

With over one-third of the land in New Mexico under Federal ownership, it is often difficult for local communities to find appropriate sites for educational and recreational purposes. This bipartisan legislation will overcome this hurdle by conveying surplus Federal lands to San Juan College.

The college would pay for all lands to be conveyed in accordance with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and would use the site for educational and recreational purposes. In the event that the land ceased to be used for such purposes, it would revert to the United States.

According to Dr. James C. Henderson, president of San Juan College, "San Juan College has grown to be the fourth largest college in New Mexico. The college serves the people of the northwest quadrant of the State in numerous ways, by providing business and industrial training, life-long learning opportunities, and various academic and technical degree programs."

The transfer of the Old Jicarilla Site to San Juan College would allow the college to better serve the surrounding community by offering new programs that meet the needs of that community. In addition, the facilities would be available to other civic organizations, such as the Scouts and the Boys and Girls Club.

This legislation creates a situation in which the Federal Government, the State of New Mexico, the people of San Juan County, and, most importantly, the students and faculty of San Juan College, all benefit.

I would like to thank Dr. Henderson, Ms. Marjorie Black, his executive assistant, and the staff of San Juan College, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management for their hard work directed towards making this transfer a reality.

In addition, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) for her work, as well as my New Mexico colleagues in the Senate, Senator BINGAMAN, and, in particular, Senator DOMENICI for beginning this effort in the last Congress and continuing his efforts again in this Congress. I thank Members for their consideration in this matter.

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to ask my colleagues to pass Senate 293, the Old Jicarilla Site Conveyance Act of 1999. It does allow the college to be able to administer a piece of unwanted land that is now owned by the Federal Government.

For those who do not live in the Rocky Mountain West, you might think, well, gosh, why is no other land available? But in San Juan County, 90 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government, which is why a piece of legislation like this is needed.

This bill passed the Senate in the last Congress but did not pass the House before we went to adjournment. It is a very simple bill and it is just something that is part of the routine business that we have to do and need to get done.

I want to thank my colleagues for their work on this, particularly the gentleman from northern New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), Senator PETE DOMENICI, and Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, who sponsored this in the Senate and passed it last year. With your assistance, we will pass it and make it possible for San Juan College to continue the great education that it provides to so many New Mexicans.

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

Mr. SAXTON. 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 New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 293.

The question was taken.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT OF 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 323) to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 323

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 Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument was established for the preservation of its spectacular gorges and additional features of scenic, scientific, and educational interest;

(2) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent upland include a variety of unique

ecological, geological, scenic, historical, and wildlife components enhanced by the serenity and rural western setting of the area;

(3) the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and adjacent land provide extensive opportunities for educational and recreational activities, and are publicly used for hiking, camping, and fishing, and for wilderness value, including solitude;

(4) adjacent public land downstream of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has wilderness value and offers unique geological, paleontological, scientific, educational, and recreational resources;

(5) public land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument contributes to the protection of the wildlife, viewshed, and scenic qualities of the Black Canyon;

(6) some private land adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument has exceptional natural and scenic value that would be threatened by future development pressures;

(7) the benefits of designating public and private land surrounding the national monument as a national park include greater long-term protection of the resources and expanded visitor use opportunities; and

(8) land in and adjacent to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Gorge is—

(A) recognized for offering exceptional multiple use opportunities;

(B) recognized for offering natural, cultural, scenic, wilderness, and recreational resources; and

(C) worthy of additional protection as a national conservation area, and with respect to the Gunnison Gorge itself, as a component of the national wilderness system.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "Conservation Area" means the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 57,725 acres surrounding the Gunnison Gorge as depicted on the Map.

(2) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge NCA—1/22/99". The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Department of the Interior.

(3) PARK.—The term "Park" means the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park established under section 4 and depicted on the Map.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in the State of Colorado as generally depicted on the map identified in section 3. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument is hereby abolished as such, the lands and interests therein are incorporated within and made part of the new Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and any funds available for purposes of the monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Upon enactment of this title, the Secretary shall transfer the lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management which are identified on the map for inclusion in the park to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4), and the Act