

their hard work in getting an agreement that allows us to vote on this important water settlement bill today.

I would also like to pay tribute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) and the Arizona delegation in anticipation of receiving the same from them in this bill.

In the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act, New Mexico was apportioned 18,000 acre feet of Gila River water. The Gila River's headwaters are in New Mexico and, therefore, New Mexicans always felt like they had claim to some of this water. However, we had not been able to use any of it, and it has simply been paper water.

New Mexicans have long sought to develop this water and because of their willingness to negotiate in good faith and compromise with the State of Arizona and downstream water users, we have now reached an agreement. That agreement is a bipartisan solution which I feel represents the best interests of both States.

This historic water bill will not only provide a settlement to long-standing Indian water rights in Arizona, but it will also ensure Southwestern New Mexico gets the water it was apportioned in the 1968 Act. New Mexico was not able to develop this water because the 1968 Act required New Mexico to keep whole senior water uses in Arizona. After many long months of negotiation, all the necessary agreements between Arizona and New Mexico are in place to allow this bill to move forward.

It is Congress's role to codify agreed-upon settlements, especially where almost every part has been negotiated in good faith for a number of years on very difficult and contentious issues. Without the agreements negotiated between the two States and which are reflected in the amendments to the 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act, the New Mexico unit could not be developed. However, with this agreement, after nearly 40 years New Mexico water users will be able to develop water that they were promised in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 437.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR).

(Mr. PASTOR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this critical legislation, which is co-sponsored by the entire Arizona delegation.

Since before the founding of Arizona as a State, we have, like most other Western States, struggled to meet the water demands of our inhabitants. It has not been easy. In 1968, in hopes of resolving these problems, the Central Arizona Project was authorized by the Federal Government and charged with distributing water from the Colorado River to communities and tribes in the central and southern parts of Arizona.

However, for decades there have been disputes on the appropriate distribution of these waters, resulting in litigation.

I believe this legislation will resolve most of these disputes. The entire Arizona delegation, both my Democratic and Republican colleagues as well as our two senators and our governor, all believe this is the best possible solution to this water issue. The people, municipalities, Native American tribes and nations and agricultural and environmental organizations within the State also agree.

This legislation represents a significant step forward in Arizona's continuing effort to resolve Native American water rights claims for the benefit of all of the people of Arizona. This bill will resolve the claims of the Gila River Indian community and the remaining claims of the Tohono o'Odham Nation, while laying the groundwork for resolving the other outstanding water right claims of Arizona's Native American communities and nations.

The bill approves and ratifies the Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act, amends the Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act of 1982, and affirms the right of the San Carlos Apache Tribe to make future claims for water rights. The Senate has approved this bill unanimously and has passed the House Committee on Resources, which I would like to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for bringing this bill to the floor.

It is critical to our State that we approve it here today and move it forward to the President for enactment. I urge my colleagues to follow the lead of all eight Arizona representatives and support its passage.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of S. 437, the Arizona Water Settlements Act.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 885, the House version of this landmark bill that resolves critical water issues facing Arizona and Arizona tribes today.

Congress authorized the Central Arizona project 35 years ago.

Today, S. 347 offers resolution for water use in Arizona, providing additional water supplies to resolve tribal claims and accommodate rapid population growth.

Among other improvements, this bill designs a solid system and infrastructure to provide Arizona tribes with affordable water.

After many years, tribes in this region, such as the Gila River Indian Community, will be able to retain and maintain their water rights without continuous years of court battles.

Everyone has the right to clean, abundant and affordable water—and our first Americans are no exception.

The Arizona Water Settlements Act will be considered the largest Indian water settlement in U.S. history, and this was obviously no small task.

The bill is strongly supported by appropriate state agencies, the entire Arizona delegation, the Gila River Community, the Tohono O'odham tribe, and a number of diverse Arizona interests.

I commend the Arizona delegation and the Democratic and Republican staff for working through their differences for a polished bill.

I look forward to seeing this bill become law, and the positive changes it will make for Arizona's water supply in the future.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I would simply comment that I welcome the statements of my two colleagues from Arizona on the other side of the aisle. I thank my friend from the Virgin Islands for managing on the minority side.

Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 437.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4593) to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for the high quality development in Lincoln County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 2. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004".

TITLE I—LAND DISPOSAL

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Lincoln County, Nevada.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Map" and dated October 1, 2004.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—The term "special account" means the special account established under section 103(b)(3).

