

(2) **PUBLIC MEETINGS.**—A meeting of the Commission shall be open to the public.

(3) **NOTICE.**—Notice of any meeting of the Commission shall be published in advance of the meeting.

(h) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary and the heads of other Federal agencies shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide any information and technical services requested by the Commission to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

SEC. 5. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this Act.

(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of carrying out the management plan on non-Federal land in the Natural Area, the Commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Colorado, a political subdivision of the State, or any person.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall establish procedures for providing notice to the Commission of any action proposed by the State of Colorado, a political subdivision of the State, or any person that may affect the implementation of the management plan on non-Federal land in the Natural Area.

(3) **EFFECT.**—A cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not enlarge or diminish any right or duty of a Federal agency under Federal law.

(c) **PROHIBITION OF ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The Commission may not acquire any real property or interest in real property.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall assist the Secretary in implementing the management plan by carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2) to preserve and interpret the natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of the Natural Area.

(2) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—In assisting with the implementation of the management plan under paragraph (1), the Commission may—

(A) assist the State of Colorado in preserving State land and wildlife within the Natural Area;

(B) assist the State of Colorado and political subdivisions of the State in increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural, historic, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources in the Natural Area;

(C) encourage political subdivisions of the State of Colorado to adopt and implement land use policies that are consistent with—

(i) the management of the Natural Area; and

(ii) the management plan; and

(D) encourage and assist private landowners in the Natural Area in the implementation of the management plan.

SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Commission, in coordination with appropriate agencies in the State of Colorado, political subdivisions of the State, and private landowners in the Natural Area, shall prepare management plans for the Natural Area as provided in subsection (b).

(b) **DUTIES OF SECRETARY AND COMMISSION.**—

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall prepare a management plan relating to the management of Federal land in the Natural Area.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall prepare a management plan relating to the management of the non-Federal land in the Natural Area.

(B) **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall submit to the Secretary the management plan prepared

under subparagraph (A) for approval or disapproval.

(ii) **ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan submitted under clause (i), the Secretary shall—

(I) notify the Commission of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(II) allow the Commission to submit to the Secretary revisions to the management plan submitted under clause (i).

(3) **COOPERATION.**—The Secretary and the Commission shall cooperate to ensure that the management plans relating to the management of Federal land and non-Federal land are consistent.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plans shall—

(1) take into consideration Federal, State, and local plans in existence on the date of enactment of this Act to present a unified preservation, restoration, and conservation plan for the Natural Area;

(2) with respect to Federal land in the Natural Area—

(A) be developed in accordance with section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712);

(B) be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the management plans adopted by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management for land adjacent to the Natural Area; and

(C) be considered to be an amendment to the San Luis Resource Management Plan of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(3) include—

(A) an inventory of the resources contained in the Natural Area (including a list of property in the Natural Area that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, maintained, or acquired to further the purposes of the Natural Area); and

(B) a recommendation of policies for resource management, including the use of intergovernmental cooperative agreements, that—

(i) protect the resources of the Natural Area; and

(ii) provide for solitude, quiet use, and pristine natural values of the Natural Area.

(d) **PUBLICATION.**—The Secretary shall publish notice of the management plans in the Federal Register.

SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATION OF NATURAL AREA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the Federal land in the Natural Area—

(1) in accordance with—

(A) the laws (including regulations) applicable to public land; and

(B) the management plan; and

(2) in a manner that provides for—

(A) the conservation, restoration, and protection of the natural, historic, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of the Natural Area;

(B) the continued use of the Natural Area for purposes of education, scientific study, and limited public recreation in a manner that does not substantially impair the purposes for which the Natural Area is established;

(C) the protection of the wildlife habitat of the Natural Area;

(D) a prohibition on the construction of water storage facilities in the Natural Area; and

(E) the reduction in the use of or removal of roads in the Natural Area and, to the maximum extent practicable, the reduction in or prohibition against the use of motorized vehicles in the Natural Area (including the removal of roads and a prohibition against motorized use on Federal land in the area on the western side of the Rio Grande River from Lobatos Bridge south to the New Mexico State line).

(b) **CHANGES IN STREAMFLOW.**—The Secretary is encouraged to negotiate with the State of Colorado, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and affected water users in the State to determine if changes in the streamflow that are beneficial to the Natural Area may be accommodated.

(c) **PRIVATE LAND.**—The management plan prepared under section 6(b)(2)(A) shall apply to private land in the Natural Area only to the extent that the private landowner agrees in writing to be bound by the management plan.

(d) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the Natural Area is 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) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

(e) **ACQUISITION OF LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may acquire from willing sellers by purchase, exchange, or donation land or an interest in land in the Natural Area.

(2) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Any land or interest in land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be administered in accordance with the management plan and this Act.

(f) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(d)(1)) shall not apply to the Natural Area.

SEC. 8. EFFECT.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) amends, modifies, or is in conflict with the Rio Grande Compact, consented to by Congress in the Act of May 31, 1939 (53 Stat. 785, ch. 155);

(2) authorizes the regulation of private land in the Natural Area;

(3) authorizes the imposition of any mandatory streamflow requirements;

(4) creates an express or implied Federal reserved water right;

(5) imposes any Federal water quality standard within or upstream of the Natural Area that is more restrictive than would be applicable had the Natural Area not been established; or

(6) prevents the State of Colorado from acquiring an instream flow through the Natural Area under the terms, conditions, and limitations of State law to assist in protecting the natural environment to the extent and for the purposes authorized by State law.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 10. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1467), as amended was read the third time and passed.

The title was amended so as to read:

“A bill to establish the Rio Grande Natural Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.”.

