

Indians made a journey to this northernmost outpost of the Chacoan civilization to witness a rare lunar occurrence that they held to be sacred. Chimney Rock is only one of three sites like this in the entire world.

Despite the scarcity of this gem, the Chimney Rock site of the San Juan National Forest has yet to receive a designation worthy of its historical and cultural significance. The area is currently under the management of the U.S. Forest Service and is covered under the USFS Organic Act, which has no provision to be able to address preservation and the management of such a historic and culturally significant area as Chimney Rock.

H.R. 2621, the Chimney Rock National Monument Establishment Act, requires no additional Federal funds, and therefore no increase in spending. It ensures continued access to the area so that local ranchers will be able to utilize the lands that they depend on for grazing, for outdoorsmen to be able to continue to take advantage of the game opportunities in the area, and for members of the Indian tribes to be able to continue the use of Chimney Rock for traditional ceremonies. The bill also allows for continued archeological research and exploration in the area.

In addition to preserving and protecting the site's historical and cultural treasures, the national monument designation will give Chimney Rock the prestige and protection it deserves and elevate it to a status that will increase its exposure to the region and enable it to generate tourism, creating a potential economic boost for the surrounding communities and generating jobs. Without any new spending, making Chimney Rock a national monument will create a win-win situation for this remarkable place, for the local communities, the State of Colorado, Native Indian tribes, and future generations of American.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to be able to sponsor H.R. 2621.

Mr. HEINRICH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEINRICH. I want to applaud the majority for bringing this strong conservation legislation to the House floor today to designate a national monument in Congressman TIPTON's district. There are a number of bills like Congressman TIPTON's waiting for action that would either designate a new national monument or provide designation of a new wilderness area. This includes a bill that I have sponsored to include new areas in the existing Manzano Mountains Wilderness.

Congratulations to Congressman TIPTON for his success in advancing local conservation efforts. I hope that this is the beginning of consideration of similar bills pending before the committee so that we can advance our conservation goals across the Nation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. In closing, may I just say that I want to commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) for taking the time and the effort to put forth a well thought-out and locally supported piece of legislation that designates an area of special significance in the district that he happens to represent. This legislation is an example of the way this type of designation should be done, as opposed to by administrative fiat under things like the Antiquities Act.

I urge the adoption of this measure, 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2621, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AMENDMENT TO THE MESQUITE LANDS ACT OF 1986

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2745) to amend the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986 to facilitate implementation of a multispecies habitat conservation plan for the Virgin River in Clark County, Nevada, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2745

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE MESQUITE LANDS ACT OF 1986.

Section 3 of Public Law 99-548 (commonly known as the "Mesquite Lands Act of 1986") is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by inserting "and implementation" after "development";

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "For a period of 12 years after the date of the enactment of this Act," and inserting "Until November 29, 2020,";

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "Not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection," and inserting "Not later than November 29, 2019,";

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking "the date that is 12 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection," and inserting "the date specified in paragraph (1)(A),"; and

(D) in paragraph (6), by striking "of each parcel" and all that follows through the period and inserting "of each parcel under this subsection shall be deposited into the General Treasury,"; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the" and inserting "The";

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) The approximately 218 acres of land depicted as 'Hiatus' on the map titled 'Mesquite Airport Conveyance' and dated January 13, 2012,";

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "until the date that is 12 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection," and inserting "until November 29, 2020,";

(D) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) REVERTER.—If the land conveyed pursuant to paragraph (1) is not used by the city as an airport or for another public purpose, it shall revert to the United States, at the option of the Secretary, except that the city shall have an exclusive right to purchase such land,"; and

(E) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7) and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) RIGHT TO PURCHASE LAND.—Until November 29, 2020, the City of Mesquite, Nevada, subject to all appropriate environmental reviews, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et. seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.), shall have the exclusive right to purchase the parcels of public land described in paragraph (2) that the Secretary did not convey to the city pursuant to paragraph (1).

"(6) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—The proceeds of the sale of each parcel under this subsection shall be deposited into the General Treasury."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. With that, Mr. Speaker, since this is a significant bill that makes a change that has been long overdue, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK. I rise in support of H.R. 2745, legislation amending the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986. The original Mesquite Lands Act provided the city of Mesquite, Nevada, the exclusive right to purchase, at fair market value, certain Federal land under the control of the Bureau of Land Management. As the city is landlocked by public lands and was the fastest growing city in the country for much of the 1990s, this legislation was amended in 1996 to allow the city to purchase additional Federal lands to ensure the city of Mesquite could continue to grow and prosper. In 1999, Congress passed the latest Mesquite Lands Act amendment with the specific purpose of providing land to construct a commercial airport and to provide more room for commercial and

industrial development to, again, meet future demands for a rapidly growing tourism industry.

