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the United States 23,000 acres of national monument lands on Admiralty Island. It is not a perfect compromise; they seldom are. Nevertheless, it is a workable deal. I urge the Members adopt the measure.

□ 1255

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairman and all parties involved in trying to solve this very ticklish situation that was created. I actually believe, against the congressional will, as an attempt that we tried to solve; a monument that could be destroyed.

By this legislation, we will be able to preserve it and make it the one area that we can continue to be proud of in southeast Alaska.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO].

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to commend the subcommittee chairman, Mr. SEIBERLING, and the ranking member on that subcommittee and of our committee, Mr. YOUNG, for their work on this Admiralty Island land exchange.

Indeed, this legislation does, as the chairman outlined in his initial remarks, provide for the consolidation of land and for the monument; and most of this grows out of policies that were moving in different directions at the same time and, obviously, that policy resulted in a great deal of litigation in which neither those conservationists that sought the monument protection or those that sought economic development were very happy about it.

The consequence, of course, and the solution as proposed here is to provide consolidation of those lands so that we would avoid the conflicts that have been inherent in the double-track policy that has affected Admiralty Island. That is, by moving the timber harvesting that is now going on by Shee Atika, and the economic development by Sealaska to areas where that will be consolidated in terms of Admiralty Island mineral extraction and move off of Admiralty Island with regard to cutting of timber.

I hope that this will work. It obviously provides some waivers and some legal exceptions which I think are not a precedent for action with respect to other land decisions or policy decisions with regards to Alaska or anyplace else, but I think, in this case, the judgment, the decision was that they were necessary to make this as near permanent a solution as possible for the future.

I commend those that have worked on this measure and rise to offer my support.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 additional minutes.

Let me thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of this legislation. This legislation had its incipience 3 years ago when the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, under the leadership of Chairman UDALL, made an inspection trip to Alaska. Among other things, we visited the Greens Creek mineral development site. At that time, it was pointed out to us that the development of that area could not take place under the deadlines that were then in effect. The other problems on Admiralty Island have already been mentioned by the other speakers. It seemed to me that this was an opportunity to try to resolve these various issues in one piece of legislation.

For 2 years almost, negotiations have gone forward with all the parties concerned. While I do not think anybody is 100-percent happy with this result, it does seem to me that it is a fair, balanced result, and from the standpoint of the overall public interest, it is a desirable one.

Let me just say one other thing, Mr. Speaker. The U.S. Government and in particular the Congress, have a continuing responsibility with respect to native peoples under the Constitution. In addition to that, in the treaty under which the United States acquired Alaska from Russia, we undertook to protect the interests of Alaska Native populations.

In this particular case, through no fault of their own, these Native village corporations have found themselves in an increasingly difficult economic situation because of continued controversies over the management of lands on Admiralty Island.

This is an effort to resolve the factors that gave rise to those controversies, promote balanced economic development in southeast Alaska, which the Federal Government has already made commitments to do, and at the same time to restore these Native corporations to a viable economic position as best we can.

So I feel that this is a piece of legislation that is in the public interest and also carrying out treaty and constitutional responsibilities of the Congress and the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, on that basis, I strongly urge support of this legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. SEIBERLING] is absolutely correct in his statement, and I would like to at this time acknowledge again his dedication to the State of Alaska.

I very rarely agree with many of his dedicated moments and thoughts, but there is no one who understands the issue greater and a gentleman that has a great opportunity, that I think he

has given the State of Alaska of understanding the issues.

I would suggest that, one that respects another colleague that takes the time to visit and to study and to understand, although he may differ from my opinions, I have the greatest respect for. I am going to deeply miss him because of his efforts and his belief for the State of Alaska, because he does know what he is talking about; he is not always right as far as I am concerned, but he does understand his position well and presents it very admirably.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, looking back some years to the rather strenuous contests that the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and I had over the Alaska lands legislation, let me say that despite our differences at that time and occasionally on other issues, that I have enjoyed working with him on the committee. He is a real gentleman, he is a great guy, and I hope I can go fishing with him sometime in Alaska, and that way we will see eye to eye, and the only argument we will have is over who caught the biggest fish.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GLICKMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. SEIBERLING] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4883, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING THE SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, ARIZONA

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4811) to establish the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in Cochise County, Arizona, in order to assure the protection of the riparian, wildlife, archaeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the conservation area, and for other purposes as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4811

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In order to protect the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the public lands surrounding the San Pedro River in Cochise County, Arizona, there is hereby established the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "conservation area").

