

land and 65,853 acres of mineral rights, includes school trust areas that are similar in nature to the surrounding blocks of federal lands. By transferring these areas to the federal government, the land will fall under federal protection and management.

Consolidation of these lands will be beneficial because land ownership will be harmonized, precious natural resources will be preserved and protected, and the American public will gain access to previously isolated areas.

A number of priceless natural landmarks will come under the protection of the federal government as a result of this bill. These include: Eye of the Whale Arch, located in Arches National Park; ancient Native American ruins and the Jacob Hamblin Arch of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; several hundred-foot red rock cliffs located within the Grand Staircase Escalante Monument; and the high mountain alpine area in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest known as Franklin Basin. Other natural wonders safeguarded through the exchange include: ancient Native American rock art panels in Dinosaur National Monument and unique geologic formations of the Waterpocket Fold within Capitol Reef National Park.

Mr. President, H.R. 3830 addresses many land management problems which have plagued Utah for decades. Specifically, this measure helps solve a problem suffered by all states, such as Utah, having large tracts of federally owned or controlled land—that is, the starvation and lack of funding for our school systems which traditionally depend on property taxes for funding.

The trust land system, developed by Congress in the 19th century during the period of westward expansion, was an attempt to offset the losses from the Federal Government's desire to protect certain lands. We are pleased that, after 2 years, the Clinton administration has delivered on this commitment.

I especially want to commend Utah Governor Mike Leavitt for undertaking the task of painstaking identification of lands for exchange and for conducting these negotiations with the Interior Department. His determination and dedication to initiating this process cannot be understated.

I also want to recognize the efforts of Utah's educators, parents, and school board members, who kept this issue on the front burner. Their dedication to resolving this serious funding helped drive these negotiations and ensure that nothing got bogged down. In short, land is land; but we needed to keep our eye on the ball, and that is our children.

Again, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Senator BENNETT, for his efforts on this bill. I know he shares my feeling of joy that this bill is finally coming to fruition. It means a great deal to improving education in our State, and I appreciate my colleagues' support.

I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, thank you.

This is a delightful day. As I think about the issue of swapping land, school trust lands in Utah for other Federal lands, I realize that this is an issue that my father worked on in this Chamber over 40 years ago. Governor Matheson, to keep it bipartisan, the Democratic Governor of Utah, tried an initiative on this same issue while he was the Governor some 20 years ago. To see it finally come to fruition now brings me a great sense of satisfaction.

I thank my senior colleague for his support and leadership on this issue, I thank the members of the Energy Committee for their work, and I particularly thank my friend from Arkansas, the senior Senator, Mr. BUMPERS, for his support as we have gone through this. He and I became acquainted when I first came to the Senate and went on that committee. We worked on a number of issues together, and I am delighted that this is one that comes together in a bipartisan fashion.

So this is a time of rejoicing, nostalgia, and great pleasure on my part.

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe I still have the time. If the Senator from Arkansas would like a couple of minutes, I would be glad to yield to him for a comment.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, there are few Senators in the U.S. Senate for whom I have ever held a higher esteem than my good friend BOB BENNETT. Therefore, several months ago, when I put a hold on this Utah land exchange, which was divinely desired by the Governor and the Interior Department, which is a rare instance—would that all land exchanges had this kind of support—I went to Senator BENNETT and I told him privately—and he will agree to this—I told him privately, “BOB, if push comes to shove”—I am not going to go into the details of why I put a hold on it. We all do these things around here occasionally. I never liked it, but sometimes we have to do things to protect ourselves.

I told Senator BENNETT privately, “At the right time, I will take my hold off this bill.” I said, “I want you to know I would never allow something this popular and well received to go down and”—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator suspend?

The Chamber will come to order. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS. I must say, his determination—his fierce determination—to get this bill passed was reflected in the fact that he asked me every day for 6 months when I was going to take my hold off. This morning, I was very happy to tell him that my reason for putting the hold on in the first place had been resolved. One of the happiest days of my life was the day I could

take that hold off to accommodate the Senator and Senator HATCH. I know he has been actively involved in this also.

I just wanted to say that, Mr. President. I thank the leader very much for yielding the time.

Mr. LOTT. Has the clerk reported the title?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk has reported.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3830) was considered read the third time and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the following bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 368, H.R. 1021; Calendar No. 447, S. 1752; Calendar No. 526, S. 2087; Calendar No. 639, S. 2500; Calendar No. 701, S. 2402; Calendar No. 702, S. 2413; and Calendar No. 703, S. 2458.

I ask unanimous consent that any committee amendments be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any title amendments be agreed to; and that any statements relating to the bills appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc. I should note that this has been cleared with the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILES LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1998

The bill (H.R. 1021) to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands within the Routt National Forest in the State of Colorado, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

CONVEYING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE SITES FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1752) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain administrative sites and use the proceeds for the acquisition of office sites and the acquisition, construction, or improvement of offices and support buildings for the Coconino National Forest, Kaibab National Forest, Prescott National Forest, and Tonto National Forest in the State of Arizona, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following: