facilities in existence on the date of enactment of this Act within the boundaries of the Wilderness.

(5) BOUNDARIES ALONG COLORADO RIVER.—

(A) Neither the Conservation Area nor the Wilderness shall include any part of the Colorado River to the 100-year high water mark.

(B) Nothing in this Act shall affect the authority that the Secretary may or may not have to manage recreational uses on the Colorado River, except as such authority may be affected by compliance with paragraph (3). Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary to manage the public lands between the boundary of the Conservation Area and the edge of the Colorado River.

(C) Subject to valid existing rights, all lands owned by the Federal Government between the 100-year high water mark on each shore of the Colorado River, as designated on the Map from the line labeled “Line A” on the east to the boundary between the States of Colorado and Utah on the west, are hereby withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) the operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

SEC. 7. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a copy of the Map and a legal description of the Conservation Area and of the Wilderness.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The Map and legal descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the Map and the legal descriptions.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Copies of the Map and the legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in—

(1) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) the Grand Junction District Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado;

(3) the appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, if the Grand Junction District Office is not deemed the appropriate office; and

(4) the appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management in Utah.

(d) MAP CONTROLLING.—Subject to section 6(l)(3), in the case of a discrepancy between the Map and the descriptions, the Map shall control.

SEC. 8. ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory council to be known as the "Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area Advisory Council".

(b) DUTY.—The Council shall advise the Secretary with respect to preparation and implementation of the management plan, including budgetary matters, for the Conservation Area and the Wilderness.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Council shall be subject to—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(d) MEMBERS.—The Council shall consist of 10 members to be appointed by the Secretary including, to the extent practicable:

(1) A member of or nominated by the Mesa County Commission.

(2) A member nominated by the permittees holding grazing allotments within the Conservation Area or the Wilderness.

(3) A member of or nominated by the Northwest Resource Advisory Council.

(4) 7 members residing in, or within reasonable proximity to, Mesa County, Colorado, with recognized backgrounds reflecting—

(A) the purposes for which the Conservation Area or Wilderness was established; and

(B) the interests of the stakeholders that are affected by the planning and management of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness.

SEC. 9. PUBLIC ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall continue to allow private landowners reasonable access to inholdings in the Conservation Area and Wilderness.

(b) GLADE PARK.—The Secretary shall continue to allow public right of access, including commercial vehicles, to Glade Park, Colorado, in accordance with the decision in Board of County Commissioners of Mesa County v. Watt (634 F. Supp. 1265 (D.Colo.; May 2, 1986)).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4275, sponsored by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), seeks to protect and enhance the resources of the Grand Valley located in Mesa County, Colorado, and Grand County, Utah.

H.R. 4275 designates two areas of environmental protection, the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness. These lands are host to a variety of unique and valuable recreational multiple-use opportunities. Under this

legislation, approximately 117,000 acres would be included in the conservation area. H.R. 4275 also establishes 75,000 acres of selected land as the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.

Both areas of land in H.R. 4275 will be managed by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with existing laws. The Secretary is to prepare a comprehensive management plan for the lands included in this act no later than 5 years from the time of enactment. This management plan will take into consideration appropriate uses and historical involvement.

H.R. 4275 will also allow grazing to continue in the Wilderness area according to applicable laws. It is not the intent of this bill for these land designations to lead to the creation of buffer zones or to interfere with activities outside their boundaries.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) for his tireless effort in protecting these unique lands and in getting this bill to the floor today. This bill is good legislation because it not only protects these lands but also allows the area to be used by local people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4275, as amended.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the time allocated to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) will be controlled by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS).

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the State of Colorado for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I note that we have a couple of Members of the delegation from Colorado, both of whom have worked on this bill diligently. I appreciate very much the support of the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

We have had lots of meetings. As my colleagues know, we really owe special thanks to my staff. On my particular staff, Christopher Hatcher and Rene Howell.

But this bill really was necessitated by a move by the Department of Interior that perhaps they wanted to go out in Colorado and expand the Colorado National Monument.

