

County Water Conservancy District, and the Utah Division of State Parks, together with local leaders and stakeholders, teamed up to identify necessary recreational opportunities, programs and facilities in the Sand Hollow area near the City of St. George. In May, 2001, these agencies completed a cooperative management plan based on public input and involvement.

The Sand Hollow Area Recreation Management Plan envisions the development of two campgrounds, a full-service marina, a group campground, and four separate day-use pavilions to draw recreationists to a centralized location with diverse recreational opportunities. These facilities are essential to the success of this area, which has the potential to become the predominant recreation area in the region. The recreation area will thus serve as a buffer to urban growth in the St. George area.

The plan divided the initial funding equally between the three agencies, equating to a one-time share of \$2.5 million for the Bureau of Land Management. These funds, together with the State and water district funds, will be used to implement the plan and construct the necessary facilities. This bill authorizes the Bureau of Land Management share of these one-time initial costs to the project. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3848.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3848 is sponsored by the esteemed chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN). The bill was introduced just last month and was reported from the Committee on Resources with no hearings. As such, we have limited information on the proposal.

As the gentleman explained, the bill authorizes the Bureau of Land Management to make a grant to the State of Utah in the amount of \$2.5 million for the development and construction of recreational and visitor facilities at a State recreational area in Washington County, Utah.

While the local BLM may have indicated their willingness to help fund this project, the agency lacks the authority to spend Federal funds on facilities on State lands.

However, we would not object to consideration of H.R. 3848 by the House today. The bill is solely an authorization and should not be construed as establishing a precedent for other requests for Federal funds.

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

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. 3848.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, PUBLIC LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2937) to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a shooting range, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2937

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

#### SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Las Vegas area has experienced such rapid growth in the last few years that traditional locations for target shooting are now too close to populated areas for safety;

(2) there is a need to designate a centralized location in the Las Vegas Valley where target shooters can practice safely; and

(3) a central facility is also needed for persons training in the use of firearms, such as local law enforcement and security personnel.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to provide a suitable location for the establishment of a centralized shooting facility in the Las Vegas Valley; and

(2) to provide the public with—

(A) opportunities for education and recreation; and

(B) a location for competitive events and marksmanship training.

(c) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to Clark County, Nevada, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (d).

(d) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—The parcels of land to be conveyed under subsection (c) are the parcels of land that are described as follows:

(1) Approximately 320 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in S½, sec. 25, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(2) Approximately 320 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in S½, sec. 26, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(3) Approximately 320 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in S½, sec. 27, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(4) Approximately 640 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in sec. 34, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(5) Approximately 640 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in sec. 35, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(6) Approximately 640 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, in sec. 36, T. 18 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(e) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The parcels of land conveyed under subsection (c)—

(A) shall be used by Clark County for the purposes described in subsection (b) only; and

(B) shall not be disposed of by the county.

(2) REVERSION.—If Clark County ceases to use any parcel for the purposes described in subsection (b)—

(A) title to the parcel shall revert to the United States, at the option of the United States; and

(B) Clark County, Nevada, shall be responsible for any reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to the United States.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) RELEASE OF LAND.—The Congress—

(1) finds that the parcels of land conveyed under subsection (c), comprising a portion of the Quail Springs Wilderness Study Area, NV-050-411, managed by the Bureau of Land Management and reported to the Congress in 1991, have been adequately studied for wilderness designation under section 603 of the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782); and

(2) declares that those parcels are no longer subject to the requirements contained in subsection (c) of that section pertaining to the management of wilderness study areas in a manner that does not impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness.

(h) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require that Clark County, Nevada, pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents of and transfer of title to property under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) 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. 2937, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) would provide for the conveyance of certain public lands in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a regional public shooting range.

Unprecedented residential growth over the past 20 years in and around the city of Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, has forced a number of shooting ranges to close. Those few shooting ranges that remain are close to being in violation of local ordinances that prohibit the discharge of firearms in or near residential areas.

Mr. Speaker, to address this matter, H.R. 2937 authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey approximately 2,880 acres of public lands to Clark County, Nevada, for the creation of a regional public shooting range. The actual usable land for the shooting range will be approximately 1,400 acres. The balance would go towards a buffer zone for the west and south sides of the range. This new public facility would provide users, archery, trap, skeet, rifle and pistol, and air pellets, with a safe location for competitive events and marksmanship training as well as opportunities for education and recreation. The new shooting range will also be utilized by city and county police departments.

The bill includes revision language should Clark County, Nevada, cease to use the land as prescribed. In addition,

release language is included which declares the land conveyed has been adequately studied for wilderness designation under the Federal Land Management Policy Act; and once it is conveyed to Clark County, Nevada, the land is no longer subject to FLPMA requirements. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2937, as amended.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2937, sponsored by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), would convey 4.5 square miles of Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, to Clark County, free of charge.

The acreage in question is currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Quail Springs Wilderness Study Area, and the legislation releases the land from WSA status.

