

Foundation Fund's 75th Anniversary Celebration, for her 72 years of tireless community service.

IN CELEBRATION OF CRISSY FIELD, SAN FRANCISCO

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Crissy Field stood as an idle monument to its former life as a World War I landing strip. The cracked runway and gray rubble lined San Francisco's shoreline and window to the Bay. Part of a national park within the Presidio's boundaries, it begged for renewal.

After years of effort and an unprecedented philanthropic success on behalf of the Park's Crissy Field restoration, we are now on the verge of celebrating a modern-day Crissy Field that also incorporates its history. While evidence of the landing strip is no longer visible, a rich historic marsh land has been brought back to a state that existed long before aviation.

In two weeks, on May 6, the public will be welcomed to a great celebration of the Crissy Field restoration project. Almost magically, acres of rubble have been transformed into a magnificent public gateway along the Presidio's border. A tidal marsh now exists, surrounded by native plants and a public promenade that stretches for over a mile along the beachfront.

This event, marking the completion of the restoration and the public opening, was born as a concept a few years ago under the partnership of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and the Golden Gate National Parks Association (GGNPA). In a remarkably short period of time, and in a remarkable show of support, this concept has come to life.

Under the leadership of the first GGNPA Chair, Toby Rosenblatt, and now under the continuing excellent leadership of Chair Charlene Harvey, the dream of Crissy Field will be realized. This unique public-private partnership has made it possible to turn a contaminated, abandoned airfield into a conservation prize for our national park system.

This would not have been possible without the vision of these individuals, the many contributors who followed this dream and the significant efforts of Greg Moore, Executive Director of the GGNPA, and Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of the GGNRA. Both Brian and Greg were honored this week by the National Park Foundation for their energy, innovation and enthusiasm in bringing this project to fruition. Greg Moore accepted the National Park Foundation award for "Restoration of Crissy Field" as the recipient of the 2001 National Park Partnership Award in the environmental conservation category.

As the GGNPA Executive Director, Greg spearheaded the philanthropic drive for Crissy Field which raised \$34 million to fund this spectacular restoration of San Francisco's Bay shoreline. The gift of \$18 million from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr., Fund and the Robert and Colleen Haas Fund is the largest ever made to America's national parks. This is a phenomenal accomplishment and one of

which we are very proud in our community. Congratulations to Charlene Harvey, the entire GGNPA Board, the many philanthropic participants and to Greg Moore and an excellent staff for their lasting contribution to our environment.

The Presidio and all of our Golden Gate National Parks are a source of great pride to us and we are pleased that they welcome millions of visitors each year for recreation and renewal. Congratulations to all who have been involved in this spectacular project. It is a testament to the great enthusiasm the public holds for our national parks. It is a testament to the spirit of our San Francisco community and the able leaders who brought this vision to life for us all.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, once again I join my colleagues in remembering those who suffered the tragic events of the Armenian Genocide. Each year, we join the world in commemoration of the Armenian genocide because the tragedy of lost lives through ethnic cleansing must not be forgotten.

The Armenian genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice in the 20th century with more than a million and a half Armenians killed and forcibly deported. As the target of persecution by the Ottoman Turks, Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland and eliminated. To this day, the Turkish government continues to deny that millions of Armenians were killed simply because of their ethnicity.

As an educator, I believe it is critical to emphasize the role education must play in our international community. We must ensure that we do not continue to see actions of racial intolerance or religious persecution, which has led to so many cases of ethnic cleansing. The tragedies of the past two decades including Cambodia, Rwanda and Kosovo attest to this fact. We must, therefore, continue to commit to first teaching our children tolerance.

If we refuse to acknowledge, understand, and vigorously oppose racial and religious intolerance, wherever it arises, we are doomed to repeat the same tragedies again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. I also want to thank the many Armenian-American organizations throughout the nation, and in particular in California, for their tremendous work on behalf of the Armenian-American community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES PEAK WILDERNESS, JAMES PEAK PROTECTION AREA AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREA ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to protect a key part of

the high alpine environment along Colorado's Continental Divide.

The 13,294-foot James Peak is the predominant feature in a 26,000 acre roadless area within the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest just north and east of Berthoud Pass. The James Peak roadless area straddles the Continental Divide within 4 counties (Gilpin, Clear Creek, Grand and Boulder). It is the largest unprotected roadless area on the Northern Front Range. The area offers outstanding recreational opportunities for hiking, skiing, fishing, and backpacking.