SEC. 102. CONVEYANCE OF LINCOLN COUNTY LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711, 1712), the Secretary, in cooperation with the County, in accordance with that Act, this title, and other applicable law and subject to valid existing rights, shall conduct sales of—

(1) the land described in subsection (b)(1) to qualified bidders not later than 75 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) the land described in subsection (b)(2) to qualified bidders as such land becomes available for disposal.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of—

(1) the land identified on the map as Tract A and Tract B totaling approximately 13,328 acres; and

(2) not more than 90,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management managed public land in Lincoln County that is not segregated or withdrawn on the date of enactment of this Act or thereafter, and that is identified for disposal by the BLM either through—

(A) the Ely Resource Management Plan (intended to be finalized in 2005); or

(B) a subsequent amendment to that land use plan undertaken with full public involvement.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in (as appropriate)—

(1) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) the Office of the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(3) the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(4) the Caliente Field Station of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) JOINT SELECTION REQUIRED.—The Secretary and the County shall jointly select which parcels of land described in subsection (b)(2) to offer for sale under subsection (a).

(e) COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING LAWS.—Before a sale of land under subsection (a), the County shall submit to the Secretary a certification that qualified bidders have agreed to comply with—

(1) County and city zoning ordinances; and

(2) any master plan for the area approved by the County.

(f) METHOD OF SALE; CONSIDERATION.—The sale of land under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) consistent with section 203(d) and 203(f) of the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713(d) and (f));

(2) through a competitive bidding process unless otherwise determined by the Secretary; and

(3) for not less than fair market value.

(g) WITHDRAWAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and except as provided in paragraph (2), the land described in subsection (b) is withdrawn from—

(A) all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply to a competitive sale or an election by the County to obtain the land described in subsection (b) for public purposes under the Act of June 14, 1926 (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq; commonly known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes Act”).

(h) DEADLINE FOR SALE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) notwithstanding the Lincoln County Land Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 1046), not later than 75 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, offer by sale the land described in subsection (b)(1) if there is a qualified bidder for such land; and

(B) offer for sale annually lands identified for sale in subsection (b)(2) until such lands are disposed of or unless the county requests a postponement under paragraph (2).

(2) POSTPONEMENT; EXCLUSION FROM SALE.—

(A) REQUEST BY COUNTY FOR POSTPONEMENT OR EXCLUSION.—At the request of the County, the Secretary shall postpone or exclude from the sale all or a portion of the land described in subsection (b)(2).

(B) INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT.—Unless specifically requested by the County, a postpone-

ment under subparagraph (A) shall not be indefinite.

SEC. 103. DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.

(a) INITIAL LAND SALE.—Section 5 of the Lincoln County Land Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 1047) shall apply to the disposition of the gross proceeds from the sale of land described in section 102(b)(1).

(b) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Proceeds from sales of lands described in section 102(b)(2) shall be disbursed as follows—

(1) 5 percent shall be paid directly to the state for use in the general education program of the State;

(2) 10 percent shall be paid to the County for use for fire protection, law enforcement, public safety, housing, social services, and transportation; and

(3) the remainder shall be deposited in a special account in the Treasury of the United States and shall be available without further appropriation to the Secretary until expended for—

(A) the reimbursement of costs incurred by the Nevada State office and the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management for preparing for the sale of land described in section 102(b) including surveys appraisals, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) and compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711, 1712);

(B) the inventory, evaluation, protection, and management of unique archaeological resources (as defined in section 3 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb)) of the County;

(C) the development and implementation of a multispecies habitat conservation plan for the County;

(D) processing of public land use authorizations and rights-of-way relating to the development of land conveyed under section 102(a) of this Act;

(E) processing the Silver State OHV trail and implementing the management plan required by section 151(c)(2) of this Act; and

(F) processing wilderness designation, including but not limited to, the costs of appropriate fencing, signage, public education, and enforcement for the wilderness areas designated.

(c) INVESTMENT OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—Any amounts deposited in the special account shall earn interest in an amount determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis of the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities, and may be expended according to the provisions of this section.

TITLE II—WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 111. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) public land in the County contains unique and spectacular natural resources, including—

(A) priceless habitat for numerous species of plants and wildlife; and

(B) thousands of acres of land that remain in a natural state; and

(2) continued preservation of those areas would benefit the County and all of the United States by—

(A) ensuring the conservation of ecologically diverse habitat;

(B) protecting prehistoric cultural resources;

(C) conserving primitive recreational resources; and

(D) protecting air and water quality.

SEC. 112. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Lincoln County, Nevada.

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

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Nevada.

SEC. 113. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) ADDITIONS.—The following land in the State is designated as wilderness and as compo-

nents of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) MORMON MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 157,938 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Mormon Mountains Wilderness”.