In meeting with the Secretary of Interior, I asked the Secretary of Interior for a period of time because I felt that we could engineer a community build-up, in other words, a bill that was built by the community and not built out of Washington, D.C.; and the Secretary of Interior agreed to that.

In regards to that, we were able to put together, I think, an excellent bill,

an excellent piece of legislation, a piece of legislation which protects Colorado water for Colorado people, a piece of legislation which preserves the ranchers' rights to use grazing permits and, therein, as a consequence of that, preserves the open space that the ranchers occupy with their ranches, a bill that will preserve recreation for the multiple-use users out there, and a bill that would allow us to recognize the value of this Wilderness Study Area called the Black Ridge Canyons and convert the Black Ridge Canyons into a Wilderness Study Area.

This bill is a positive bill. This bill had the entire spectrum of our community come together. But that was only a part of it. The next part of it was we needed to come to Washington, D.C., and we needed help by people, someone, for example, by the name of the gentleman from Utah (Chairman HANSEN), the chairman who is present on the floor today.

It is thanks to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) expediting this bill that we are going to be able to put this in place. We had to have this bill out by the August recess. It was critical. I went to the office of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN). I sat down there with him for a period of time. And his definition, by the way, and the terms of the buffer zone and so on covered in his statement are exactly correct.

But if it were not for his assistance and the assistance of his able staff, there is no way we could have gotten this proposition over to the Senate on a timely basis. So I commend him.

As my colleagues know, it is not just the fact that the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) expedited it, it is also the fact that he incorporated the assistance of the delegation from Utah, including the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON). And the amendment of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), which we see right here, includes wilderness in the State of Utah.

This is an exciting way to go about the preservation and yet preserving the multiple use and not touching Colorado water. This is the way to do it. This is an example for the entire country to follow.

So not taking all the time from my colleagues, I will be happy to yield back to them so they have plenty of time for public, but I do want to publicly acknowledge the entire Colorado delegation. I do appreciate very much the efforts of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and of the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering H.R. 4275, the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000, which seeks to protect and enhance the resources of Grand Ridge Canyons Wilderness Act of 2000, which seeks to protect and enhance the resources of Grand Valley located in Mesa County, Colorado and Grand County, Utah.

H.R. 4275 designates two areas for environmental protection, the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.

The establishment of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the designation of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area will promote and protect unique and nationally important features of the area along the western boundary of the State of Colorado and the eastern boundary of the State of Utah. The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area shall consist of approximately 122,300 acres in Mesa County of the State of Colorado and Grand County in the State of Utah. Within the Conservation Area shall be designated the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Area consisting of approximately 75,550 acres in Mesa County of the State of Colorado and Grand County in the State of Utah.

The diverse lands located within the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area as well as the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness Areas include pinyon juniper and sagebrush mesas to the south with steep red rock canyons cutting into the landscape forming natural arches, caves and alcoves. To the west, the lands include over 5,000 acres of eastern Grand County in the State of Utah, to the north are hills making up the Rabbit Valley. The entire area is bisected by the Colorado River, which helped form the unique features of the surrounding landscape.

The Colorado Canyons area includes tremendous wildlife, scenic, recreational, and paleontological resources which make it worthy of recognition and designation as a National Conservation Area, and portions of it as a Wilderness Area. An additional factor making these lands unique is their proximity to nearby urban centers including Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade.

Central to the landscape as well as the legislation is the Colorado River. The legislation excludes, from both the Wilderness and the National Conservation Area, the area including the Colorado River up to the 100-year high water mark. The Wilderness and Conservation Area along the Colorado River about the Colorado-Utah border, so any claims on the River or its water could have an extremely significant impact on water rights in Colorado. It is for that reason this land up to the 100-year high water mark of the Colorado River was excluded from the Conservation Area and Wilderness.

Also important to the area of the western State of Colorado and eastern State of Utah are traditional western uses of the land, in balance with other uses. Traditional western uses such as ranching are major economic and cultural contributors to western Colorado. The legislation demonstrates an underlying philosophy that a balance among all uses should be sought and can be achieved on the public lands covered by this legislation, and elsewhere on the public lands. As a result, there are several protections to allow reasonable grazing to continue in both the Conservation and Wilderness areas.

