

House Resources Committee; and to thank Representative NAPOLITANO for her unyielding support of this bill.

In 1907, Theodore Roosevelt said, "The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem, it will avail us little to solve all others." With your help, Southern California can make significant progress toward improving its water resources management.

I urge approval of this legislation.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 786.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO FACILITATE LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAMS WITHIN CERTAIN UNITS OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 309) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within certain units of the National Park System established by law to preserve and interpret resources associated with American history, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 309

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within those units of the National Park System established by statute to preserve and interpret resources associated with American military history.

SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall carry out a demonstration program that provides that receipts from timber sales shall be retained for expenditure within units of the National Park System from which the timber is removed as part of an approved plan for the restoration or protection of park resources or values.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall permit each of the 24 National Battlefields, National Battlefield Parks, National Military Parks, and National Battlefield Sites in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act to participate in the demonstration

program authorized by subsection (a) if the unit has in place, before the date of the enactment of this Act, a general management plan, cultural landscape plan, or other resources management plan approved pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (43 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), that identifies specific timber for removal for purposes of cultural or historic landscape restoration or fuel load reduction.

(c) USE OF RECEIPTS.—Each unit selected to participate in the demonstration program authorized under subsection (a) shall retain receipts from the sale or disposal of timber removed from that unit. Such receipts shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the following purposes only:

- (1) Landscape restoration within the unit.
- (2) Interpretive services within the unit.
- (3) Eradication of disease, insects, or invasive species within the unit.
- (4) Fuel load reduction within the unit.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that contains the results of the demonstration program authorized under this Act, including—

- (1) a detailed accounting of the receipts generated in each unit by the demonstration program;
- (2) the expenditure by each unit of those receipts; and
- (3) any resource or other impacts, positive or negative, on each participating unit.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

The authority granted to the Secretary in section 2 shall expire 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Many units of the National Park System were established to conserve U.S. military history. All these units have restoration of their historic landscapes as an important management goal. This restoration entails removal of landscape features, including trees, which were not present at the time of the relevant historic event. However, removal of any natural resources from a National Park must be undertaken extremely carefully. In addition, many of these park units report a lack of funding for such work.

H.R. 309, introduced by my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Representative STEVE PEARCE, would create a revenue source for such projects by allowing individual units to retain proceeds from the sale of timber

removed from the unit. Importantly, the legislation is narrowly written as a demonstration project to apply within a defined list of 24 military parks and to prevent any change to existing environmental requirements governing logging on NPS land.

Representative PEARCE has worked tirelessly on behalf of this legislation and is to be commended for his efforts.

We strongly support the passage of H.R. 309, as amended, by the House today.

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

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

I appreciate the comments by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

H.R. 309, introduced by me, would establish an innovative 4-year demonstration program in the National Park Service to improve and expedite landscape restoration programs within 24 units of the National Park System to better preserve and interpret resources associated with American military history.

One of the tenets of the Park Service is to preserve the look of national battlefields as they existed at the time of the conflict. Often this involves removing trees and other woody debris that encroach on sightlines. Under current law, these trees are removed and any funds from their sale are returned to the General Treasury.

As a part of this new program, selected parks would be permitted to retain receipts from any timber sales and use those funds on the respective landscape restoration programs and interpretive services. While this would not involve a lot of money, every little bit helps, especially given the National Park System maintenance backlog.

This noncontroversial bill was favorably reported last Congress by unanimous consent, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 309.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 309, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTHERN NEVADA READINESS CENTER ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 815) to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 815

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 “Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act”.

SEC. 2. NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD LAND CONVEYANCE, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, to the Nevada Division of State Lands for use by the Nevada National Guard between 35 and 50 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act” and dated October 4, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 815, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada, Representative JON PORTER, states that notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, between 35 and 50 acres of land for the use by the Nevada National Guard as a Readiness Center.