(2) MEADOW VALLEY RANGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 123,488 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Meadow Valley Range Wilderness”.

(3) DELAMAR MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 111,328 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Delamar Mountains Wilderness”.

(4) CLOVER MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 85,748 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Clover Mountains Wilderness”.

(5) SOUTH PAHROC RANGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 25,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Western Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “South Pahroc Range Wilderness”.

(6) WORTHINGTON MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 30,664 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Western Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Worthington Mountains Wilderness”.

(7) WEEPAH SPRING WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 51,480 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Western Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Weepah Spring Wilderness”.

(8) PARSNIP PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 43,693 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Northern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Parsonip Peak Wilderness”.

(9) WHITE ROCK RANGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 24,413 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Northern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “White Rock Range Wilderness”.

(10) FORTIFICATION RANGE WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 30,656 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Northern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Fortification Range Wilderness”.

(11) FAR SOUTH EGANS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 36,384 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Northern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”, dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the “Far South Egans Wilderness”.

(12) TUNNEL SPRING WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 5,371 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Lincoln County Wilderness Map”,

dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the "Tunnel Spring Wilderness".

(13) **BIG ROCKS WILDERNESS.**—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 12,997 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Western Lincoln County Wilderness Map", dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the "Big Rocks Wilderness".

(14) **MT. IRISH WILDERNESS.**—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 28,334 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Western Lincoln County Wilderness Map", dated October 1, 2004, which shall be known as the "Mt. Irish Wilderness".

(b) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary of any portion of a wilderness area designated by subsection (a) that is bordered by a road shall be at least 100 feet from the edge of the road to allow public access.

(c) **MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each wilderness area designated by subsection (a) with the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) **EFFECT.**—Each map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(3) **AVAILABILITY.**—Each map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in (as appropriate)—

(A) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the Office of the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(D) the Caliente Field Station of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas designated by subsection (a) are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

SEC. 114. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **MANAGEMENT.**—Subject to valid existing rights, each area designated as wilderness by this title shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **LIVESTOCK.**—Within the wilderness areas designated under this title that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the grazing of livestock in areas in which grazing is established as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices that the Secretary considers necessary, consistent with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), including the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101–405.

(c) **INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.**—Any land or interest in land within the boundaries of an area designated as wilderness by this title that is acquired by the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the wilderness area within which the acquired land or interest is located.

(d) **WATER RIGHTS.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(A) the land designated as Wilderness by this title is within the Northern Mojave and Great Basin Deserts, is arid in nature, and includes ephemeral streams;

(B) the hydrology of the land designated as wilderness by this title is predominantly characterized by complex flow patterns and alluvial fans with impermanent channels;

(C) the subsurface hydrogeology of the region is characterized by ground water subject to local and regional flow gradients and unconfined and artesian conditions;

(D) the land designated as wilderness by this title is generally not suitable for use or development of new water resource facilities; and

(E) because of the unique nature and hydrology of the desert land designated as wilderness by this title, it is possible to provide for proper management and protection of the wilderness and other values of lands in ways different from those used in other legislation.

(2) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this title—

(A) shall constitute or be construed to constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water or water rights with respect to the land designated as wilderness by this title;

(B) shall affect any water rights in the State existing on the date of the enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States;

(C) shall be construed as establishing a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations;

(D) shall affect the interpretation of, or any designation made pursuant to, any other Act; or

(E) shall be construed as limiting, altering, modifying, or amending any of the interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportion water among and between the State and other States.

(3) **NEVADA WATER LAW.**—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of the law of the State in order to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the wilderness areas designated by this title.

(4) **NEW PROJECTS.**—

(A) **WATER RESOURCE FACILITY.**—As used in this paragraph, the term "water resource facility"—

(i) means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures; and

(ii) does not include wildlife guzzlers.

(B) **RESTRICTION ON NEW WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for the development of any new water resource facility within the wilderness areas designated by this Act.

SEC. 115. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Congress does not intend for the designation of wilderness in the State pursuant to this title to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around any such wilderness area.

(b) **NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.**—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness designated under this title shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 116. MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.

Nothing in this title restricts or precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the areas designated as wilderness by this title, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within the wilderness areas;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes, over the wilderness areas.

SEC. 117. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS USES.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to diminish the rights of any Indian tribe. Nothing in this title shall be construed to diminish tribal rights regarding access to Federal land for tribal activities, including spiritual, cultural, and traditional food-gathering activities.