Along the mesas of the Black Ridge and Ruby Canyons, as well as in Rabbit Valley, are livestock grazing allotments that provide cattle forage during the late winter and early spring. With the cooperation of the ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management, grazing practices have been adjusted to better work with wildlife needs in the canyons. I stress that

meaningful access to these allotments by the permittees ensures that the base ranches remain viable. Many of these base ranches are located in an area south of Black Ridge Canyons named Glade Park. Glade Park is an agricultural area, and as a viable ranching community has an integral part in the makeup of the local economy. If grazing in the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness was to be curtailed, or meaningful access prohibited, the economic viability of the base ranches could suffer and potentially result in subdivision of these large open spaces of Glade Park into 35 acre ranchettes. There is no way for Mesa County to prevent the 35-acre subdivision under the law of the State of Colorado, so it is vitally important that reasonable access to the grazing allotments be continued to ensure that Glade Park may remain agricultural in nature. I think everyone agrees that it is not desirable for designation of wilderness to impact local land use planning in a way that promotes development where it is not desired.

As a result of the importance of the continued viability of ranching in the surrounding communities, language is included in this legislation to ensure that while the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness is properly protected, so is the agricultural nature of the surrounding communities. Moreover, multiple use is preserved in appropriate areas included within the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area such as Rabbit Valley.

H.R. 4275 is the result of intense work by the local community, the Bureau of Land Management, local cities, Mesa County and the State of Colorado and many others to produce a locally driven and locally supported proposal that recognizes the importance of the area as well as the importance of Colorado's land use priorities. Representative MCINNIS had the opportunity to discuss management of these land with representatives of the Department of the Interior, including the Secretary, on several occasions. Following significant work on a local level to develop a local consensus on the proposal, I introduced H.R. 4275 on April 13, 2000.

Secretary of the Interior Babbitt has indicated that if this legislation fails to be enacted before the Clinton Administration leaves office, he will recommend the President designate this area as a national monument under the Antiquities Act. I ask everyone to recognize that a far preferable alternative is the legislative process which affords everyone the opportunity to review the proposal and to work toward common purposes, in an open and public process.

I would like to make some comments about particular sections of the legislation:

Section 6(d) of the legislation limits off-highway vehicle use to roads and trails designated under the management plan in effect on the date of passage. This subsection allows continued use of motor vehicles in the Conservation Area for emergency and administrative purposes. It is my interpretation that reasonable access in the course of the management of wildlife by the relevant state wildlife officials within the National Conservation Area is an administrative purpose.

Section 6(g) on grazing directs that, in general and except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall issue and administer grazing leases or permits in the Conservation Area and Wilderness in the same manner as on other land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau

of Land Management. Subsection (g)(2) directs the Secretary to administer grazing in the wilderness in accordance with the provisions of section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101-405, which sets out grazing guidelines for the Bureau of Land Management with respect to livestock grazing in wilderness areas. The language from House Report 101-405, H.R. 2570 Appendix A, clearly applies in the case of wilderness established under this Act. It is my expectation that the three permittees who currently use motorized vehicles within the Wilderness Study Area on an intermittent and infrequent basis would be able to continue these same uses at a frequency not exceeding the level established prior to the introduction of this bill. I would strongly request that the Bureau of Land Management would address this use of motorized vehicles in the terms and conditions of the permits held by the three involved permittees.

Section 6(j) permits acquisitions of land or interests in land depicted within the exterior boundary of the Conservation Area or Wilderness by purchase from a willing seller, exchange or donation. No land or interest inland may be acquired without the consent of the owner. Subsection (j)(2) sets out how land acquired under this subsection shall be managed. The boundaries of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area and the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness were drawn so as to exclude private inholdings to the extent possible. Nonetheless, there are several private inholdings within the boundaries of the Conservation Area. Concerned about the potential for development on these lands, I would request that within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Land Management should consult with each owner of non-federal lands within the Conservation Area and the Wilderness to determine which, if any, such owners desire to convey lands to the United States. If any such owner does desire to convey or exchange such lands, the Secretary should take all steps necessary or appropriate to complete the acquisition or exchange, supported by appropriate appraisals, of such lands as soon as possible. I expect that no later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act the BLM could provide Congress and me information regarding the status of its actions taken to acquire or exchange inholdings, together with any recommendations the BLM may wish to make for expediting the acquisition or exchange of inholdings within the Conservation Area.

