The Federal government, by virtue of its land ownership in Nevada and responsibilities at Lake Mead, has an obligation to help make the plan work. In addition, the Federal government is uniquely responsible for the perchlorate contamination which contributes to the groundwater contamination that pollutes Las Vegas Wash run-off, and directs the relevant Federal agencies to participate in efforts to restore Las Vegas Wash and protect Lake Mead’s water quality. These agencies include: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I hope that the Senate will move quickly to consider and pass this bill so that Federal agencies can become full partners in the effort to rehabilitate and conserve the Las Vegas Wash desert ecosystem and to improve water quality in southern Nevada’s most heavily used watershed.

By Mr. Reid:

S. 2751. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE LEGISLATION

Mr. Reid. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Washoe Tribe Lake Tahoe Access Act.

In 1997, I helped convene a Presidential Forum at Lake Tahoe to discuss the future of the Lake Tahoe Basin. In attendance were President Clinton, Federal, State, and local government leaders, we addressed the protection of the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources of the Lake Tahoe region. Goals and an action plan developed during the Lake Tahoe Forum were codified as the “Presidential Forum Deliverables.” These Deliverables included supporting the traditional and customary use of the Lake Tahoe Basin by the Washoe Tribe. Perhaps, most importantly, the Deliverables include a provision designed to provide the Washoe Tribe access to the shore of Lake Tahoe for cultural purposes.

Mr. President, the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (referred to in this section as the “Tribe”) included an area of approximately 5,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada, and Lake Tahoe was the heart of the territory.

(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local government leaders, 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.

Mr. President, the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California included an area of over 10,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the members of the Washoe Tribe have the opportunity to engage in traditional and customary cultural practices on the shore of Lake Tahoe including spiritual renewal, land stewardship, Washoe horticulture and ethnobotany, subsistence gathering, traditional learning, and reunification of tribal and family bonds as was envisioned by the parties involved in the Lake Tahoe Forum.

Mr. President, this Act will convey 21.3 acres from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the Washoe Tribe. This is land located within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit north of Skunk Harbor, Nevada. The land in question would be conveyed with the expectation that it would be used for traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation of the Washoe Tribe and will not permit any commercial use. In the unlikely event this land were used for any commercial development purpose, title to the land will revert to the Secretary of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that Congress will pass this bill thereby making the Presidential Forum Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe forum a reality by ensuring that the Washoe Tribe once again enjoy access to Lake Tahoe.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SECTION 1. WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that:

(1) the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (referred to in this section as the “Tribe”) included an area of approximately 5,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada, and Lake Tahoe was the heart of the territory;

(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local government leaders, 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 Act follow:

(1) 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 of the Tribe and not permit any commercial use (including commercial development, residential development, gaming, sale of timber, or mineral extraction); and

(B) shall comply with environmental requirements that are more protective than environmental requirements that apply under the Regional Plan of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Mr. President, this Act will convey a reciprocal easement to the Tribe permitting vehicular access to the parcel over Forest Development Road #15N67 to:

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(B) shall comply with environmental requirements that are more protective than environmental requirements that apply under the Regional Plan of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 486

At the request of Mr. Ashcroft, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Conrad) was added as a cosponsor of S. 486, a bill to provide for the punishment of methamphetamine laboratory operators, provide additional resources to combat methamphetamine production, trafficking, and abuse in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. Rockefeller, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DeWine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, to establish drawback for imports of N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide based on exports of N-tert-Butyl2-benzothiazolesulfenamide.

S. 1066

At the request of Mr. Roberts, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Harkin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to encourage the use of and research into agricultural best practices to improve the environment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Kyl, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Thomas), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Grams) were added as co-sponsors of S. 1218, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers, to provide for a carryover basis at death, and to establish a partial capital gains exclusion for inherited assets.

At the request of Mr. DeWine, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1291, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small business employers a credit against income tax for certain expenses for long-term training of employees in highly skilled small business trades.

At the request of Mr. Crapo, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2183, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with certain expenses for other programs.

At the request of Mr. Campbell, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Daschle) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2262, a bill to encourage the efficient use of existing resources and assets related to Indian agricultural research, development and exports within the United States Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Voinovich, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Dineen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2590, a bill to provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

At the request of Mr. Johnson, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2580, a bill to provide for the issuance of bonds to provide funding for the construction of schools of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Leahy, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Harkin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to provide for drug-free prisons.

At the request of Mr. Domenici, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2639, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide programs for the treatment of mental illness.

At the request of Mr. Smith of Oregon, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Grassley) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase disclosure for certain political organizations exempt from tax under section 527 and section 501(c), and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Duren, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Grassley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2742, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with certain expenses for other programs.

At the request of Mr. Bond, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Hutchinson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3172, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding Federal procurement opportunities for women-owned small business.

At the request of Mr. Helms, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Kyl) was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 3172 intended to be proposed to S. 2522, an original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Collins, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Robb) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2528, a bill to provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 124—EXpressing the Sense of the Congress with regard to Iraq’s Failure to Release Prisoners of War from Kuwait and Nine Other Nations in Violation of International Agreements

Mr. Murkowski submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

WHEREAS in 1990 and 1991, thousands of Kuwaitis were randomly arrested on the streets of Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation;

WHEREAS in February 1993, the Government of Kuwait compiled evidence documenting the existence of 605 prisoners of war and submitted its files to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which passed those files on to Iraq, the United Nations, and the Arab League;

WHEREAS numerous testimonial reports exist from family members who witnessed the arrest and forcible removal of their relatives by Iraqi armed forces during the occupation;

WHEREAS eyewitness reports from released prisoners of war indicate that many of those who are still missing were seen and contacted in Iraqi prisons;

WHEREAS official Iraqi documents left behind in Kuwait chronicle in detail the arrest, imprisonment, and transfer of significant numbers of Kuwaitis, including those who are still missing;

WHEREAS in 1991, the United Nations Security Council overwhelmingly passed Security Council Resolution 686 and 687 that were part of the broad cease-fire agreement accepted by the Iraqi regime;

WHEREAS United Nations Security Council Resolution 686 calls upon Iraq to arrange for immediate access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the ICRC and to return the remains of the deceased and the properties of the forces of Kuwait to the Member States cooperating with Kuwait;

WHEREAS United Nations Security Resolution 687 calls upon Iraq to cooperate with the Government of Kuwait in the identification and repatriation of third-country nationals, to provide the ICRC with access to the prisoners wherever they are located or detained, and to facilitate the ICRC search for those unaccounted for;

WHEREAS the Government of Kuwait, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 686, immediately released all Iraqi prisoners of war as required by the terms of the Geneva Convention;

WHEREAS immediately following the cease-fire in March 1991, Iraq repatriated 5,722 Kuwaiti prisoners of war under the auspices of the ICRC and freed 500 Kuwaitis held by rebels in southern Iraq;

WHEREAS Iraq—under the direction and control of Saddam Hussein—has refused to locate and secure the return of all prisoners of war being held in Iraq, including prisoners from Kuwait and nine other nations: Now, therefore, be it:

AMENDMENT NO. 3172

At the request of Mr. Helms, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Kyl) was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 3172 intended to be proposed to S. 2522, an original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.