

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 418 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Akaka	Dodd	McCain
Alexander	Dole	McConnell
Allen	Dorgan	Mikulski
Baucus	Durbin	Miller
Bayh	Ensign	Murkowski
Bennett	Feingold	Murray
Biden	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Graham (FL)	Pryor
Boxer	Grassley	Reed
Breaux	Harkin	Reid
Byrd	Hatch	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hollings	Santorum
Cantwell	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Jeffords	Sessions
Chambliss	Johnson	Shelby
Clinton	Kohl	Smith
Cochran	Landrieu	Snowe
Coleman	Lautenberg	Specter
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Conrad	Levin	Stevens
Corzine	Lieberman	Talent
Daschle	Lincoln	Voinovich
Dayton	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden

NAYS—17

Allard	Enzi	Kyl
Brownback	Frist	Nickles
Bunning	Graham (SC)	Roberts
Craig	Gregg	Sununu
Crapo	Hagel	Thomas
Domenici	Inhofe	

NOT VOTING—5

Burns	Edwards	Kerry
Cornyn	Kennedy	

The amendment (No. 2026) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a letter addressed to the two leaders from a number of sports organizations and conservation organizations regarding the adoption of the compromise amendment to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION; BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB; CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION; DUCKS UNLIMITED; FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP; INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES; MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRUST; NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION; NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION; NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION; ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION; RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY; SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL; TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION; THE CARBON FUND; U.S. SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE; AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE.

October 29, 2003.

Hon. BILL FRIST, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FRIST AND SENATOR DASCHLE: The organizations listed above represent hunters, anglers, natural resource professionals and others that share a strong interest in traditional conservation values and America's fish and wildlife resources. We appreciate Senate deliberations to date on legislation to enhance the health of our nation's forests and associated fish and wildlife resources. We support the bipartisan compromise amendment to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (H.R. 1904).

A lack of active forest management has contributed significantly to unhealthy conditions on many of our nation's public and private forestlands. The unnaturally high risk of catastrophic wildfires and large-scale insect and disease outbreaks place rural communities at risk and seriously threaten watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats.

Again, we urge the Senate to pass the compromise amendment to H.R. 1904. Another Congress must not be allowed to adjourn without action on proposals to facilitate forest health restoration.

Thank you for your time.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, this letter, and many others like it, indicates overwhelming support around the country for the compromise we adopted today.

We made good progress in dealing with the bill. Tomorrow we will have another opportunity to consider amendments. I ask all Senators who have amendments to offer to this bill to please let us know about the amendments. Give us copies tonight so we can look at them and be prepared to act expeditiously on the amendments so we can finish this bill tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, very briefly, I support Chairman COCHRAN in his request. We have been working on this legislation, in effect, for more than 4 years. It is now particularly timely, obviously, because of the events in California.

Many of the amendments, at least those we have been told about, are coming from my side of the aisle. I ask colleagues—I know Senators have strong feelings on this—if they could present them to the staffs tonight—Senator COCHRAN's staff, Senator HARKIN's staff. Myself and others are avail-

able to work through the evening with Senators who have amendments because we very much would like to finish it tonight.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to heed what the chairman has said: If possible, get it to us tonight.

I thank you and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, and another unanimous consent request by my colleague from Kentucky, that we then proceed to the consideration of S. 139, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding Senator FRIST and Senator DASCHLE have agreed there would be 3 hours of debate on that matter tonight and 2 hours tomorrow, so I would ask the leader to modify his request accordingly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, first of all, let me make a couple comments about tonight's and tomorrow's schedule to make it clear.

First of all, the understanding is 3 hours tonight on the climate change bill and then 2 hours in the morning. To put everything in perspective, because we are dealing with about four different issues now on the floor of the Senate—it has worked very well, and I appreciate the consideration and cooperation of everybody, because to some it might look confusing in terms of the order and the sequencing of what we are doing. We made huge progress today on the Healthy Forests legislation we have been working on now for the last 6 hours. The managers have done a superb job. We have traction. We have had a number of amendments, and we will continue on that later tomorrow.

We will have no more votes tonight. We will move, as I just mentioned, to the climate change bill, with the 3 hours tonight, 2 hours tomorrow.

Tomorrow we will have debate and then an early cloture vote on the Pickering nomination at about 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

We will then resume the climate change bill for 2 hours.

Then we will return to the Healthy Forests legislation. Once we return to the Healthy Forests bill, I expect we will be able to finish that bill.

Following that—Members can refer to the unanimous consent request by my colleague—the plan will be to return at that point in time to foreign operations that we will be able to complete at that juncture. That is the general layout of tonight and tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Before the majority leader goes to the next item, it is going to be extremely difficult to finish this most important bill tomorrow. Senator WYDEN has worked so hard on this with others. Senator BOXER, Senator FEINSTEIN, a number of other people on our side of the aisle have worked very hard. We are going to send out a hotline in the morning to find out what amendments are around. We already have some knowledge of the amendments, but it is going to take a lot of cooperation and a lot of people cutting down speeches tomorrow if we are going to finish this bill tomorrow night, which is the desire of the two leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2800

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce to our colleagues and obviously the leader that we have reached an agreement that will allow us to wrap up the foreign operations bill in relatively short order in the next day or two. I am about to propound a unanimous consent agreement that has been agreed to by the other side.