Section 6(l) deals with water issues important to both Colorado and me. Within that section is important language under subsection (1)(5) which sets the boundaries of the Conservation Area and the Wilderness along the Colorado River at the 100-year high water mark. My intention of setting these borders back to the 100-year high water mark was to ensure that the designation of the Wilderness and the Conservation Area did not impact water rights in any way, including any water quality or instream flow impacts, along the mainstream of the Colorado River. Following concerns raised by some about potential for mining along the River, language was included to withdraw those lands owned by the Federal Government within the 100-year flood plain as designated on the legislation's Map from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal

under the public land laws, the mining laws and laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, subject to valid existing rights. The legislation includes language indicating it does not affect any authority the Secretary may or may not have to manage recreation on the Colorado River, except as any such authority is affected by the requirement that the Secretary follow Colorado procedural and substantive water law. There is nothing in the Act to indicate if and the extent to which the Secretary has authority to manage recreation on the Colorado River, nor should any language be read to establish or serve as a basis for any such authority. This bill was not intended to give the Secretary authority that he may very well not have to regulate recreation on the Colorado River.

Finally, Section 8 of the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Colorado Canyon National Conservation Area Advisory Council to advise the Secretary with respect to the Conservation Area and the Wilderness. The Advisory Council's purpose will be to furnish advice and recommendation to the Secretary with respect to preparation and implementation of the management plan, including budgetary matters, for the Conservation Area and the Wilderness.

The ten council members would be appointed by the Secretary, one of which would be a member of or nominated by the Mesa County Commission, one of which would be nominated by the permittees holding grazing allotments within the Conservation Area or the Wilderness, and one of which would be a member of or nominated by the Northwest Resource Advisory Council. Other members of the Council, residing in or within a reasonable proximity to Mesa County, Colorado, would be named as well. It is my intent when drafting this bill that cities like Denver or Boulder, Colorado, for example, would not be considered to be within a reasonable proximity to Mesa County, although Rifle, Colorado or Grand County, Utah could be considered to be within a reasonable proximity to Mesa County.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank several people who have helped ensure swift passage of this legislation. First and foremost I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska, Mr. DON YOUNG, Chairman of the Resources Committee. His action helped bring this bill to the floor. Alongside Chairman YOUNG is the gentleman from Utah, Mr. HANSEN, who worked with his staff on the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee to get this bill here today. His personal help allowed this bill to be so quickly considered on the Floor of the House. The gentleman from Utah, Mr. CANON, also contributed enormously to this legislation, amending it in subcommittee to include the first BLM wilderness in Utah. I would also like to thank my colleagues from Colorado, Mr. HEFLEY and Mr. TANCREDO and Ms. DEGETTE, who cosponsored this bill. Finally, I would thank the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. MARK UDALL, for all his work with his side of the aisle to get this bill to the Floor.

I would like to close by thanking the Majority Leader, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. ARMEY. He helped with the scheduling of this bill on short notice, and I very much appreciate his work on behalf of the bill and people of western Colorado. I look forward to quick passage in the Senate with the help of Senator CAMPBELL, and signature by the President.

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

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4275, which will designate the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area in Colorado and the Black Ridge Wilderness in both Colorado and Utah.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), has pointed out, enactment of this measure will provide for appropriate, protective management of some very special lands in western Colorado that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. It will also be, I think, by my count, the third bill passed in this Congress to designate additional wilderness in Colorado.

The President has already signed the bill to designate wilderness in and adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park; and I am hopeful Congress will soon complete action, as I know my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), is as well, on the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area in the San Isabel National Forest. We are continuing to make progress in Colorado, and I am proud to be a part of that.