EDWARD H. McDANIEL AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 22 LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1521) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada, for the construction of a post building and memorial park for use by the American Legion, other veterans' groups, and the local community, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments, as follows:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 1521

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 “Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 Land Conveyance Act”.

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS.]

【Congress finds that—

【(1) the membership of the American Legion and other nonprofit organizations that represent the veterans’ community in Pahrump, Nevada, has grown immensely in the last 10 years;

【(2) the existing facility used by the veterans community in Pahrump, which was constructed in the 1960’s, is too small and is inappropriate for the needs of the veterans community;

【(3) the nearest veterans facility that can accommodate the veterans community in Pahrump is located more than 60 miles away in the city of Las Vegas;

【(4) the tracts of land that are available for consideration as potential sites for the location of a new veterans facility are not suitable for the facility;

【(5) conveyance of a suitable parcel of land for the facility, which consists of an odd, triangular tract of land bounded on 2 sides by private land and cut off from other public land by a major highway, conforms with the objective of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District 1998 Resource Management Plan by simplifying the land management responsibilities of the Bureau of Land Management; and

【(6) because the intent of the American Legion is to make the facility available to other veterans organizations and the public for community activities and events at no cost, it would be in the best interests of the United States to convey the land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22.

[SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.]**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) POST NO. 22.—The term “Post No. 22” means the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

[SEC. 4. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO EDWARD H. MCDANIEL AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 22.]**SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO EDWARD H. MCDANIEL AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 22.**

(a) CONVEYANCE ON CONDITION SUBSEQUENT.—Not later than [120] 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights and the condition stated in subsection (c) and in accordance with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), the Secretary shall convey to Post No. 22, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (b) is the parcel of Bureau of Land Management land that—

(1) is bounded by Route 160, Bride Street, and Dandelion Road in Nye County, Nevada;

(2) consists of approximately 4.5 acres of land; and

(3) is more particularly described as a portion of the S ¼ of section 29, T. 20 S., R. 54 E., Mount Diablo and Base Meridian.

(c) CONDITION ON USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Post No. 22 and any successors of Post No. 22 shall use the parcel of land described in section (b) for the construction and operation of a post building and memorial park for use by Post No. 22, other vet-

erans groups, and the local community for events and activities.

(2) REVERSION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), if the Secretary, after notice to Post No. 22 and an opportunity for a hearing, makes a finding that Post No. 22 has used or permitted the use of the parcel for any purpose other than the purpose specified in paragraph (1) and Post No. 22 fails to discontinue that use, title to the parcel shall revert to the United States, to be administered by the Secretary.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines that a waiver would be in the best interests of the United States.

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1521), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY CONVEYANCE VALIDATION ACT OF 2003

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (H.R. 1658) to amend the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to validate additional conveyances of certain lands in the State of California that form part of right-of-way granted by the United States to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railway, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment, as follows:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

H.R. 1658

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 “Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act of 2003”.

SEC. 2. VALIDATION OF ADDITIONAL RAILROAD CONVEYANCES, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

Section 4 of the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act (Private Law 103-2; 108 Stat. 5061) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(9) The conveyance entered into between the Central Pacific Railway Company and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company and the Bank of America, as trustee of the last will and testament of Aaron Herschel, recorded September 27, 1945, in volume 942 at page [104] 401 of the official records of the county of San Joaquin.

“(10) The conveyance entered into between the Central Pacific Railway Company and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company and the Tri-Valley Packing Association, recorded November 13, 1957, in volume 2016 at page 149 of the official records of the county of San Joaquin.”.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 1658), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

BIG HORN BENTONITE ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 203) to open certain withdrawn

land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, to locatable mineral development for bentonite mining, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following: (Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

S. 203

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

[SECTION 1. OPENING OF CERTAIN WITHDRAWN LAND IN WYOMING TO LOCATABLE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT FOR BENTONITE MINING.]

【(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsection (c), the land described in subsection (b) shall be open to locatable mineral development for bentonite mining.

【(b) COVERED LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is approximately 40 acres of previously withdrawn land located in Big Horn County, Wyoming, at the sixth principal meridian, T. 56 N., R. 95 W., Sec. 32. E½E½SE¼, adjacent to Pit No. 144L covered by State of Wyoming Mining Permit No. 321C.

【(c) CLOSURE.—The Secretary of the Army may close the land opened by subsection (a) at any time if the Secretary determines that the closure of the land is required by reason of a national emergency or for the purpose of national defense or security.】

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Big Horn Bentonite Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land” means the approximately 20 acres of previously withdrawn land located in the E½ NE¼ SE¼ of sec. 32, T. 56N., R. 95W., sixth principal meridian, Big Horn County, Wyoming.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF MINING AND REMOVAL OF BENTONITE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the withdrawal of the covered land for military purposes, the Secretary may, with the consent of the Secretary of the Army, permit the mining and removal of bentonite on the covered land.

(b) SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall enter into a sole-source contract for the mining and removal of the bentonite from the covered land that provides for the payment to the Secretary of \$1.00 per ton of bentonite removed from the covered land.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Mining and removal of bentonite under this Act shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe for—

(A) the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of the covered land; and

(B) the reclamation of the covered land after the bentonite is removed.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The terms and conditions prescribed under paragraph (1) shall be at least as protective of the covered land as the terms and conditions established for Pit No. 144L (BLM Case File WYW136110).

(3) LAND USE PLAN.—In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Secretary is not required to amend any land use plan under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

(4) TERMINATION OF INTEREST.—On completion of the mining and reclamation authorized under this Act, any party that has entered into the sole-source contract with the Secretary under subsection (b) shall have no remaining interest in the covered land.