SEC. 118. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the public land in the County administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the following areas has been adequately studied for wilderness designation:

(1) The Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

(2) Evergreen A, B, and C Wilderness Study Areas.

(3) Any portion of the wilderness study areas—

(A) not designated as wilderness by section 114(a); and

(B) depicted as released on—

(i) the map entitled "Northern Lincoln County Wilderness Map" and dated October 1, 2004;

(ii) the map entitled "Southern Lincoln County Wilderness Map" and dated October 1, 2004; or

(iii) the map entitled "Western Lincoln County Wilderness Map" and dated October 1, 2004.

(b) **RELEASE.**—Any public land described in subsection (a) that is not designated as wilderness by this title—

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

(2) shall be managed in accordance with—

(A) land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(B) existing cooperative conservation agreements; and

(3) shall be subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 119. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects or diminishes the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in the wilderness areas designated by this title.

(b) **MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act, management activities to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and the habitats to support such populations may be carried out within wilderness areas designated by this title where consistent with relevant wilderness management plans, in accordance with appropriate policies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101–405, including the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if such use, as determined by the Secretary, would promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values and accomplish those purposes with the minimum impact necessary to reasonably accomplish the task.

(c) **EXISTING ACTIVITIES.**—Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)) and in accordance with appropriate policies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101–405, the State may continue to use aircraft, including helicopters, to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife populations, including bighorn sheep, and feral stock, horses, and burros.

(d) **WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**—Subject to subsection (f), the Secretary shall authorize structures and facilities,

including existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects, including guzzlers, in the wilderness areas designated by this Act if—

(1) the structures and facilities will, as determined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(2) the visual impacts of the structures and facilities on the wilderness areas can reasonably be minimized.

(e) **HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.**—In consultation with the appropriate State agency (except in emergencies), the Secretary may designate by regulation areas in which, and establish periods during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted in the wilderness areas designated by this Act.

(f) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—The terms and conditions under which the State, including a designee of the State, may conduct wildlife management activities in the wilderness areas designated by this title are specified in the cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the State, entitled “Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife Supplement No. 9,” and signed November and December 2003, including any amendments to that document agreed upon by the Secretary and the State and subject to all applicable laws and regulations. Any references to Clark County in that document shall also be deemed to be referred to and shall apply to Lincoln County, Nevada.

SEC. 120. WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT.

Consistent with section 4 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133), nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) to manage wildfires in the wilderness areas designated by this title.

SEC. 121. CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.

Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, nothing in this title precludes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas designated by this title if the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, and water reservoir operation activities.

TITLE III—UTILITY CORRIDORS

SEC. 131. UTILITY CORRIDOR AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) **UTILITY CORRIDOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with title II and notwithstanding sections 202 and 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711, 1763), the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish on public land a 2,640-foot wide corridor for utilities in Lincoln County and Clark County, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act”, and dated October 1, 2004.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—Each map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in (as appropriate)—

(A) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the Office of the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(D) the Caliente Field Station of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) **RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding sections 202 and 503 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711, 1763), and subject to valid and existing rights, the Secretary shall grant to the Southern Nevada

Water Authority and the Lincoln County Water District nonexclusive rights-of-way to Federal land in Lincoln County and Clark County, Nevada, for any roads, wells, well fields, pipes, pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities, or other facilities and systems that are necessary for the construction and operation of a water conveyance system, as depicted on the map.

(2) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—A right-of-way granted under paragraph (1) shall be granted in perpetuity and shall not require the payment of rental.

(3) **COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.**—Before granting a right-of-way under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), including the identification and consideration of potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources and habitat.

(c) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the utility corridors designated by subsection (a) are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

(d) **STATE WATER LAW.**—Nothing in this title shall—

(1) prejudice the decisions or abrogate the jurisdiction of the Nevada or Utah State Engineers with respect to the appropriation, permitting, certification, or adjudication of water rights;

(2) preempt Nevada or Utah State water law; or

(3) limit or supersede existing water rights or interest in water rights under Nevada or Utah State law.

(e) **WATER RESOURCES STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the United States Geological Survey, the Desert Research Institute, and a designee from the State of Utah shall conduct a study to investigate ground water quantity, quality, and flow characteristics in the deep carbonate and alluvial aquifers of White Pine County, Nevada, and any groundwater basins that are located in White Pine County, Nevada, or Lincoln County, Nevada, and adjacent areas in Utah. The study shall—

(A) focus on a review of existing data and may include new data;

(B) determine the approximate volume of water stored in aquifers in those areas;

(C) determine the discharge and recharge characteristics of each aquifer system;

(D) determine the hydrogeologic and other controls that govern the discharge and recharge of each aquifer system; and

(E) develop maps at a consistent scale depicting aquifer systems and the recharge and discharge areas of such systems.

