

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5570

To release a Wilderness Study Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Jackson County, Colorado, that was not found suitable for wilderness designation, and to release residual Wilderness Study Area acreage in Mesa and Delta Counties, Colorado, that were excluded from their respective wilderness designations from continued management for wilderness characteristics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2016

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

A BILL

To release a Wilderness Study Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Jackson County, Colorado, that was not found suitable for wilderness designation, and to release residual Wilderness Study Area acreage in Mesa and Delta Counties, Colorado, that were excluded from their respective wilderness designations from continued management for wilderness characteristics.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Western Colorado Wil-
3 derness Study Area Release Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—

6 (1) Congress finds that for the purposes of sec-
7 tion 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
8 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the public
9 lands in the North Sand Hills Instant Study Area
10 in Jackson County, Colorado, have been adequately
11 studied for wilderness designation; and

12 (A) the Bureau of Land Management in
13 1980 found the North Sand Hills Instant Study
14 Area did not meet wilderness criteria; and

15 (B) in 2011, the Bureau of Land Manage-
16 ment Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory
17 Council Resolution 2011–01 supported the re-
18 lease of the North Sand Hills Instant Study
19 Area from further consideration of wilderness
20 designation.

21 (2) Congress finds that for the purposes of sec-
22 tion 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
23 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the public
24 lands, as defined by section 103(e) of the Federal
25 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
26 U.S.C. 1702(e)), in the Dominguez Canyon Wilder-

1 ness Study Area in Mesa and Delta Counties, Colo-
2 rado, and the public lands, as defined by section
3 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
4 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)), in the Black Ridge
5 Canyons Wilderness Study Area in Mesa County,
6 Colorado, have been adequately studied for wilder-
7 ness designation and the remaining Wilderness
8 Study Area acreage in the Dominguez Canyon Wil-
9 derness Study Area and the Black Ridge Canyons
10 Wilderness Study Area was excluded from their re-
11 spective wilderness designations.

12 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to release
13 certain Wilderness Study Areas from further consideration
14 of wilderness designation, and to direct the Secretary of
15 the Interior to manage those areas according to applicable
16 land use plans.

17 **SEC. 3. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.**

18 (a) NORTH SAND HILLS INSTANT STUDY AREA.—
19 Any public land in the North Sand Hills Instant Study
20 Area—

21 (1) is no longer subject to section 603(e) of the
22 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
23 (43 U.S.C. 1782(e)); and

1 (2) shall be managed according to the applica-
2 ble land use plan adopted under section 202 of that
3 Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

4 (b) DOMINGUEZ CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY
5 AREA.—Any portion of the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness
6 Study Area within the Dominguez-Escalante National
7 Conservation Area, as designated by Public Law 111–11,
8 and not designated as wilderness by that Act, or any sub-
9 sequent Act—

10 (1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the
11 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
12 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c));

13 (2) shall be included in the non-wilderness com-
14 ponent of the Dominguez-Escalante National Con-
15 servation Area; and

16 (3) shall be managed according to the applica-
17 ble National Conservation Area land use plan adopt-
18 ed under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

19 (c) BLACK RIDGE CANYONS WILDERNESS STUDY
20 AREA.—Any portion of the Black Ridge Canyons Wilder-
21 ness Study Area within the McInnis Canyons National
22 Conservation Area, as designated by Public Law 106–353,
23 and not designated as wilderness by that Act, or any sub-
24 sequent Act—

1 (1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the
2 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
3 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c));

4 (2) shall be included in the non-wilderness com-
5 ponent of the McInnis Canyons National Conserva-
6 tion Area; and

7 (3) shall be managed according to the applica-
8 ble National Conservation Area land use plan adopt-
9 ed under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

10 **SEC. 4. BOUNDARIES ALONG COLORADO RIVER.**

11 Section 6(l)(5) of Public Law 106–353 (16 U.S.C.
12 460mmm–4(l)(5)) is amended—

13 (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(A) In areas in which the Colorado River is
16 used as a reference for defining the boundary of the
17 Conservation Area, the boundary shall—

18 “(i) be located at the edge of the river; and

19 “(ii) change according to the river level.”;

20 and

21 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the fol-
22 lowing (and redesignating the subsequent subpara-
23 graphs accordingly):

1 “(B) Regardless of the level of the Colorado
2 River, no portion of the Colorado River shall be in-
3 cluded in the Conservation Area.”.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN LAND EXCHANGES.**

5 Section 2405 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
6 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 460zzz-4) is amended by
7 adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

8 “(3) CERTAIN CONSERVATION AREA EX-
9 CHANGES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to protect
11 and consolidate Federal land within the bound-
12 ary of the Conservation Area and to resolve in-
13 advertent trespasses, and subject to subpara-
14 graph (B), the Secretary may enter into an
15 agreement with any owner of private land with-
16 in the boundaries of the Conservation Area to
17 exchange any private land for Federal land in
18 the Conservation Area, if the Secretary deter-
19 mines that the exchange would enhance the val-
20 ues for which the Conservation Area is estab-
21 lished.

22 “(B) CONDITIONS.—An exchange of land
23 under subparagraph (A) shall—

24 “(i) be carried out consistent with any
25 applicable laws (including regulations, in-

1 cluding laws relating to appraisals and
2 equal value exchanges); and

3 “(ii) be subject to—

4 “(I) valid existing rights; and

5 “(II) any terms and conditions
6 that the Secretary may require.”.

○