The purpose of the legislation is to provide a centralized firearms training facility and shooting range in the Las Vegas Valley. Among other effects, the rapid population expansion which has taken place in the valley has created a dangerous situation whereby once rural activities such as firearms practice, is now taking place in close proximity to populated areas. This transfer will allow development of a safe facility for these activities, with a sufficient buffer area.

While such a transaction raises several concerns, not the least of which is the status of this land as a wilderness study area, we do not intend to oppose this measure. The administration supports H.R. 2937, and a companion bill has been introduced by the majority whip, Senator HARRY REID of Nevada. We commend our colleague on this legislation.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), the author of this legislation.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing H.R. 2937 to be considered here today. I would further like to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), for expediting passage of this legislation in the Committee on Resources.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2937 is a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public lands in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a public shooting range. This legislation enjoys strong bipartisan and bicameral support from our Nevada delegation.

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Nevada Senators HARRY REID and JOHN ENSIGN have introduced a com-

panion bill in the United States Senate, and this legislation enjoys support from the administration as well.

For 15 consecutive years, Nevada has had the fastest growing population of any State. For 20 years, Clark County, Nevada has been the fastest growing county, with the majority of that growth taking place in the Second Congressional District. Accommodating that growth and meeting its challenges is something that I often discuss before this body.

Nevadans take great pride in the outdoor recreational opportunities that our great State has to offer. Unfortunately, Nevada has 87 percent publicly owned lands, which means that most of the recreation must take place on our public lands. Regardless, protecting the multiple use of our lands in Nevada is very important to our citizens.

The legislation before us today helps accommodate another longtime recreational favorite in Nevada, target shooting. H.R. 2937 will designate approximately 2,800 acres of public land north of Las Vegas to be used as a permanent shooting range. About half of the 2,800 acres will actually contain the shooting range, with the other 1,400 acres serving as a required buffer zone to ensure public safety. This new shooting facility will not only provide the public with a safe place to shoot, it will serve as a training facility for our law enforcement personnel in southern Nevada.

This legislation also includes rever- sionary language should Clark County cease to use the land as prescribed in this bill. Further, the 2,800 acres is currently designated a wilderness study area by the BLM. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the BLM has adequately studied this land and determined that it is not suitable for wilderness area designation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, release language is included that declares the land conveyed has been adequately studied for wilderness designation under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, or FLPMA as it is known.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a simple land conveyance. It makes good sense. H.R. 2937 is supported by our law enforcement personnel, Clark County, and the public at large. Again, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for this opportunity. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). 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. 2937, 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.

## BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2002

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3958) to provide a mechanism for the settlement of claims of the State of Utah regarding portions of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located on the shore of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3958

*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 "Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Settlement Act of 2002".*

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds the following:*

(1) *The Secretary of the Interior and the State of Utah have negotiated a preliminary agreement concerning the ownership of lands within the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located in Bear River Bay of the Great Salt Lake, Utah.*

(2) *The State is entitled to ownership of those sovereign lands constituting the bed of the Great Salt Lake, and, generally, the location of the sovereign lands boundary was set by an official survey of the Great Salt Lake meander line.*

(3) *The establishment of the Refuge in 1928 along the shore of the Great Salt Lake, and lack of a meander line survey within the Refuge, has led to uncertainty of ownership of some those sovereign lands.*

(4) *In order to settle the uncertainty concerning the sovereign land boundary caused by the gap in the surveyed Great Salt Lake meander line within the Refuge, the Secretary and the State have agreed to the establishment of a fixed sovereign land boundary along the southern boundary of the Refuge and the State has agreed to release any claim to the lake bed above such boundary line.*

(5) *The Secretary and the State have expressed their intentions to establish a mutually agreed upon procedure to address the conflicting claims to ownership of the lands and interests in land within the Refuge.*

### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

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

(2) *REFUGE.*—The term "Refuge" means the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge located in Bear River Bay of the Great Salt Lake, Utah.

(3) *AGREEMENT.*—The term "agreement" means the agreement to be signed by the Secretary and the State to establish a mutually agreeable procedure for addressing the conflicting claims to ownership of the lands and interests in land within the Refuge.

(4) *STATE.*—The term "State" means the State of Utah.

### SEC. 4. REQUIRED TERMS OF LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT, BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE, UTAH.

(a) *SPECIFIC TERMS REQUIRED IN AGREEMENT.*—The Secretary shall not enter into an agreement with the State for the quitclaim or other transfer of lands or interests in lands within the Refuge unless the terms of the agreement include each of the following provisions:

(1) *Nothing in the agreement shall be construed to impose upon the State or any agency of the State any obligation to convey to the United States any interest in water owned or controlled by the State, except upon appropriate terms and for adequate consideration.*

(2) *Nothing in the agreement shall constitute admission or denial of the United States claim to a Federal reserved water right.*

(3) *The State shall support the United States application to add an enlarged Hyrum Reservoir, or another storage facility, as an alternate place of storage under the Refuge's existing*