The land in question is part of a larger block of lands conveyed to Clark County under a provision of the Public Law 109-263, the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998. These lands comprise part of the Airport Environs Overlay District for McCarran Airport, and Public Law 105-263 required that the land be managed in accordance with airport noise compatibility planning agreements.

Further, the 1998 act specified if land was sold or transferred, it had to be done at fair market value with the proceeds distributed pursuant to the act. H.R. 815 would waive this last requirement. Since the proceeds of the land is for an important public purpose, we believe the waiver is appropriate.

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Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague from Nevada, Representative PORTER, for his work on this legislation. I would note that identical legislation passed the House in the 109th Congress. We support the passage of H.R. 815 and recommend its adoption by the House today.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 815 and yield to the author of the bill, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act conveys land to the Army National Guard for a readiness center that will provide Guardsmen with access to facilities, technology, and equipment needed to ensure proper training and readiness.

Because the Southern Nevada National Guard's force continues to grow, this new facility is crucial. It will better train and prepare our soldiers on the front lines. The center is the first new construction for the Army National Guard in the Las Vegas valley in more than 10 years. The facility will house communications, engineering and medical Guard units. It will include a 200-person theater-style auditorium, distance-learning classrooms, medical examination rooms, a weight room, locker rooms, multiple arms vaults, a kitchen, and a maintenance bay. Soldiers will be able to prepare both physically and technically for missions. In total, between 300 and 400 Guardsmen will train at the armory on a drill weekend.

The center will not only help ensure Nevada will be prepared in the event of a crisis or a natural disaster, but also would help ensure that Guardsmen are fully trained and ready for any contingency as directed by the National Command Authority.

I commend the National Guard soldiers who volunteer to serve at home and overseas in order to keep our country safe. It is incumbent upon us to provide the proper facilities that will ensure these soldiers are well trained and prepared.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working in a bipartisan, bicameral manner in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this important legislation.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 815.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COPPER VALLEY NATIVE ALLOTMENT RESOLUTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 865) to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 865

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 “Copper Valley Native Allotment Resolution Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association” means the Copper Valley Electric Association.

(2) NATIVE ALLOTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Native allotment” means—

(i) each of the following allotments issued under the Act of May 17, 1906 (34 Stat. 197, chapter 2469):

- (I) A-031653.
- (II) A-043380.
- (III) A-046337.
- (IV) AA-5896.
- (V) AA-6014, Parcel B.
- (VI) AA-6034.
- (VII) AA-7059.
- (VIII) AA-7242, Parcel B.
- (IX) AA-7336.
- (X) AA-7552.
- (XI) AA-7553.
- (XII) AA-7554.
- (XIII) AA-7600.
- (XIV) AA-8032; and

(ii) any allotment for which a patent or Certificate of Allotment has been issued under the Act of May 17, 1906 (34 Stat. 197, chapter 2469) across which the Association maintains an electric transmission line on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Native allotment” does not include any allotment to which the Secretary has approved the grant of a right of way or issued a patent or Certificate of Allotment that is subject to a right of way held by the Association.

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

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.

SEC. 3. ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is granted to the Association rights-of-way across the Native allotments for an electric transmission line owned by the Association.

(b) WIDTH.—After considering any information provided by the Association, allottee, or any other source that the Secretary determines to be relevant, the Secretary shall determine an accurate legal description of the rights-of-way, the nature of the rights granted, and the widths of the rights-of-way granted by subsection (a).

(c) CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, this Act does not apply to land owned by Ahtna, Inc. and any prior or current right-of-way agreements that may exist between Ahtna, Inc. and the Copper Valley Electric Association or the State.

(d) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) appraise the value of the rights-of-way granted under subsection (a);

(B) pay to any owner of a Native allotment or, if the owner is deceased, an heir or assign of the owner, compensation for the grant of a right-of-way over the Native allotment in an amount determined under paragraph (2);

(C) issue recordable instruments that indicate the location of the rights-of-way over the Native allotments;

(D) provide written notice of the compensation procedure for the rights-of-way to—