I ask unanimous consent that the only first-degree amendments remaining in order to the Foreign Operations bill be the following, and that they be subject to second-degrees which are relevant to the first: DeWine No. 1966; Feinstein No. 1977; McConnell No. 1970; one McConnell technical, and two McConnell relevant; a Frist relevant; Allard-Feingold-Leahy, Indonesia; Durbin on AIDS; Bingaman on AIDS; two Leahy relevant; Daschle relevant; McConnell-Leahy cleared managers' amendment.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the above listed amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate. Further, I ask unanimous consent that following passage of the bill, the Senate insist on its amendments, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, which will consist of the subcommittee plus Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield the floor.

#### CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Committee on Environment and Public Works is discharged from further consideration of S. 139, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 139) to provide for a program of scientific research on abrupt bankrupt cli-

mate change, to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States by establishing a market-driven system of greenhouse gas tradeable allowances that could be used interchangeably with passenger vehicle fuel economy standard credits, to limit greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and reduce dependence upon foreign oil, and ensure benefits to consumers from the trading in such allowances.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are 3 hours tonight equally divided, which would be an hour and a half for each side. Because of something that happened today in Colorado, I yield up to 7 minutes of our time to the Senator from Colorado, Mr. ALLARD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

#### FIRES IN COLORADO

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oklahoma for yielding.

Today in Colorado we had two fires erupt in the State. One was a grassland fire that probably won't amount to much. The other is a very serious fire that happened north and west of Boulder and Jamestown. We have a school that has been evacuated; 300 people have been evacuated. There is an educational camp in the area that has been evacuated. The reason I bring this to the attention of the Senate at this particular point in time is because Colorado is one of those areas in the western part of the United States where we have a forest/urban interface. That is what the Forest Health Restoration Act is all about, trying to provide a program where we can begin to apply the principles of forest health.

Along the Front Range of Colorado, running all the way from Colorado Springs all the way up into Fort Collins, including Boulder, where this fire has broken out, there are a lot of homes being built into the forest. Of course, if you don't practice good forest health, then they become vulnerable to fires that could erupt.

The significant thing about what is happening today is this is not the fire season for Colorado. The fire season occurs in September, perhaps the first part of September, August, and July. Here we are, just 3 days from the first of November, and we have a fire that is breaking out with serious consequences in Colorado.

This again points out the need for us to move forward with this particular piece of legislation. We need to be addressing this problem immediately in areas such as what we are seeing here in the State of Colorado.

Last year during the peak of the Hayman Fire, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains was covered in a thick blanket of smoke and ash that blocked visibility and dropped ash on surrounding towns and cities, creating a winter-like scene in the midst of a Colorado June. The Hayman Fire was

the largest in Colorado history and cost \$40 million and counting. It burned a little over 137,000 acres, destroyed 133 homes, and 466 outbuildings. The fire burned for 30 days. The Colorado State Forest Service has advised that it will take up to 150 years for the forest itself to be reestablished.

Some people ask, Why does it take so long? We are in a semi-arid area. Vegetation does not grow back rapidly. During the Hayman Fire, 142 subdivisions were evacuated along with 85,000 people.

Wildfires present a major cause of pollution, triggering severe asthma-related breathing problems and commonly causing death. Wildfires are also a major source of pollution. If we take 1 day out of the Hayman Fire, on June 10, 2002, the CO<sub>2</sub> gas emissions from the Hayman Fire surpassed the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all passenger cars operating in the United States on that same day. So this problem with a lot of undergrowth in the forests and trees being infested with beetles and a lot of dead and dying timber has made our forests extremely vulnerable in the forest/urban interface area.

Federal land management procedures are very complex. They should not be so complex that they prevent timely action to address ecological crises on public lands. Forest Service officials have estimated that planning an assessment consumes 40 percent of their time at the national forest level, costing more than \$250 million per year. Although much of this work is important, the officials estimate that improving administrative procedures may allow agencies to redirect up to \$100 million a year from unnecessary planning to actual forest health restoration where it will improve the ecosystem and protect local communities from catastrophic fires which we see erupting today in Boulder County.

The Front Range in Colorado also depends on the mountains to provide drinking water and water for gardens and children. But devastating fires threaten and destroy watersheds that yield this water. Catastrophic blazes consume organic matter in the littler layer of the soil and create a hard pan surface that impedes water penetration.

When water flows over this hydrophobic layer, it carries debris, mud, and causes soil loss, clogging municipal water treatment facilities, affecting water quality, flavoring water with ash, and costing millions to rehabilitate. This is the problem we face today from the Hayman Fire which occurred just a year ago.

In 2002, there were over 88,000 fires that burned 7 million acres. Thousands of structures were burned: 835 primary residences, 46 commercial buildings, and 1,500 outbuildings. The 2002 estimated suppression costs hover somewhere around \$1.6 billion. These unnaturally extreme fires are just one consequence of deteriorating forests and range health that now affects more