(2) **TIMING; AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary shall complete a draft of the water resources report required under paragraph (1) not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall then make the draft report available for public comment for a period of not less than 60 days. The final report shall be submitted to the Committee on Resources in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate and made available to the public not later than 36 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **AGREEMENT.**—Prior to any transbasin diversion from ground-water basins located within both the State of Nevada and the State of Utah, the State of Nevada and the State of Utah shall reach an agreement regarding the division of water resources of those interstate ground-water flow system(s) from which water will be diverted and used by the project. The agreement shall allow for the maximum sustainable beneficial use of the water resources and protect existing water rights.

(4) **FUNDING.**—Section 4(e)(3)(A) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2346; 116 Stat. 2007; 117 Stat. 1317) is amended—

(A) in clauses (ii), (iv), and (v), by striking “County” each place it appears and inserting “and Lincoln Counties”;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii); and

(D) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

“(vii) for development of a water study for Lincoln and White Pine Counties, Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000; and”.

SEC. 132. RELOCATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AND UTILITY CORRIDORS LOCATED IN CLARK AND LINCOLN COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF NEVADA.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AGREEMENT.**—The term “Agreement” means the land exchange agreement between Aerojet-General Corporation and the United States, dated July 14, 1988.

(2) **CORRIDOR.**—The term “corridor” means—

(A) the right-of-way corridor that is—

(i) identified in section 5(b)(1) of the Nevada-Florida Land Exchange Authorization Act of 1988 (102 Stat. 55); and

(ii) described in section 14(a) of the Agreement;

(B) such portion of the utility corridor identified in the 1988 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan located south of the boundary of the corridor described in subparagraph (A) as is necessary to relocate the right-of-way corridor to the area described in subsection (c)(2); and

(C) such portion of the utility corridor identified in the 2000 Caliente Management Framework Plan Amendment located north of the boundary of the corridor described in subparagraph (A) as is necessary to relocate the right-of-way corridor to the area described in subsection (c)(2).

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

(b) **RELINQUISHMENT AND FAIR MARKET VALUE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, in accordance with this section, relinquish all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the corridor on receipt of a payment in an amount equal to the fair market value of the corridor (plus any costs relating to the right-of-way relocation described in this title).

(2) **FAIR MARKET VALUE.**—

(A) The fair market value of the corridor shall be equal to the amount by which the value of the discount described in the 1988 appraisal of the corridor that was applied to the land underlying the corridor has increased, as determined by the Secretary using the multiplier determined under subparagraph (B).

(B) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Appraisal Services Directorate of the Department of the Interior shall determine an appropriate multiplier to reflect the change in the value of the land underlying the corridor between—

(i) the date of which the corridor was transferred in accordance with the Agreement; and

(ii) the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **PROCEEDS.**—Proceeds under this subsection shall be deposited in the account established under section 103(b)(3)

(c) **RELOCATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall relocate to the area described in paragraph (2), the portion of IDI-26446 and UTU-73363 identified as NVN-49781 that is located in the corridor relinquished under subsection (b)(1).

(2) **DESCRIPTION OF AREA.**—The area referred to in paragraph (1) is the area located on public land west of United States Route 93.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The relocation under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in a manner that—

(A) minimizes engineering design changes; and

(B) maintains a gradual and smooth interconnection of the corridor with the area described in paragraph (2).

(4) AUTHORIZED USES.—The Secretary may authorize the location of any above ground or underground utility facility, transmission lines, gas pipelines, natural gas pipelines, fiber optics, telecommunications, water lines, wells (including monitoring wells), cable television, and any related appurtenances in the area described in paragraph (1).

(d) EFFECT.—The relocation of the corridor under this section shall not require the Secretary to update the 1998 Las Vegas Valley Resource Management Plan or the 2000 Caliente Management Framework Plan Amendment.

(e) WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall waive the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) that would otherwise be applicable to the holders of the right-of-way corridor described in subsection (a)(2)(A) with respect to the amendment to the legal description of the right-of-way corridor.

TITLE IV—SILVER STATE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL

SEC. 141. SILVER STATE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Map” and dated October 1, 2004.

(3) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the system of trails designated in subsection (b) as the Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The trails that are generally depicted on the Map are hereby designated as the “Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail”.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Trail in a manner that—

(A) is consistent with motorized and mechanized use of the Trail that is authorized on the date of the enactment of this Act pursuant to applicable Federal and State laws and regulations;

(B) ensures the safety of the people who use the Trail; and

(C) does not damage sensitive habitat or cultural resources.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the State, the County, and any other interested persons, shall complete a management plan for the Trail.