I have been interested in wilderness protection for the James Peak area since my election to Congress in 1998. In 1999, I introduced a bill (H.R. 2177) in the 106th Congress that would have designated about 22,000 of the James Peak roadless area as wilderness, including about 8,000 acres in Grand County. This proposal was designed to renew discussions for the appropriate management of these lands that qualify for wilderness consideration.

The bill I am introducing today—the James Peak Wilderness, James Peak Protection Area and Wilderness Study Area Act—is the product of nearly two years of subsequent discussions with county officials, interested groups, and the general public.

The previous bill had broad support. However, after its introduction, the County Commissioners of Grand County—which includes the western side of the James Peak area—expressed some concerns with the proposed wilderness designation for the lands in that county. They indicated that in their view any such legislation needed to make accommodation for any "dispersed recreation" opportunities in the area and needed to address private inholdings. The Commissioners also indicated that the Rollins Pass road should be excluded from wilderness.

I agreed to work with Grand County on these and a number of other issues. We held several discussions, including a public meeting in Grand County. After that, the Grand County Commissioners indicated that they could not "entirely support [H.R. 2177] as presented," and outlined a "James Peak Protection Area" alternative.

The Commissioners' "protection area" alternative did not spell out all details, but its essence was that instead of designation of wilderness there should be designation of a "protection area" that would include the lands in Grand County proposed for wilderness in my previous bill and also an additional 10,000 acres of national forest land. The Commissioners' proposals also would have allowed for a section of high tundra above Rollins Pass along the divide to be open to motorized and mechanized recreation (snowmobiles and mountain bikes).

I gave serious attention to this alternative and also carefully considered the views of a variety of interested individuals and groups who had concerns about it. Based on that, on February 12, 2001, I released a more detailed legislative proposal for public review and comment.

This proposal was based on the Commissioners' "protection area" alternative. It would have designated as wilderness 14,000 acres of the James Peak roadless area in Boulder, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. It also would have designated 18,000 acres in Grand County as a "James Peak Protection Area," and

would have added 2,000 acres (that were encompassed by the Commissioners' "protection area" alternative) to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area (these acres were recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service).

The proposal included language to spell out in more detail the management regime of the "protection area." These provisions (including a ban on hardrock mining, a ban on campgrounds, and a ban on timber cutting) were largely based the management rules for the Bowen Gulch "backcountry recreation" area and the existing "special interest area" Forest Service management under the 1997 Forest Plan. Inclusion of the latter provision was at the request of the Grand County Commissioners.

Following the release of this proposal, I met with the Grand County Commissioners to discuss this proposal and for the option of wilderness for some lands in the Grand County part of the James Peak roadless area. This was a productive meeting. We discussed a number of issues, most of which have been addressed in the bill that I am introducing today. In summary, those issues included:

(1) Prohibiting Motorized and Mechanized Recreation Atop Rollins Pass—Although this area was identified as a possible location for motorized and mechanized recreation in the previous proposal, all agreed (including the snowmobile and mountain bike users) that this area should not be available for such use.

(2) Reopening the Rollins Pass Road—The Commissioners and the users of the Rollins Pass road (also known as the Corona Pass road) indicated an interest in reopening this road for two-wheel drive traffic. Presently, this road is blocked due to the closure of the Needle Eye tunnel and degrading railroad trestles. As a result, a number of motorized recreational users have been creating roads and trails to bypass these blockages. The users of Rollins Pass road indicated that if this road could be reopened, then they would be willing to work with the Forest Service to close these bypasses. The Grand County Commissioners agreed with this suggestion.

(3) The Berthoud Pass Ski Area—The Commissioners expressed an interest in drawing any proposed boundaries near Berthoud Pass to accommodate the existing Berthoud Pass Ski Area's permitted boundary. Everyone agreed that this should be done.

(4) Private Inholdings—The Commissioners expressed an interest in ensuring that the rights of private inholders be preserved.

(5) Forest Service Management—The Commissioners requested that the proposal include specific language indicating that the "protection area" would be managed according to the 1997 Forest Plan. In addition, the Commissioners and recreational users requested that this management be flexible enough to allow the Forest Service to relocate trails, roads or areas in order to address future management issues.

(6) Wilderness Addition to Indian Peaks—The Commissioners expressed support for including the approximately 2,000-acre wilderness addition to Indian Peaks—an area that was "recommended for wilderness" in the 1997 Forest Plan.

(7) Buffer Zone—The Commissioners indicated an interest in considering the inclusion of language that would prohibit the establishment of a restrictive "buffer zone" around the area. This provision would ensure that the ex-

istence of a "protection area"/wilderness area would not lead to managerial restrictions on the lands outside the proposed boundaries.

(8) Telecommunication Opportunities on Mount Eva—The Commissioners also indicated an interest in keeping the top of Mt. Eva open for telecommunication facilities as this area was used in the past for such activity. However, the State Land Board permitted the previous facilities on Mt. Eva as the intention was to site these facilities on the State Land Board section. But the facilities were mistakenly located on Forest Service land. Nevertheless, these facilities were removed when the company went bankrupt. In addition, there are no access roads or services to this area. Given all of these difficulties, it was suggested that other locations for these options may be more appropriate.

(9) Rogers Pass Trail—Members of the public also expressed interest in keeping this trail open and available for mountain bike recreational use. It is unclear whether this trail is in fact open to such use. Nevertheless, the Grand County Commissioners indicated that they would like to pursue the option of allowing such use of this trail.

(10) Prohibition of Land Exchanges—The Commissioners expressed an interest in having the bill prohibit any further land exchanges in the area to prevent further development from encroaching into Forest Service areas.

I reworked my proposal to incorporate these issues. It was my hope that in accommodating these concerns in the bill, that the Grand County Commissioners would reconsider some wilderness protection for the lands in the James Peak roadless area south of Rollins Pass. However, the three Grand County Commissioners were divided on this question (one Commissioner did suggest extending the wilderness boundary westwards over the Divide and down to timberline in Grand County).

Nevertheless, the Grand County Commissioners did express support for the wilderness addition to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, support for the "protection area" to be managed according to the 1997 Forest Plan and for the adjustments that I had made based on their input. Regrettably, however, they expressed opposition to any wilderness designation now for lands south of Rollins Pass or Rogers Pass.

The Commissioners also indicated a concern that such a designation might have some effect on water rights. I think it is clear that there are no grounds for such concerns. Careful review has convinced me that there are no water rights except those for national forest purposes and no diversion facilities in the portion of the James Peak roadless area south of Rollins Pass. In addition, if any such rights do exist, they would not be extinguished by wilderness designation. Furthermore, as any wilderness designation for this area would be governed by the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act, the courts would be barred from considering any assertion that the designation involved a federal reserved water right. Further, this area is essentially a headwaters area. Wilderness protection would thus ensure that water would continue to flow out of this area—unimpeded—for downstream users and benefits.

The Grand County Commissioners did indicate that they understood and found acceptable the Forest Service's process for periodic review of the way it manages national forest

lands in Grand County. Further, the Commissioners indicated they would not oppose having the Forest Service again review the lands south of Rollins Pass for possible wilderness designation. They indicated that they were aware that the Forest Service had reviewed this area in the past and could have recommended it for wilderness, but did not do so. The Commissioners also indicated that if the Forest Service were to review the area again, they would respect that process.

Accordingly, the bill I am introducing today provides for such a renewed study of these lands. It designates the James Peak roadless lands in Grand County south of Rollins Pass as a "wilderness study area" and directs the Forest Service to re-look at this area for suitability as wilderness. This provision will preserve the status quo on approximately 8,000 acres south of Rollins Pass by keeping this area in its current roadless and pristine state. The bill would require the Forest Service to report its recommendations for these 8,000 acres within three years. It will then be up to Congress to decide regarding the future management of these lands.

This part of the bill also addresses the Roger Pass trail issue—an issue of importance to the Grand County Commissioners and users of this trail. While I believe that this trail should be included in wilderness (it is within the proposed wilderness study area), the bill directs that the Forest Service evaluate whether and to what extent this trail should be managed for mechanized recreational use.

I believe that the bill I am introducing today keeps faith with my commitment to work with local County Commissioners and others. It addresses a majority of the issues that were raised.

These lands are indeed special. They contain a number of high alpine lakes and tundra ecosystems. This area also represents one of the last remaining unprotected stretches of the Continental Divide that comprises the Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop.

