Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing a bill to designate as wilderness most of the lands within the Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado. This legislation will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding nearly 250,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The bill is essentially identical to one previously introduced by my predecessor, Representative DAVID SKAGGS, and one I introduced in the 106th Congress. Those bills in turn were based on similar measures proposed, including some by former Senator Bill Armstrong and others.

Over a number of years my predecessor and I have worked with the National Park Service and others to refine the boundaries of the areas proposed for wilderness designation and consulted closely with many interested parties in Colorado, including local officials and both the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the St. Vrain & Left Hand Ditch Water Conservancy District. These consultations provided the basis for many of the provisions of the bill I am introducing today, particularly regarding the status of existing water facilities.

Covering some 94 percent of the park, the new wilderness will include Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammeled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of Rocky Mountain National Park are included in the wilderness that would be designated by this bill.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain National Park a true gem in our national parks system also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate. The wilderness boundaries are carefully located to assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services. In addition, specific provisions are included to assure that there will be no adverse effects on continued use of existing water facilities.

This bill is based on National Park Service recommendations, prepared more than 25 years ago and presented to Congress by President Richard Nixon. It seems to me that, in that time, there has been sufficient study, consideration, and refinement of those recommendations so that Congress can proceed with this legislation. Therefore, that this bill constitutes a fair and complete proposal, sufficiently providing for the legitimate needs of the public at large and all interested groups, and deserves to be enacted in this form.

It took more than a decade before the Colorado delegation and the Congress were finally able, in 1993, to pass a statewide national forest wilderness bill. Since then, action has been completed on bills designating wilderness in the Spanish Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest as well as in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Gunnison Gorge, and the Black Ridge portion of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area. We now need to continue making progress regarding wilderness designations for deserving lands, including other public lands in the state that are under the Bureau of Land Management. And the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt within the bill I am introducing today.

All Coloradans know that the question of possible impacts can be a primary point of contention in Congressional debates over designating wilderness areas. So, it’s very important to understand that the question of water rights for Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness is entirely different from many considered before, and is far simpler. To begin with, it has long been recognized under the laws of the United States and Colorado, including a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself.

Division One of the Colorado Water Court, which has jurisdiction over the portion of the park that is east of the continental divide, has already decided how extensive the water rights are within the park itself. In its decision of December, 1993, the court ruled that the park has reserved rights to all water within the park that was unappropriated at the time the park was created. As a result of this decision, in the eastern half of the park there literally is no more water for either the park or anybody else to claim. This has been able to find out, a controversial decision, because there is a widespread consensus that there should be no new water projects developed within Rocky Mountain National Park. And, since the park sits astride the continental divide, there’s no mountain from which streams flow into the park, so there is no possibility of any upstream diversions.

As for the western side of the park, the water court has not yet ruled on the extent of the park’s existing water rights there, although it has affirmed that the park does have such water rights. With all other rights to water arising in the park and flowing west already claimed, as a practical matter under Colorado water law, this wilderness designation will not restrict any new water claims. And it’s important to emphasize that any wilderness water rights amount only to guarantees that water will continue to flow through and out of the park as it always has. This preserves the natural environment of the park, but it doesn’t affect downstream water use. Once water leaves the park, it will continue to be available for diversions and use under Colorado law regardless of whether they protect the wilderness within the park are designated as wilderness.

These legal and practical realities are reflected in my bill—as in my predecessor’s—by inclusion of a finding that because the park already has these extensive reserved rights to water, there is no need for any additional reservation of such right, and an explicit disclaimer that the bill effects any such reservation. Some may ask, why should we designate wilderness in a national park? Isn’t park protection the same as wilderness, or at least as good? The answer is that the wilderness designation will give an important additional level of protection to most of the park.

Our national park system was created, in part, to recognize and preserve prime examples of outstanding landscape. At Rocky Mountain National Park in particular, good Park Service management over the past 83 years has kept most of the park in a natural condition. And all the lands that are covered by this bill are currently being managed, in essence, to protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will never be roads, visitor facilities, or other mammal features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains.

This kind of protection is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As nearby land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park’s backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado’s landscape. Further, Rocky Mountain National Park’s popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development within the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year as does our first national park. At the same time, designating these carefully selected portions of Rocky Mountain as wilderness can make other areas, now restricted under interim wilderness protection management, available for overdue improvements to park roads and visitor facilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill will protect some of our nation’s finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. And it will affirm our commitment in Colorado to preserving the very features that make our State such a remarkable place to live. So, I think the bill deserves prompt enactment.

I am attaching a fact sheet that outlines the main provisions of this bill.
glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra, old-growth forests and thundering rivers. It also contains Longs Peak, one of Colorado’s 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks.

The bill

The bill is based on one introduced by Rep. Udall in the 106th Congress and similar legislation proposed by former Congressman David Skaggs and others in previous years. It would:

- designate about 249,562 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, or about 94 percent of the Park, as wilderness, including Longs Peak—the areas included is based on the recommendations prepared over 25 years ago by President Nixon with some revisions in boundaries to reflect acquisitions and other changes since that recommendation was submitted.
- designate about 1,000 acres as potential wilderness until non-conforming structures are removed.
- provide that if non-federal holdings within the wilderness boundaries are acquired by the United States, they will become part of the wilderness and managed accordingly.