(B) COMPONENTS.—The management plan shall—

(i) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Trail;

(ii) authorize the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles on the Trail; and

(iii) describe actions carried out to periodically evaluate and manage the appropriate levels of use and location of the Trail to minimize environmental impacts and prevent damage to cultural resources from the use of the Trail.

(3) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—

(A) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall annually assess the effects of the use of off-highway vehicles on the Trail and, in consultation with the Nevada Division of Wildlife, assess the effects of the Trail on wildlife and wildlife habitat to minimize environmental impacts and prevent damage to cultural resources from the use of the Trail.

(B) CLOSURE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State and the County, may temporarily close or permanently reroute, subject to subparagraph (C), a portion of the Trail if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the Trail is having an adverse impact on—

(I) natural resources; or

(II) cultural resources;

(ii) the Trail threatens public safety;

(iii) closure of the Trail is necessary to repair damage to the Trail; or

(iv) closure of the Trail is necessary to repair resource damage.

(C) REROUTING.—Portions of the Trail that are temporarily closed may be permanently rerouted along existing roads and trails on public lands currently open to motorized use if the Secretary determines that such rerouting will not significantly increase or decrease the length of the Trail.

(D) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any routes on the Trail that are closed under subparagraph (B), including by providing appropriate signage along the Trail.

(4) NOTICE OF OPEN ROUTES.—The Secretary shall ensure that visitors to the Trail have access to adequate notice regarding the routes on the Trail that are open through use of appropriate signage along the Trail and through the distribution of maps, safety education materials, and other information considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect ownership, management, or other rights related to non-Federal land or interests in land.

(e) MAP ON FILE.—The Map shall be kept on file at the appropriate offices of the Secretary.

TITLE V—OPEN SPACE PARKS

SEC. 151. OPEN SPACE PARK CONVEYANCE TO LINCOLN COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1171, 1712), not later than 1 year after lands are identified by the County, the Secretary shall convey to the County, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—Up to 15,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management-managed public land in Lincoln County identified by the county in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management.

(c) COSTS.—Any costs relating to any conveyance under subsection (a), including costs for surveys and other administrative costs, shall be paid by the County, or in accordance with section 103(b)(2) of this Act.

(d) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any parcel of land conveyed to the County under subsection (a) shall be used only for—

(A) the conservation of natural resources; or

(B) public parks.

(2) FACILITIES.—Any facility on a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) shall be constructed and managed in a manner consistent with the uses described in paragraph (1).

(e) REVERSION.—If a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the uses specified in subsection (d), the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

SEC. 152. OPEN SPACE PARK CONVEYANCE TO THE STATE OF NEVADA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Notwithstanding section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), the Secretary shall convey to the State of Nevada, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (b), if there is a written agreement between the State and Lincoln County, Nevada, supporting such a conveyance.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are the parcels

of land depicted as “NV St. Park Expansion Proposal” on the map entitled “Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Map” and dated October 1, 2004.

(c) COSTS.—Any costs relating to any conveyance under subsection (a), including costs for surveys and other administrative costs, shall be paid by the State.

(d) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any parcel of land conveyed to the State under subsection (a) shall be used only for—

(A) the conservation of natural resources; or

(B) public parks.

(2) FACILITIES.—Any facility on a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) shall be constructed and managed in a manner consistent with the uses described in paragraph (1).

(e) REVERSION.—If a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the uses specified in subsection (d), the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

TITLE VI—JURISDICTION TRANSFER

SEC. 161. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION BETWEEN THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction over the land described in subsection (b) is transferred from the United States Bureau of Land Management to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Desert National Wildlife Range and the administrative jurisdiction over the land described in subsection (c) is transferred from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the United States Bureau of Land Management.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 8,503 acres of land administered by the United States Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map entitled “Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Map” and identified as “Lands to be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service” and dated October 1, 2004.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 8,382 acres of land administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as generally depicted on the map entitled “Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act Map” and identified as “Lands to be transferred to the Bureau of Land Management” and dated October 1, 2004.

(d) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in (as appropriate)—

(1) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) the Office of the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(3) the Ely Field Station of the Bureau of Land Management;

(4) the Caliente Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management;

(5) the Office of the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(6) the Office of the Desert National Wildlife Complex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4593.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4593 introduced by me and passed in this House on October 4, 2004, was subsequently amended and passed by the Senate.