With the population growth occurring along the Front Range of Colorado, I am concerned that if we do not protect these special lands for future generations, we could lose a critical resource for future generations. That is why I am introducing this bill and why I will work hard for its enactment into law.

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet that summarizes the main provisions of the bill.

JAMES PEAK WILDERNESS, JAMES PEAK PROTECTION AREA AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREA ACT

Summary—The bill would designate the James Peak Wilderness Area, add to the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, designate a James Peak Protection Area and a James Peak wilderness study area, all within the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado.

Background: In 1999, Congressman Mark Udall introduced the James Peak Wilderness Act (H.R. 2177) which would have designated about 22,000 acres of land in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest as wilderness north of Berthoud Pass and south of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Since then, there have been further discussions with county governments, the Forest Service, and the public. On January 31, 2000, the Grand County Commissioners proposed the alternative of designating lands in that county as a "protection area" instead of wilderness. On February 12, 2001, Congressman Udall released a proposal that was similar to the

Grand County “protection area” proposal. This bill is a refined version of that proposal resulting from discussions with the Grand County Commissioners and other interested parties.

The Lands: The 13,294-foot James Peak is the predominant feature in a 26,000-acre roadless area within the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest just north and east of Berthoud Pass. The James Peak roadless area straddles the Continental Divide within 4 counties (Gilpin, Clear Creek, Grand and Boulder). It is the largest unprotected roadless area on the Northern Front Range. The area offers outstanding recreational opportunities for hiking, skiing, fishing, and backpacking, including the popular South Boulder Creek trail and along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. It also includes the historic Rollins Pass road which provides access for mechanized and motorized recreation in the area.

James Peak is one of the highest rated areas for biological diversity on the entire Arapaho National Forest, including unique habitat for wildlife, miles of riparian corridors, stands of old growth forests, and threatened and endangered species. The area includes a dozen spectacularly situated alpine lakes, including Forest Lakes, Arapaho Lakes, and Heart Lake. Many sensitive species such as wolverine, lynx, and pine marten only thrive in wilderness settings. Adding James Peak to the chain of protected lands from Berthoud Pass to the Wyoming boundary will promote movement of these species and improve their chances for survival.

What the bill does: James Peak Wilderness: The bill would designate over 14,000 acres of the James Peak area in Clear Creek, Gilpin and Boulder Counties as the James Peak Wilderness Area; Indian Peaks Wilderness Area Addition: The bill would add about 2,000 acres in Grand County to the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness area (these acres were recommended for wilderness in the Forest Service's 1997 revised plan); James Peak Protection Area: The bill would designate about 18,000 acres in Grand County as the James Peak Protection Area and provide the following: Forest Service to manage the area consistent with the management directions for this area under the 1997 Forest Plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest; No transfer of federal lands by exchange or otherwise; Forest Service required to designate appropriate roads, trails and areas for motorized and mechanized recreation.

James Peak Wilderness Study Area: The bill would designate about 8,000 acres in the part of the Protection Area generally south of the Rollins Pass Road as a wilderness study area. For these lands, the bill would direct the Forest Service to do the following—study this area and report in three years as to the suitability of these lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness System; meanwhile, manage the study area to preserve its wilderness characteristics; and evaluate whether and, if so, to what extent mechanized recreation (mountain bikes and snowmobiles) should be allowed in the wilderness study area, especially along the Rogers Pass trail.

Fall River Trailhead: The bill would establish a new trailhead and Forest Service facilities in the Fall River basin east of the proposed wilderness area—to be done in collaboration with Clear Creek County and the nearby communities of St. Mary's Glacier and Alice Township.

General provisions: The bill also would: encourage but not require the Forest Service to acquire two non-federal inholdings within the wilderness study area; prohibit the creation of a restrictive buffer zone around the wilderness area, the Protection Area or wilderness study area; direct the Forest Service

to work with the respective counties if the Rollins Pass road is reopened to two-wheel drive traffic.

What the bill does not do: Designate any portion of the James Peak Roadless Area in Grand County as wilderness: The bill would not create wilderness in the James Peak roadless area in Grand County. Instead, it would designate a James Peak Protection Area, subject to use and management restrictions, as proposed by the County Commissioners and within that would designate a wilderness study area.

