

(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local governments, together with many private landholders, recognized the Washoe people as indigenous people of Lake Tahoe Basin through a series of meetings convened by those governments at 2 locations in Lake Tahoe;

(3) the meetings were held to address protection of the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe region;

(4) the resulting multiagency agreement includes objectives that support the traditional and customary uses of Forest Service land by the Tribe; and

(5) those objectives include the provision of access by members of the Tribe to the shore of Lake Tahoe in order to reestablish traditional and customary cultural practices.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to implement the joint local, State, tribal, and Federal objective of returning the Tribe to Lake Tahoe; and

(2) to ensure that members of the Tribe have the opportunity to engage in traditional and customary cultural practices on the shore of Lake Tahoe to meet the needs of spiritual renewal, land stewardship, Washoe horticulture and ethnobotany, subsistence gathering, traditional learning, and reunification of tribal and family bonds.

(c) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights and subject to the easement reserved under subsection (d), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Tribe, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest in the parcel of land comprising approximately 24.3 acres, located within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit north of Skunk Harbor, Nevada, and more particularly described as Mount Diablo Meridian, T15N, R18E, section 27, lot 3.

(d) EASEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under subsection (c) shall be made subject to reservation to the United States of a nonexclusive easement for public and administrative access over Forest Development Road #15N67 to National Forest System land.

(2) ACCESS BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The Secretary shall provide a reciprocal easement to the Tribe permitting vehicular access to the parcel over Forest Development Road #15N67 to—

(A) members of the Tribe for administrative and safety purposes; and

(B) members of the Tribe who, due to age, infirmity, or disability, would have difficulty accessing the conveyed parcel on foot.

(e) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In using the parcel conveyed under subsection (c), the Tribe and members of the Tribe—

(A) shall limit the use of the parcel to traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation for the benefit of the Tribe;

(B) shall not permit any permanent residential or recreational development on, or commercial use of, the parcel (including commercial development, tourist accommodations, gaming, sale of timber, or mineral extraction); and

(C) shall comply with environmental requirements that are no less protective than environmental requirements that apply under the Regional Plan of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

(2) REVERSION.—If the Secretary of the Interior, after notice to the Tribe and an opportunity for a hearing, based on monitoring of use of the parcel by the Tribe, makes a finding that the Tribe has used or permitted the use of the parcel in violation of paragraph (1) and the Tribe fails to take corrective or remedial action directed by the Sec-

retary of the Interior, title to the parcel shall revert to the Secretary of Agriculture.

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE BOUNDARIES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AROUND LAKE TAHOE BASIN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Energy Committee be discharged from the following bill, and the Senate proceed en bloc to its consideration and the consideration of the following bill at the desk: S. 2638 from the Energy Committee and H.R. 3388.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2638) to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi.

A bill (H.R. 3388) to promote environmental restoration around the Lake Tahoe Basin.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

MINERAL RIGHTS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank Chairman MURKOWSKI, Senator CRAIG THOMAS, and the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for reporting out and helping Senator Lott and me secure passage of Senate Bill 2638, the Cat Island authorization legislation. When Senator Lott and I introduced the legislation earlier this year, we sought to preserve the beautiful, natural treasure of Cat Island, Mississippi, and complete the vision of the Gulf Islands National Seashore begun nearly 30 years ago. The passage of this legislation begins this process by authorizing the National Park Service to acquire the island and save it for future generations.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in our legislation, we also sought, at the request of our Mississippi State officials, to clarify the State of Mississippi's ownership in the mineral rights underlying the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Mississippi conveyed much of the surface property to create the Seashore in 1972. Until recently, the National Park Service has conceded ownership of these subsurface rights to Mississippi, as is reflected in the State's authorizing legislation in 1971 and the subsequent deed signed by the Governor and other Mississippi State officials. A copy of such deed is entered into the record with this statement. The only limitation on these rights was to be the way in which any future development of them occurred, so that the surface of the Seashore property would not be used for extraction of the minerals.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, our State officials, and we today, acknowledge that the Gulf Islands National Seashore should be preserved and pro-

tected as a place of relatively undeveloped natural beauty, and that does involve limitations on minerals development but not a reinterpretation by the Park Service of the ownership of these mineral rights. These rights are important to Mississippi and may offer our State in the future much needed income to address education, health care and other priorities for our citizens.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the bill as introduced included language which would have allowed the State of Mississippi to maintain the State's rights in or to any oil, gas, or other minerals through this acquisition. After further review of this legislation and the deed and related documents, our inclusion of the mineral rights provision was unnecessary, as the language was merely redundant with respect to the deed of 1972. It is our understanding that the deed clearly reserves the State of Mississippi's mineral rights with respect to the Gulf Islands National Seashore, and that no additional legislative language on mineral rights is required in the Cat Island legislation, because the State has made no conveyance with respect to Cat Island. Does the Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee agree?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Yes, Mr. President, I agree. This legislation does not overturn the State of Mississippi's reservation of its mineral rights. The deed asserts ownership, and this legislation does nothing to discredit such deed.

I thank Senator COCHRAN and Senator LOTT for their sponsorship of this legislation that will preserve Cat Island and add the last piece of the Mississippi Sound Barrier Islands to the Gulf Islands National Seashore. It is an important addition and one that will be treasured for years to come.

AMENDMENT NO. 4351 TO S. 2638

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] for Mr. MURKOWSKI, for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 4351.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 4351 to S. 2638 be agreed to, the bills be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD with the above occurring en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4351) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2638), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The bill (H.R. 3388) was read the third time and passed.