H.R. 4593 is a broad and complex piece of legislation that, among other things, responsibly deals with the issues of wilderness in Lincoln County, Nevada, through both codification and release of lands currently being managed as wilderness study areas. The bill would also create a 260-mile off-highway vehicle trail, establish roughly 450 miles of utility corridors within the County, and privatize roughly 90,000 acres of public land deemed disposable by the Bureau of Land Management within the County, while conveying roughly 15,000 acres of public land to the State and Lincoln County for use as parks and open space. It is important to note that this proposal enjoys the support of the entire Nevada Congressional delegation and is the product of exhaustive public participation, which is vital in a comprehensive bill such as this.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4593 has been returned to the House with Senate amendments that both add and detract from the bill that originally passed the House last month. The additions to the bill involve modifications that the Senate made to the Lincoln County, Nevada, public land provisions. These changes bring the bill's language more in line with what has been done previously on public land sales in Nevada.

This refinement has been tempered, however, by the fact that the Senate deleted the designation of the Ojito wilderness in New Mexico that was included in the original House-passed version of H.R. 4593. The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the sponsor of the Ojito wilderness language, had developed a bipartisan proposal that has significant local, State and national support, and it is regrettable that his language is not this bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments made by the Senate to the Lincoln County public lands provisions are an improvement, and notwithstanding the dropping of the Ojito wilderness land designation, we have no objection to the consideration of H.R. 4593 by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Congresswoman for her courtesy and her help with this legislation.

I rise today in strong support of the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004. I would like to thank Senator REID and Senator ENSIGN and my House colleagues, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) for their tireless efforts in reaching a compromise on this bipartisan legislation that is important to all Nevadans.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for his leadership and especially acknowledge the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), a truly good friend who worked with the Nevada delegation to reach this compromise.

The Nevada delegation worked diligently with the people of Lincoln County, the environmental community, wilderness groups, ranchers and officials in southern Nevada to carefully craft this piece of legislation. While every group did not get every provision they wanted in the bill, this is a compromise we are all proud of.

This bill is well-balanced. It will help Lincoln County flourish and create economic opportunities for its citizens. Lincoln County officials and residents will be able to develop their community and expand their financial base. Protecting Nevada's environment is very important to me, and this allows for development without jeopardizing Nevada's precious resources.

The Federal Government owns over 98 percent of the land in Lincoln County. This restricts vital economic growth for the area. Allowing for private development will give the people of Lincoln County a way to increase prosperity for themselves and their children.

The Bureau of Land Management will only auction off approved lands. Lincoln County will use the proceeds from land sales to preserve parks, trails and natural resources Nevadans utilize and the natural beauty Nevadans have grown to love.

Nearly 770,000 acres of land will be designated as wilderness. This will protect treasured sites important to Native Americans in Nevada and rich in archaeological artifacts such as petroglyphs. The Nevada desert is also home to many species of wildlife, such as the sage grouse and desert tortoise.

Nevada is facing an unprecedented challenge as a result of a 5-year drought affecting the Colorado River Basin. This bill provides for additional water resources in southern Nevada which are desperately needed.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. I appreciate their support and their help.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 4593, the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in favor of this valuable legislation and I am proud to be an original co-sponsor.

I applaud the local governments of Clark and Lincoln Counties along with the Nevada Delegation and local officials that have helped with this collaborative legislation.

This is the result of many years of work with many parties and I am proud to be part of this legislation.

H.R. 4593 represents an important compromise between the Department of Interior and the State of Nevada. It enjoys strong bipartisan support from the entire Nevada Congressional Delegation.

Nevada's Third District, located in Clark County, is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. The growth has provided many positive opportunities for jobs and created a strong economic climate, but it has also placed an increased strain on our water supply and resources.

The fact is, the State of Nevada, and my congressional district in particular, continue to lead the Nation in population growth, yet we have access to the smallest water allocation of the seven States using the Colorado River.

As drought continues in the West and our State continues to grow, the development of in-state water resources grows increasingly important.

This new legislation will help the development and economy of both Lincoln and Clark Counties while continuing to preserve and protect Nevada's precious lands.

It will help us maintain a balance between land management and public use.

In Clark County we have enjoyed the benefits of improved parks, trails, and recreational areas using the proceeds from Federal land sales.

H.R. 4593 would provide similar opportunities for Lincoln County, located just north of Clark County. It offers a comprehensive plan that will contribute to the proposed development of Nevada's in-state resources intended to diversify southern Nevada's water supply and supplement the area's water entitlement from the Colorado River.

This legislation will help to expedite a solution to southern Nevada's current water situation without compromising public involvement and environmental compliance.