**The bill would NOT:**

- create a new federal reserve water right, instead, it includes a finding that the Park’s existing federal reserved water rights, as defined by the Colorado courts, are sufficient
- instead, it includes a finding that the Park’s existing federal reserved water rights, as defined by the Colorado courts, are sufficient
- the bill’s provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel and gauging stations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Long Draw Reservoir, and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District—including Copeland Reservoir.

**EXISTING WATER FACILITIES**

Boundaries for the wilderness are drawn to exclude existing storage and conveyance structures assuring continued use of the Grand River Ditch and its right-of-way, the east and west portals of the Adams Tunnel and gauging stations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Long Draw Reservoir, and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District—including Copeland Reservoir.

The bill includes provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel, which diverts water under Rocky Mountain National Park (including lands that would be designated as wilderness) or water in the Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities, and that additional activities for these purposes will be allowed should they be necessary to respond to emergencies and subject to reasonable restrictions.

**IN MEMORY OF CHIEF RONALD “REDBone” VAN DUNK**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize Chief Ronald “RedBone” Van Dunk, grand chief of the Ramapough Mountain Tribe, from Hillburn, New York, in my congressional district.

In his role as the grand chief of the 3,000 member Ramapough Mountain Tribe, Chief Redbone served his people with distinction and dignity, and honorably led his tribe in their long sought campaign for Federal recognition.

Although the Ramapough Tribe has been recognized by both the states of New York and New Jersey, the Federal government, to date, has declined their request for recognition of their heritage.

Chief Redbone was a dedicated champion of the tribe’s efforts to acquire such native tribal recognition.

Chief Redbone organized his tribal members to incorporate themselves, and in 1979, after he was elected chief, the Ramapough Tribe filed their petition for federal recognition, which is now pending before the U.S. Appeals Court.

Chief Redbone wanted the best for his people, especially for their children, believing that recognition of their native American heritage would offer the tribe’s children the opportunity to have an identity, a history, and a true pride in themselves as a people.

Moreover, the service of Chief Redbone was not limited to his family. He was a veteran, having served the United States in Germany from 1953 to 1955.

Grand Chief Ronald “RedBone” Van Dunk was a hero, a gentleman, a soldier, a distinguished leader, and a friend. His passing is not just a loss to his family, but to his tribe and to our Hudson Valley region. His legacy is his hope and dedication for the pride of a people, known as the Ramapoughs.

Our prayers and condolences go out to his family and friends, during their time of mourning.

**RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY**

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 3, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary individual, Yoshi Honkawa, who will be honored on April 17th as the recipient of the Allen and Weta Mathies Award for Vision and Excellence in HealthCare Leadership. This prestigious award is presented by the Partner in Care Foundation, an organization dedicated to creating new methods of dealing with long term health care needs.

This innovative foundation could never have found a more perfect individual to honor for leadership in health care policy. Yoshi’s career in this extremely important field—as an advocate, administrator, and mentor—spans decades and has been powered by most of the leading health care organizations in California and in the nation.

In 1964, Yoshi joined the staff of the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center. Many years later, he and his wife, May, endowed a fellowship fund in health policy and management at the University of Southern California. This act is typical of Yoshi’s generosity with all of his resources, including his precious time, with young people entering the health care field. As mentor and teacher, there is no greater friend of graduate medical education than Yoshi Honkawa.

He took special note of the need to increase diversity in health care professionals, serving as a founding member of the Board of the Institute for Diversity in Health Care Management. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, and works with that organization to preserve and promote an appreciation for Japanese and Japanese-American heritage and cultural arts.

Yoshi’s expertise in health care policy led to his appointment as a Commissioner on California’s Health Policy and Data Advisory Commission. From this post, where he served from 1987 to 1997, he helped shape California’s health policy.

It was while he served at Cedars-Sinai that I really came to know Yoshi well and to appreciate his integrity, his knowledge, his ability and his humanity. As the vice-president for government and industry relations, and then as consultant for health care advocacy, I was privileged to visit with Yoshi both in Los Angeles and during his trips to Washington, where he was a tireless advocate for this prestigious medical center.

Yoshi is, to put it simply, a wonderful person and I am honored to express the gratitude of the community for his tireless service and to congratulate him on this recognition of his outstanding leadership.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, while I am not proud about the gender disparity of wages in the United States, I am proud today to join with my colleagues as a co-sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

It is unbelievable that women still earn only 64 cents for each dollar a man earns. In communities of color, the gap is wider: black women earn 72 cents for every dollar a man earns. In communities of color, the gap is wider: black women earn 72 cents for each dollar and Latinas earn only 55 cents for each dollar a man earns.

According to these numbers, the average woman must work an additional 12 weeks a year to make up the disparity in income. The pay gap has a significant impact on entire families; it is estimated that American families lose $200 billion each year. Both the AFL-CIO and the Institute for Women’s Policy Research report that, if women were paid the same as comparable men, their family incomes would rise by nearly 6 percent. Poverty rates would drop by more than 50 percent.

Unequal pay is unjustified for equal work. It hurts individuals, families, and communities. We must do better to support hard working women and their families. We must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act; it is the only right and fair thing to do.