I wanted to take a moment to talk about a number of amendments that were proposed by myself and that were adopted in the Committee on Resources. Taken together, these amendments embody the compromise with regard to the water provisions of the bill and also include a number of technical and conforming changes to reflect the agreements that were worked out among my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), the Department of Interior, and those of us on the committee.

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First, my amendments added provisions regarding the headwaters nature of the Black Ridge lands to make clear the rationale for following the approach of the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act by including an express disclaimer of a Federal reserved water right with respect to the wilderness area. Second, the amendments added language to make clear that the bill will not affect any existing water rights, including those of the United States. Third, the amendments revised the boundary of the NCA and the wilderness along the Colorado River which made it possible to omit language that had been proposed regarding issues that some felt might arise had the boundary been closer to the river itself. Fourth, my amendments added provisions to make clear that the boundary revision will not compromise the ability of the Secretary to properly manage recreational or other uses of public lands adjacent to the river. Finally, my amendments added a provision, similar to that included in the 1993 Colorado Wilderness

Act, to prohibit new water projects in the wilderness area designated by this bill.

These changes addressed most if not all the major concerns of the various Colorado groups, both the environmental groups and those representing other points of view regarding these aspects of the bill. At the same time they left intact the basic balance of the bill with regard to the lands covered by the bill that are now used for livestock grazing.

I want to express my appreciation for the hard work and continued cooperation of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), as well as those of the Department of the Interior and both the majority and minority staff of the committee. Thanks to their efforts, I think the Committee on Resources has been able to achieve an acceptable bill that deserves the approval of the House even if it may not be everything that every party might have desired.

I urge passage of the bill.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS).

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the reason I came back up here again is I did not want to consume all of the time over on that side, but there are a couple of other people that I think it is very important to point out because without their help we would not have gotten this where it is. Their help was fundamental to the passage of this bill as well. That, of course, is the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG). The gentleman from Alaska helped us schedule this thing. He called the committee hearing so that we could have this heard, so that we could meet and have this bill off the House floor and over to the Senate by the conclusion of the period of time in July. The second one, of course, is the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), our majority leader. If it were not for his scheduling and his staff assistance, we would not be able to do this as well.

Finally, I do want to take one final moment and just say once again to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), we had spent a lot of time in his office talking about how important it was that as the country moves in the direction of taking a second look at the national parks and the national monuments, that it was absolutely critical that we put as a basic ingredient of any kind of new direction community input and that we go to the local community and that we do not go, as happened in the State of Utah, with the Grand Escalante.

They actually did not go into Utah. They made the announcement of Arizona and forced upon you something you did not even know was coming down the pike. As the gentleman said,

this is the way that it should be handled and it is the way. It is being handled on a bipartisan basis. As our colleagues in here can see, both Democrats and Republicans from Colorado and Wyoming and Alaska and Texas, we all got together to make this thing work. As much as I am proud of this and the compromise that we were able to engineer, I also want to again publicly knowledge the gentleman from Utah for his contributions and his leadership, frankly, to put together this team, this coalition to make this a successful bill.

Now I know that our colleague, Senator CAMPBELL, is anxiously awaiting to carry this bill through the Senate. He will do a terrific job, and we can all leave these Chambers very, very proud of this accomplishment. Thousands of generations to come will look back at the Colorado canyons and say, boy, whoever did that made a good decision.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the great State of Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) for yielding me this time and a special thanks to my colleague to the West, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS), for working diligently to make sure that this bill became a reality. This has been a real joint effort with the Colorado delegation. This bill is a very meaningful bill to the residents of Colorado. I just want to add my public thanks. It has been great.

Let me talk for a minute about what Black Ridge looks like, because I hiked Black Ridge last summer and was really stunned to see the sublime natural beauty. It is really some of the finest of Colorado's canyon country. Every year, thousands of hikers, hunters, and rafters enjoy the wild canyons, abundant wildlife, and the quiet float down the Colorado River. I have always steadfastly supported the strongest possible protections for the Black Ridge Canyons because they are an outstanding national example of deep sliprock canyons.

