

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 326

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cocopah Lands Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Ar-
8 izona is located in Yuma County, Arizona.

1 (2) That reservation was created by an Execu-
2 tive order signed by President Woodrow Wilson in
3 1917.

4 (3) The Tribe’s land holdings are located within
5 3 noncontiguous reservations comprising a total of
6 approximately 6,226.3 acres of trust land.

7 (4) The Tribe purchased the additional lands to
8 provide infrastructure to housing areas, water, and
9 economic development to tribal members.

10 (5) The current trust land base of the reserva-
11 tion is insufficient to provide such needs.

12 (6) The Tribe acquired 7 parcels of land contig-
13 uous to its present reservation lands in 1986, 1993,
14 1997, and 2005, and these parcels are currently
15 classified as “Tribal fee lands” under Federal law.

16 (7) The acquired parcels shall not be taken into
17 trust for gaming purposes.

18 (8) The best means of solving the Tribe’s land
19 and economic needs to its tribal members is to re-
20 quire the Secretary to take lands in Yuma County,
21 Arizona, that are acquired by the Tribe into trust
22 for the Tribe subject to the provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions
25 apply:

1 (1) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the
2 Cocopah Tribe of Arizona.

3 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of the Interior.

5 **SEC. 4. LANDS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.**

6 (a) **LANDS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.**—If the Tribe
7 transfers title to the land described in subsection (b) to
8 the Secretary, the Secretary shall take that land into trust
9 for the benefit of the Tribe, if at the time of such transfer
10 there are no recognized environmental conditions or con-
11 tamination related concerns and no adverse legal claims
12 to such land, including outstanding liens, mortgages, or
13 taxes owed.

14 (b) **LAND DESCRIBED.**—The land referred to in sub-
15 section (a) is described as follows:

16 (1) **PARCEL 1 (SIBLEY PURCHASE 1986).**—Lot 4
17 and the SW¹/₄ of the NW¹/₄, of Sec. 1, T. 10 S., R.
18 25 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and Merid-
19 ian, Yuma County, Arizona, except that portion of
20 the SW¹/₄ of the NW¹/₄, of said Sec. 1, T. 10 S.,
21 R. 25 W., lying southeasterly of the north right-of-
22 way line of the Bureau of Reclamation levee.

23 (2) **PARCEL 2 (SIBLEY PURCHASE 1986).**—Lot 1
24 and the SE¹/₄ of the NE¹/₄, of Sec. 2, T. 10 S., R.

1 25 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and Merid-
2 ian, Yuma County, Arizona.

3 (3) PARCEL 3 (MCDANIEL PURCHASE 1993).—
4 That part of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, lying south of the
5 East Main Bureau of Reclamation Canal right of
6 way in Sec. 30, T. 9 S., R. 23 W., of the Gila and
7 Salt River Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Ari-
8 zona.

9 (4) PARCEL 4 (HOLLAND PURCHASE 1997).—
10 That portion of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec. 31,
11 T. 16 S., R 22 E., of the San Bernardino Base and
12 Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, lying north of the
13 levee and Salinity Canal; except the north 220 feet.

14 (5) PARCEL 5 (HOLLAND PURCHASE 1997).—An
15 easement over the easterly 15 feet of the north 220
16 feet of that portion of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of
17 Sec. 31, T. 16 S., R. 22 E., of the San Bernardino
18 Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, lying
19 north of the levee and Salinity Canal for irrigation
20 purposes.

21 (6) PARCEL 6 (POWERS PURCHASE 1997).—Lots
22 21, 24, and 25, Sec. 29, and Lots 16 and 17 and
23 the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec. 30, T.
24 16 S., R. 22 E., of the San Bernardino Meridian,
25 Yuma County, Arizona, according to the dependent

1 resurvey of the Bureau of Land Management, ac-
2 cepted December 9, 1960.

3 (7) PARCEL 7 (SPEED WAY PURCHASE 2005).—
4 That portion of the W¹/₂ of the SE¹/₄ of Sec. 30, T.
5 9 S., R. 23 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and
6 Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, lying south and
7 east of the East Main Canal; except the south 33
8 feet thereof; except one-third interest in and to all
9 mineral rights, as reserved in the deed recorded in
10 Docket 1461, page 600, records of Yuma County,
11 Arizona.

12 (c) LANDS TO BE MADE PART OF THE RESERVA-
13 TION.—Land taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a)
14 shall be considered to be part of the Tribe's initial reserva-
15 tion.

16 (d) SERVICE AREA.—For the purposes of the delivery
17 of Federal services to enrolled members of the Tribe, the
18 Tribe's service area shall be Yuma County, Arizona.

19 (e) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust for
20 the benefit of the Tribe under this Act shall not be used
21 for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

○