Restrict Off-Road Vehicle Use Throughout the Area: The bill would prohibit motorized and mountain bike recreation use in the wilderness and wilderness study areas, but would allow this use, consistent with the Forest Service's management directives, in the Protection Area. Furthermore, the bill would require the Forest Service to identify appropriate roads, trails and areas for such use within three years. Such identifications can be revised by appropriate Forest Service processes.

Affect Water Rights: The bill would not affect any existing water rights. In addition, all lands designated by the bill are headwaters areas.

Affect the Berthoud Pass Ski Area: The bill would exclude this Ski Area's existing permitted boundary.

Affect Search and Rescue Activities: The bill would not affect the activities related to the health and safety of persons within the area. Such necessary activities will be allowed, including the need to use mechanized equipment to perform search and rescue activities.

HONORING DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Thomas E. Starzl arrived in Pittsburgh some 20 years ago, and began his legendary work at the University of Pittsburgh. It wasn't long after that the city became a world renowned Mecca for organ transplantation. Since his arrival, more than 11,300 organ transplants have been performed at the University—an accomplishment unmatched by any other program in the world. These transplants represent the thousands of lives that Dr. Starzl touched, and the true magnitude of his contribution to medicine. Like Dr. Starzl himself, many of these patients are heroes—who even in their death taught invaluable lessons that have advanced the field of organ transplantation for the betterment of all mankind. Today, we think nothing of replacing organs that have failed. But if it weren't for the trailblazing efforts of Dr. Starzl, which have spanned more than four decades ago, we would not be standing here in celebration of life—indeed thousands and thousands of lives.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Dr. Starzl's first liver transplant in Pittsburgh, a milestone that spawned two decades of major advances by Dr. Starzl and University of Pittsburgh faculty. Their work sparked clinical and research activity of immense importance to the medical community. Countless numbers of surgeons and researchers have come to Pittsburgh from around the world to learn from the work of Dr. Starzl. Surgeons returned to their home institutions with newly forged skills to offer patients life-saving services. Research

scientists went back into the laboratories, challenged by Dr. Starzl's own quest to answer some of medicine's most challenging questions.

On April 27, Dr. Starzl's former students and colleagues will pay tribute to him as he enters emeritus status at the University of Pittsburgh. It will be a celebration much to Dr. Starzl's liking—an academic gathering in order to share important scientific information.

Dr. Starzl is a true pioneer who has transformed the world of medicine. Since that day in 1963 when he performed the world's first liver transplant at the University of Colorado, he has been at the forefront of the heroic and life-saving advancements that are continually being made in the medical community. His work will have a lasting influence on the field of organ transplantation, and the world of medicine as a whole. Dr. Starzl continues to inspire a new generation of medical pioneers, and serves as an example of what determination and passion and for one's work can achieve. So we honor you today, Dr. Starzl, for your life's work. We thank you for your passion, which has touched so many lives, and surely will touch many, many more.

HONORING O.D. MCKEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, Many folks would have turned a little faint at the thought of trying to start a business during the depths of the Great Depression in the 1930s.

But not O.D. McKee.

“O.D.” as he was known to his many friends and admirers, believed that he could be successful in the baking business. And he and his wife, Ruth, were not afraid to work hard.

Together they built a small bakery into a giant business with 5,000 employees and plants in three states. I am proud that O.D. and Ruth McKee, who died in 1995 and 1989, were citizens of the 3rd District of Tennessee. And I am very thankful that their company, McKee Foods Corporation, headquartered in Collegedale, TN, near Chattanooga, continues to be an important and vibrant corporate citizen of the 3rd District.

It is entirely fitting that the company has dedicated the O.D. McKee Conference Room at the company's plant in Collegedale.

The McKees and their family typify the values of people who are successful as business leaders—and human beings—in America. They had dreams, drive and determination as they built McKee Foods and its “Little Debbie” Snack cakes and other products into internationally recognized symbols of quality.

In the early years, the company operated out of a plant on Main Street in Chattanooga. But later, the McKees sold out and moved to Charlotte, N.C., and began another operation there. “O.D.” personally designed that plant, which contained many innovations that put it well ahead of its time. In the 1950s, the McKees repurchased the Chattanooga business from Ruth's brother. In 1960, they introduced the “Little Debbie” brand.

Their operations were—and are—a model for what a good company should be. O.D. and