

**JAMES PEAK WILDERNESS, JAMES PEAK PROTECTION AREA AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREA ACT**

Summary—The bill would designate the James Peak Wilderness Area, add to the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, designate a James Peak Protection Area and a James Peak wilderness study area, all within the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado.

Background: In 1999, Congressman Mark Udall introduced the James Peak Wilderness Act (H.R. 2177) which would have designated about 22,000 acres of land in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest as wilderness north of Berthoud Pass and south of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Since then, there have been further discussions with county governments, the Forest Service, and the public. On January 31, 2000, the Grand County Commissioners proposed the alternative of designating lands in that county as a "protection area" instead of wilderness. On February 12, 2001, Congressman Udall released a proposal that was similar to the Grand County "protection area" proposal. This bill is a refined version of that proposal resulting from discussions with the Grand County Commissioners and other interested parties.

The Lands: The 13,294-foot James Peak is the predominant feature in a 26,000-acre roadless area within the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest just north and east of Berthoud Pass. The James Peak roadless area straddles the Continental Divide within 4 counties (Gilpin, Clear Creek, Grand and Boulder). It is the largest unprotected roadless area on the Northern Front Range. The area offers outstanding recreational opportunities for hiking, skiing, fishing, and backpacking, including the popular South Boulder Creek trail and along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. It also includes the historic Rollins Pass road which provides access for mechanized and motorized recreation in the area.

James Peak is one of the highest rated areas for biological diversity on the entire Arapaho National Forest, including unique habitat for wildlife, miles of riparian corridors, stands of old growth forests, and threatened and endangered species. The area includes a dozen spectacularly situated alpine lakes, including Forest Lakes, Arapaho Lakes, and Heart Lake. Many sensitive species such as wolverine, lynx, and pine marten only thrive in wilderness settings. Adding James Peak to the chain of protected lands from Berthoud Pass to the Wyoming boundary will promote movement of these species and improve their chances for survival.

What the bill does: James Peak Wilderness: The bill would designate over 14,000 acres of the James Peak area in Clear Creek, Gilpin and Boulder Counties as the James Peak Wilderness Area; Indian Peaks Wilderness Area Addition: The bill would add about 2,000 acres in Grand County to the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness area (these acres were recommended for wilderness in the Forest Service's 1997 revised plan); James Peak Protection Area: The bill would designate about 18,000 acres in Grand County as the James Peak Protection Area and provide the following: Forest Service to manage the area consistent with the management directions for this area under the 1997 Forest Plan for the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest; No transfer of federal lands by exchange or otherwise; Forest Service required to designate appropriate roads, trails and areas for motorized and mechanized recreation.

James Peak Wilderness Study Area: The bill would designate about 8,000 acres in the

part of the Protection Area generally south of the Rollins Pass Road as a wilderness study area. For these lands, the bill would direct the Forest Service to do the following—study this area and report in three years as to the suitability of these lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness System; meanwhile, manage the study area to preserve its wilderness characteristics, and evaluate whether and, if so, to what extent mechanized recreation (mountain bikes and snowmobiles) should be allowed in the wilderness study area, especially along the Rogers Pass trail.

Fall River Trailhead: The bill would establish a new trailhead and Forest Service facilities in the Fall River basin east of the proposed wilderness area—to be done in collaboration with Clear Creek County and the nearby communities of St. Mary's Glacier and Alice Township

General provisions: The bill also would: encourage but not require the Forest Service to acquire two non-federal inholdings within the wilderness study area; prohibit the creation of a restrictive buffer zone around the wilderness area, the Protection Area or wilderness study area; direct the Forest Service to work with the respective counties if the Rollins Pass road is reopened to two-wheel drive traffic.

What the bill does not do: Designate any portion of the James Peak Roadless Area in Grand County as wilderness: The bill would not create wilderness in the James Peak roadless area in Grand County. Instead, it would designate a James Peak Protection Area, subject to use and management restrictions, as proposed by the County Commissioners and within that would designate a wilderness study area.

Restrict Off-Road Vehicle Use Throughout the Area: The bill would prohibit motorized and mountain bike recreation use in the wilderness and wilderness study areas, but would allow this use, consistent with the Forest Service's management directives, in the Protection Area. Furthermore, the bill would require the Forest Service to identify appropriate roads, trails and areas for such use within three years. Such identifications can be revised by appropriate Forest Service processes.

Affect Water Rights: The bill would not affect any existing water rights. In addition, all lands designated by the bill are headwaters areas.

Affect the Berthoud Pass Ski Area: The bill would exclude this Ski Area's existing permitted boundary.

Affect Search and Rescue Activities: The bill would not affect the activities related to the health and safety of persons within the area. Such necessary activities will be allowed, including the need to use mechanized equipment to perform search and rescue activities.

HONORING DR. THOMAS E. STARZL

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Thomas E. Starzl arrived in Pittsburgh some 20 years ago, and began his legendary work at the University of Pittsburgh. It wasn't long after that the city became a world renowned Mecca for organ transplantation. Since his arrival, more

than 11,300 organ transplants have been performed at the University—an accomplishment unmatched by any other program in the world. These transplants represent the thousands of lives that Dr. Starzl touched, and the true magnitude of his contribution to medicine. Like Dr. Starzl himself, many of these patients are heroes—who even in their death taught invaluable lessons that have advanced the field of organ transplantation for the betterment of all mankind. Today, we think nothing of replacing organs that have failed. But if it weren't for the trailblazing efforts of Dr. Starzl, which have spanned more than four decades ago, we would not be standing here in celebration of life—indeed thousands and thousands of lives.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Dr. Starzl's first liver transplant in Pittsburgh, a milestone that spawned two decades of major advances by Dr. Starzl and University of Pittsburgh faculty. Their work sparked clinical and research activity of immense importance to the medical community. Countless numbers of surgeons and researchers have come to Pittsburgh from around the world to learn from the work of Dr. Starzl. Surgeons returned to their home institutions with newly forged skills to offer patients life-saving services. Research scientists went back into the laboratories, challenged by Dr. Starzl's own quest to answer some of medicine's most challenging questions.

On April 27, Dr. Starzl's former students and colleagues will pay tribute to him as he enters emeritus status at the University of Pittsburgh. It will be a celebration much to Dr. Starzl's liking—an academic gathering in order to share important scientific information.

Dr. Starzl is a true pioneer who has transformed the world of medicine. Since that day in 1963 when he performed the world's first liver transplant at the University of Colorado, he has been at the forefront of the heroic and life-saving advancements that are continually being made in the medical community. His work will have a lasting influence on the field of organ transplantation, and the world of medicine as a whole. Dr. Starzl continues to inspire a new generation of medical pioneers, and serves as an example of what determination and passion and for one's work can achieve. So we honor you today, Dr. Starzl, for your life's work. We thank you for your passion, which has touched so many lives, and surely will touch many, many more.

HONORING O.D. MCKEE

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, Many folks would have turned a little faint at the thought of trying to start a business during the depths of the Great Depression in the 1930s.

But not O.D. McKee.

"O.D.," as he was known to his many friends and admirers, believed that he could be successful in the baking business. And he and his wife, Ruth, were not afraid to work hard.

Together they built a small bakery into a giant business with 5,000 employees and