

(2) This land has the largest and healthiest fringing coral reef anywhere in the Virgin Islands.

(3) It consists of Caribbean dry forest and pasturelands with considerable cultural resources including both pre-Columbian and post-European settlement.

(4) Castle Nugent Farms contains a large historic 17th century Danish estate house that sits on over 4 miles of pristine Caribbean oceanfront property.

(5) In addition to being an area for turtle nesting and night heron nesting, it is the home for the Senepol cattle breed, a unique breed of cattle that was developed on St. Croix in the early 1900's to adapt to the island's climate.

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms as a unit of the National Park System.

(c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) shall apply to the conduct and completion of the study required by this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2663, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2663, introduced by my colleague on the Committee on Resources, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Castle Nugent Farms, located on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.

I understand that the owners of the Farm, the largest parcel of privately-held land in the U.S. Virgin Islands, are aware of this legislation and support the National Park Study.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2663 is supported by the majority and minority of the Committee on Resources and the administration. I urge adoption of the bill.

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

□ 1430

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, I am very pleased the House is considering my bill, H.R. 2663, to provide for

a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of designating Castle Nugent Farms on my home island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System.

Castle Nugent Farms is a unique 1,350-acre property located on the southeastern shore of St. Croix. It contains natural and cultural resources which could provide an unparalleled insight into the plantation period of the Virgin Islands.

Castle Nugent Farms is presently operated as a cattle ranch by owners who are very interested in preserving and interpreting the natural and cultural resources of the area. I want to take this opportunity to commend Caroline Gasperi and her family for the stewardship of this land for more than 50 years and for her enthusiasm and dedication to this cause.

The owners are justifiably proud of their ranch which contains more than 4 miles of pristine oceanfront with a large and healthy fringing coral reef. The interior of the property consists of Caribbean dry forest and pasture lands with cultural resources from both pre-Columbian and post-European settlement. A large Danish estate house, dating to the 1730s, sits on the property. That house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

At various points in its history, Castle Nugent Farms has been operated as a cotton plantation and a sugarcane plantation. Its current use as a cattle ranch involves raising unique Senepol cattle, a breed which is well-suited to the climate and vegetation of the area.

H.R. 2663 is a noncontroversial bill. The National Park Service has no objections to the legislation, and the property's owners not only support a park study of the site but are enthusiastic about the opportunity to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the farm.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the park study will provide the blueprint by which we can preserve and interpret this unique piece of island history and resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for taking the time to personally communicate with my constituent, Mrs. Gasperi, and for his strong support and for shepherding this bill through the committee. And I thank my colleagues on the Committee on Resources for their favorable consideration of H.R. 2663 and express my wholehearted support for the adoption of this bill by the House this afternoon.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2663.

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.

RIGHT-TO-RIDE LIVESTOCK ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT OF 2004

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2966) to preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2966

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 "Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. USE AND ACCESS OF PACK AND SADDLE ANIMALS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

(a) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LANDS.—Section 12 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) USE AND ACCESS OF PACK AND SADDLE ANIMALS.—

“(1) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide for the management of National Park System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed—

“(A) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

“(B) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

“(C) to create a preference for one recreational use for any unit of the National Park System, without consideration of the stated purpose of the unit.”.

(b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LANDS.—Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) USE AND ACCESS OF PACK AND SADDLE ANIMALS.—

“(1) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall provide for the management of public lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated

areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed—

“(A) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

“(B) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

“(C) to create a preference for one recreational use for any area of the public lands, without consideration of the stated purpose of the area.”.

(c) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM LANDS.—Section 4(d) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5)(A) The Secretary shall provide for the management of System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed—

“(i) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

“(ii) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

“(iii) to create a preference for one recreational use for any unit of the System, without consideration of the stated purpose of the unit.”.

(d) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—Section 15 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1613) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a)” before “REGULATIONS”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) USE AND ACCESS OF PACK AND SADDLE ANIMALS.—

“(1) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall provide for the management of National Forest System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes, and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use. The Secretary may implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands only

after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed—

“(A) to authorize the Secretary to refuse to issue a permit for a new use of pack and saddle stock animals, including use by a commercial outfitter or guide, without complying with applicable resource management plans and planning processes required under this Act or any other provision of law;

“(B) to limit the authority of the Secretary to impose a temporary emergency closure of a trail, route, or area to pack and saddle stock animals or issue special permits; or

“(C) to create a preference for one recreational use for any unit of the National Forest System, without consideration of the stated purpose of the unit.”.

(e) ISSUANCE OF RULES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue final rules to define the meaning of a historical tradition of use of pack and saddle stock animals on Federal lands for purposes of the amendments made by this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2966, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), will preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on our public lands where there is a historical tradition of such use. Mr. Speaker, the claim may be made by some that the bill singles out pack and saddle use and affords it greater consideration than other forms of recreation or commercial use.

I would argue that pack and saddle use has played a far greater historic role on our public lands, particularly in our Western States, than simply recreation. What may be perceived by some today as recreation was a vital part of everyday living throughout our Nation's history. In addition, this bill in no way diminishes the secretary's ability to implement emergency closures or permanent reductions in the use and access of these pack and stock animals after complying with the full public review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2966, as amended, codifies our commitment to access and to preserving one of the most fundamental and truly historic ways to experience our public lands. The bill is supported by the majority and minority of the committee. I urge its adoption.