H.R. 4593 will also create utility corridors, resolve wilderness study issues, provide for competitive Federal land sales, and provide for the conveyance of Federal land to the State of Nevada and Lincoln County for use as public parks.

For the past decade Clark County's use of the Colorado River and an emphasis on water conservation have helped us in southern Nevada balance our growth and our need for water; however, as we plan for the future we realize we need additional water resources and planning.

I would like to urge my colleagues in the House to support this important bipartisan legislation and join with me in voting for this amendment.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4593.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT LAND EXCHANGE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1113) to authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, line 2 strike out "any other provision of law" and insert "section 5(b) of Public Law 90-401 (16 U.S.C. 4601-22(b))".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1113.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

□ 1600

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1113, as amended, was introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey 6 acres of land within the boundaries of the Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, Georgia, to the Christ Church, also located on St. Simons Island. In return, the National Park Service would receive 8.7 acres of nearby property that would be acquired by the church from the Sea Island Company and then exchanged with the Park Service. The exchange is viewed by all parties as a win-win.

Christ Church has doubled in size in the last 9 years, and the additional land is needed for its expansion. In return, the monument would receive lands that are known to contain valuable archaeological remains from the colonial period.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1113, which authorizes a land ex-

change at Fort Frederica National Monument in Georgia, has been amended by the Senate to clarify that the proposed land exchange is only exempt from a narrow and specific provision of law.

Even with the passage of this legislation, there is much work left to be done with this proposed exchange. Appraisals and archaeological surveys of the lands in question have not been completed. As such, the value and historic significance of the proposed lands have not been established.

Furthermore, the National Park Service testified that the noncontiguous parcel that would be acquired through the exchange will likely increase the administrative and operational costs of the national monument necessitating an evaluation of this question as well.

It is important to note that H.R. 1113 authorizes but does not require a land exchange at Fort Frederica National Monument. Before any exchange could occur, the National Park Service would be required to complete appraisals and historical surveys, as well as comply with the requirements of NEPA and the National Park Service management standards. These legal and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that the exchange, if it does go forward, is in the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, that being the case, we do not object to consideration of H.R. 1113, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1113.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1964) to assist the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in conserving priority lands and natural resources in the Highlands region, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Highlands Conservation Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize the importance of the water, forest, agricultural, wildlife, recreational, and cultural resources of the Highlands region, and the national significance of the Highlands region to the United States;

(2) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to work in partnership with the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to the Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region; and

(3) to continue the ongoing Forest Service programs in the Highlands region to assist the Highlands States, local units of government, and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of land and natural resources in the Highlands region.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HIGHLANDS REGION.**—The term "Highlands region" means the area depicted on the map entitled "The Highlands Region", dated June 2004, including the list of municipalities included in the Highlands region, and maintained in the headquarters of the Forest Service in Washington, District of Columbia.

(2) **HIGHLANDS STATE.**—The term "Highlands State" means—

(A) the State of Connecticut;

(B) the State of New Jersey;

(C) the State of New York; and

(D) the State of Pennsylvania.

(3) **LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT.**—The term "land conservation partnership project" means a land conservation project—

(A) located in the Highlands region;

(B) identified by the Forest Service in the Study, the Update, or any subsequent Pennsylvania and Connecticut Update as having high conservation value; and

(C) in which a non-Federal entity acquires land or an interest in land from a willing seller to permanently protect, conserve, or preserve the land through a partnership with the Federal Government.

(4) **NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.**—The term "non-Federal entity" means—

(A) any Highlands State; or

(B) any agency or department of any Highlands State with authority to own and manage land for conservation purposes, including the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

(5) **STUDY.**—The term "Study" means the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study conducted by the Forest Service in 1990.

(6) **UPDATE.**—The term "Update" means the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Study: 2002 Update conducted by the Forest Service.

(7) **PENNSYLVANIA AND CONNECTICUT UPDATE.**—The term "Pennsylvania and Connecticut Update" means a report to be completed by the Forest Service that identifies areas having high conservation values in the States of Connecticut and Pennsylvania in a manner similar to that utilized in the Study and Update.

SEC. 4. LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS IN THE HIGHLANDS REGION.

(a) **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS.**—Each year, the governors of the Highlands States, with input from pertinent units of local government and the public, may—

(1) jointly identify land conservation partnership projects in the Highlands region from land identified as having high conservation values in the Study, the Update, or the Pennsylvania and Connecticut Update that shall be proposed for Federal financial assistance; and

(2) submit a list of those projects to the Secretary of the Interior.