In 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Mesquite Lands Act Biological Opinion, which promulgated certain terms and conditions associated with the land sale. A key term contained in the opinion is a mandate that the city participate in the development and implementation of a Habitat Conservation and Recovery Plan and a Hydrologic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan along the Virgin River.

In response to this opinion, Congress made a technical amendment to the act within the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 that set aside a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each parcel for the "development" of the Recovery Plan and the Hydrologic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. It is apparent that during the process language allowing for the "implementation" of these plans was inadvertently omitted from this amendment. Other land acts, such as the Lincoln and White Pine County Lands Act, clearly state that funds shall be expended on development and implementation of multispecies habitat conservation plans. I believe the same process should be applied to the Mesquite Lands Act.

H.R. 2745 is a legislative clarification regarding the special funds allowing for both the development and implementation of the Habitat Conservation and Recovery Plan and the Hydrologic Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. This is consistent with other plans in Nevada, and the same process should be applied to the city of Mesquite.

In addition to the clarification for the Habitat Conservation and Recovery Plan, there's an issue regarding the timing of the land sales identified in the 1999 amendment that is also addressed in H.R. 2745. The legislation originally gave the city of Mesquite 12 years to purchase the land from the date of enactment. However, due to severe economic conditions that continue to plague southern Nevada, along with a delay of the environmental impact statement for the airport site, the city is not in a position to purchase the final sections of property at this time, and therefore was not able to make this deadline. H.R. 2745 provides for an extension of an additional 8 years to allow economic conditions to improve.

In closing, I would again like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, as well as the Natural Resources Committee Staff, for working with me on moving this legislation forward. H.R. 2745 will allow the city of Mesquite to continue to control the path of its future expansion and economic development, as well as correct an oversight in prior legislation.

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

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, this legislation allows the city of Mesquite, Nevada, to continue acquiring certain lands from the Federal Government for its commercial airport.

Under the original 1986 legislation, some receipts from the sale of Federal lands would be retained to fund habitat improvements along the Virgin River within Clark County. As amended, H.R. 2745 directs the proceeds from the land sales to the Treasury, thus leaving the habitat work unfunded.

While the conservation work is important and deserves funding, we do not object to this legislation.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Authored by Congressman HECK, H.R. 2745 was amended by the Natural Resources Committee and is further amended today to ensure that there is no cost to the taxpayer. This will treat all proceeds from land sales uniformly and, again, at no cost to the taxpayer.

So I urge adoption of this measure, 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2745, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BLACK HILLS CEMETERY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3874) to provide for the conveyance of eight cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3874

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 "Black Hills Cemetery Act".

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCES, CERTAIN CEMETERIES LOCATED IN BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH DAKOTA.

(a) CEMETERY CONVEYANCES REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the local communities in South Dakota that are currently managing and maintaining certain community cemeteries (as specified in subsection (b)) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to—

(1) the parcels of National Forest System land containing such cemeteries; and

(2) up to an additional two acres adjoining each cemetery in order to ensure the conveyances include unmarked gravesites and allow for expansion of the cemeteries.

(b) PROPERTY AND RECIPIENTS.—The properties to be conveyed under subsection (a), and the recipients of each property, are as follows:

(1) The Silver City Cemetery to the Silver City Volunteer Fire Department.

(2) The Hayward Cemetery to the Hayward Volunteer Fire Department.

(3) The encumbered land adjacent to the Englewood Cemetery (encompassing the cemetery entrance portal, access road, fences, 2,500 gallon reservoir and building housing such reservoir, and piping to provide sprinkling system to the cemetery) to the City of Lead.

(4) The land adjacent to the Mountain Meadow Cemetery to the Mountain Meadow Cemetery Association.

(5) The Roubaix Cemetery to the Roubaix Cemetery Association.

(6) The Nemo Cemetery to the Nemo Cemetery Association.

(7) The Galena Cemetery to the Galena Historical Society.

(8) The Rockerville Cemetery to the Rockerville Community Club.

(9) The Cold Springs Cemetery (including adjacent school yard and log building) to the Cold Springs Historical Society.

(c) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—Each conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the recipient accept the conveyed real property in its condition at the time of the conveyance.

(d) USE OF LAND CONVEYED.—The lands conveyed under subsection (a) shall continue to be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as they were immediately prior to their conveyance under this Act.

(e) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of each parcel of real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey for a particular parcel shall be borne by the recipient of such parcel.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to Mrs. NOEM of South Dakota, the sponsor of this bill, who has worked so hard and has done such a great job on it, to explain this commonsense bill.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.