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, when H.R. 2966 was considered by the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member, offered a very humorous assessment of the legislation. We all enjoyed his statement's abundant use of horse terms. However, behind his humorous words, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) was pointing out there are serious problems with H.R. 2966, and I share the concern raised by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the Bush administration and others that the bill is unnecessary and unwise.

It is not a question of whether there should be pack and saddle animal use on public lands. Many people partake of such use, and there are many places where such use occurs on public lands. No, the real question is whether we should single out and legislatively enshrine a narrow specific recreational use into the missions of the various Federal land management agencies.

No other recreational use, whether historic or not, is enshrined in the Organic Acts of the various land management agencies. H.R. 2966 would bestow on a select group a right not enjoyed by hunters and fishermen, to name just a few. To single out pack and saddle animal use for special consideration upsets the balance that is sometimes necessary between competing uses and resource management.

The underlying problem with the bill is that it directs each land management agency to preserve and facilitate pack and saddle animal use. As the Bush administration testified, conflicts are likely to arise with such a narrow and specific mandate. Further, such a mandate creates a confusing contradiction for land managers when such use is incompatible with the respective land management agency's core mission.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is a single person in this room who believes we should ban pack and saddle animal use of public lands. With or without this legislation, it has been and will remain a recreational option on public lands. Our problem is not with that use but with the singling out of that use for special consideration in the law. When and where such use occurs are decisions best made in resource management plans, not in generic statute.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I am a very proud sponsor of H.R. 2966, the Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2004.

Pack and saddle stock animals were a critical element in many early Americans' livelihood. Today's bill directs the Secretary to provide for the management of public lands to

preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of horse and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas where there is a historical tradition of such use.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final rules to define the meaning of a "historical tradition of use" by pack and saddle stock animals on federal lands.

Defining managed recreation of this historical practice within our national forests is critical in recognizing the cultural contributions and precedent of pack and saddle stock in our public lands above simple recreational use.

I believe that horse and saddle stock hold a unique place in our heritage. We must pass this bill to ensure its historical preservation and continued enjoyment as a national pastime.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional 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 New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2966, 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.

RIVERSIDE-CORONA FEEDER AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3334) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design and construction of the Riverside-Corona Feeder in cooperation with the Western Municipal Water District of Riverside, California, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3334

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

SECTION 1. PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE RIVERSIDE-CORONA FEEDER.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Western Municipal Water District, may participate in a project to plan, design, and construct a water supply project, the Riverside-Corona Feeder, which includes 20 groundwater wells and 28 miles of pipeline in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, California.

(b) *AGREEMENTS AND REGULATIONS.*—The Secretary may enter into such agreements and promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

(c) *FEDERAL COST SHARE.*—

(1) *PLANNING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION.*—The Federal share of the cost to plan, design, and construct the project described in subsection (a) shall be the lesser of 35 percent of the total cost of the project or \$50,000,000.

(2) *STUDIES.*—The Federal share of the cost to complete the necessary planning study associated with the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total study cost.

(d) *IN-KIND SERVICES.*—In-kind services performed by the Western Municipal Water District shall be considered a part of the local cost share to complete the project described in subsection (a).

(e) *LIMITATION.*—Funds provided by the Secretary under this section shall not be used for operation or maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Reclamation Water and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575, title XVI; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1637. YUCAIPA VALLEY REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY RENEWAL PROJECT.

"(a) *AUTHORIZATION.*—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Yucaipa Valley Water District, may participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat impaired surface water, reclaim and reuse impaired groundwater, and provide brine disposal within the Santa Ana Watershed described in the report submitted under section 1606.

"(b) *COST SHARING.*—The Federal share of the cost of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

"(c) *LIMITATION.*—Funds provided by the Secretary shall not be used for operation or maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

"(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000.

"SEC. 1638. CITY OF CORONA WATER UTILITY, CALIFORNIA, WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.

"(a) *AUTHORIZATION.*—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Corona Water Utility, California, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of, and land acquisition for, a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater, including degraded groundwaters, within and outside of the service area of the City of Corona Water Utility, California.

"(b) *COST SHARE.*—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

"(c) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section."

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1636 the following:

"1637. Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Supply Renewal Project.

"1638. City of Corona Water Utility, California, water recycling and reuse project."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3334 sponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is another step towards drought-proofing southern California. It also reduces the region's dependence on imported water supplies.

This important legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to help local planners plan and build the Riverside-Corona Feeder project, which would capture and store water in the wet years to increase firm water supplies through a series of groundwater wells and pumps. This bill would also authorize Federal assistance to the city of Corona, California, for its water recycling and reuse project.

The bill also authorizes the Department of the Interior to help build the Yucaipa Valley Water Supply Renewal Project. Located in the district of the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), this project will include an advanced water filtration system and a brine disposal pipeline to remove salinity, contaminants other organic compounds from the water supply.

All of these projects will help develop much-needed domestic water supplies and reduce over-dependence on imported water while providing limited Federal assistance. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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. 3334 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to design and construct a water supply project, known as the Riverside-Corona Feeder, in Riverside, California.

This legislation also would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in a water reuse project for the city of Corona. Finally, the bill would authorize the secretary to participate in the Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Supply Renewal Project in California.

My colleague on the Republican side has explained the legislation. We have no objection.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3334, 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.