The area consists of three major canyon systems, innumerable spires and pinnacles, and the second greatest concentration of natural arches in the Southwest, second only to the beautiful arches, of course, in our neighbor to the West of Utah. Additionally, the Black Ridge Canyons' perennial streams and rich riparian vegetation provide critical wildlife habitat for a variety of species, including bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and bald eagles.

One of the critical reasons that we need to preserve Black Ridge as wilderness now is because of the impinging growth that we are seeing in Western Colorado. What struck me was, just a stone's throw away from Black Ridge, neighbors walk their dogs, people ride their bikes, and everyone is enjoying the beautiful natural beauty of Western Colorado. But if we do not act now,

and why I am so glad my colleague to the west has brought this legislation forward now, we run the risk of having humanity overwhelm these beautiful natural canyons.

The thing that strikes me and the thing I think about a lot, while we have these growth pressures in Colorado and throughout the western United States, we also have many, many areas that still deserve wilderness protection in the West. Not every natural area, not every Federal land deserves protection; but there are many areas with unique wilderness characteristics like Black Ridge which still exist. That is why I was pleased last year when I announced the Colorado Wilderness Act, H.R. 829, to include Black Ridge and 48 other areas in Colorado as unique and deserving wilderness characteristics.

The lands on both sides of the Colorado River in the proposed national conservation area and the river itself as it goes through contain a wide array of unique natural features that deserve increased protection. The combination of the national conservation area and wilderness is appropriate in this bill, and I am pleased to see that H.R. 4275 includes the Colorado River and all lands within the 100-year flood plain to be managed as if they were in the NCA. I think it is critical that the river and sensitive riparian areas are managed in a manner that provides the utmost protection for this sensitive and heavily used area.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that the areas in Utah that are contiguous to this are also preserved in the bill.

I sincerely hope, in conclusion, that passage of this bill is the first step in a concentrated, unified effort of the delegation to protect all of the lands in Colorado which deserve wilderness protection.

This picture next to me is not the area we are talking about today, but it is the beautiful Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Study Area that is also included in my legislation. There are 47 other areas besides Black Ridge and Gunnison Gorge which we have in Colorado. While today's legislation provides protection for really the crown jewel of my wilderness bill, there are 48 other areas, beautiful canyons, many of them, that need and deserve protection. I urge Congress to act now. If we pass just one, two or even three of these areas every year, my 6-year-old daughter will be a grandmother by the time we protect all of these lands. More importantly and urgently, the growth that we are seeing in the West will begin to impinge on these critical areas.

Again, I thank my colleague. I think this is a critical step, and I thank him for all of the work he is doing for wilderness preservation in Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I wanted to echo the comments of my colleague from Colorado

and also acknowledge that I am eager to work with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) and the rest of the Colorado delegation as we continue to decide with the input of the local people that the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) has spoken so eloquently about how we might preserve and protect these lands for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of the bill.

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

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

I appreciate the great work that has gone into this by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) and our other colleagues from Colorado. It is an excellent piece of legislation.

It is a great privilege to have in our company Lou Stokes from Ohio, a man that we all have such great respect for and have served with in various positions. I do not know if people realize the many chairmanships that he had, especially the chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. I feel great empathy for anybody who was chairman of that committee as long as he was.

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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275, 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.

ACQUISITION OF THE HUNT HOUSE IN WATERLOO, NEW YORK

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1910) to amend the Act establishing Women's Rights National Historical Park to permit the Secretary of the Interior to acquire title in fee simple to the Hunt House located in Waterloo, New York.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1910

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

SECTION. 1. ACQUISITION OF HUNT HOUSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1601(d) of Public Law 96-607 (94 Stat. 3547; 16 U.S.C. 4101(d)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by inserting a period after "park"; and

(B) by striking the remainder of the sentence; and

(2) by striking the last sentence.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 1601(c)(8) of Public Law 96-607 (94 Stat. 3547; 16 U.S.C. 4101(c)(8)) is amended by striking "Williams" and inserting "Main".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.