(b) **AREA INCLUDED.**—The conservation area shall consist of public lands as generally depicted on a map entitled "San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area—Proposed" dated July 1986, comprising approximately 43,000 acres.

(c) **MAP.**—As soon as is practicable after enactment of this Act, a map and legal description of the conservation area shall be filed by the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Each such map shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, and in the Bureau of Land Management offices of the State Director for Arizona, and the district office responsible for the management of the conservation area.

SEC. 2. MANAGEMENT OF THE CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITIES.**—The Secretary shall manage the conservation area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the conservation area. Such management shall be guided by this Act and, where not inconsistent with this Act, by the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "FLPMA").

(b) **USES.**—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the conservation area as he finds will further the primary purposes for which the conservation area is established. Except where needed for administrative or emergency purposes, the use of motorized vehicles in the conservation area shall only be allowed on roads specifically designated for such use as part of the management plan prepared pursuant to section 3 of this Act. The Secretary shall have the power to implement such reasonable limits to visitation and use of the conservation area as he finds appropriate for the protection of the resources of the conservation area, including requiring permits for public use, or closing portions of the conservation area to public use.

(c) **LIVESTOCK.**—In order to provide an opportunity for the study, evaluation, and monitoring of riparian areas in the absence of livestock grazing, the Secretary shall not, subject to valid existing contractual rights, issue any permit for the grazing of livestock on lands designated as part of the conservation area by this Act for a period of 15 years from the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **WITHDRAWALS.**—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands within the conservation area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; from location, entry, and patent under the United States

mining laws; and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing and all amendments thereto.

(e) **ENFORCEMENT.**—Any person who violates any provision of this Act or any regulation promulgated by the Secretary to implement this Act shall be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to one year, or both.

SEC. 3. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.**—No later than 2 years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive plan for the long-range management and protection of the conservation area. The plan shall be developed with full opportunity for public participation and comment, and shall contain provisions designed to assure protection of the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreation resources and values of the conservation area.

(b) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Secretary shall, in the comprehensive plan referred to in subsection (a), develop recommendations to Congress on whether additional lands should be included in the conservation area.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate State and local agencies, pursuant to section 307(b) of FLPMA, to better implement the plan developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(d) **RESEARCH.**—In order to assist in the development of appropriate management strategies for the conservation area, the Secretary may authorize research on matters including the environmental, biological, hydrological, and cultural resources of the conservation area, pursuant to section 307(a) of FLPMA.

SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Advisory Committee, whose purpose shall be to advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the comprehensive, long-range plan required pursuant to section 3 of this Act.

(b) **REPRESENTATION.**—There shall be 7 members of the Committee, who shall be appointed by the Secretary. Members of the Committee shall be appointed for terms of three years, except that of the members first appointed 2 shall be appointed for terms of 1 year and 3 shall be appointed for terms of 2 years. The Secretary shall appoint one member from nominations supplied by the Governor of the State of Arizona, and one member from nominations supplied by the Supervisors of Cochise County, Arizona. The other members shall be persons with recognized backgrounds in wildlife conservation, riparian ecology, archeology, paleontology, or other disciplines directly related to the primary purposes for which the conservation area was created.

SEC. 5. LAND ACQUISITION.

The Secretary may acquire lands or interests in lands within the boundaries of the conservation areas by exchange, purchase, or donation, except that any lands or interests therein owned by the State or local government may be acquired by donation or exchange only. Any purchase or exchange of lands to be added to the conservation area shall require the consent of the owner of those lands or rights.

SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

No later than 5 years after the enactment of this Act, and every 10 years thereafter,

the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, on the implementation of this Act. Such report shall include a detailed statement on the condition of the resources within the conservation area and of the progress of the Bureau of Land Management in achieving the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is a second demanded?

Mr. **MARLENEE**. Mr. President, I demand a second.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. **SEIBERLING**] will be recognized for 20 minutes and the gentleman from Montana [Mr. **MARLENEE**] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. **SEIBERLING**].

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4811 would designate a San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area on Bureau of Land Management lands in Arizona. Its purpose is to protect an outstanding desert riparian area which the BLM recently acquired in southern Arizona. The reason BLM acquired the area was to protect it, and this bill is intended to help them accomplish that.

The San Pedro River area is a rare remnant of the desert streamside forests that have mostly been lost to development over the years. It is an unusually rich wildlife area, with an incredible total of 260 different species of birds, as well as an abundance of other wildlife. The river flows north out of Mexico, and serves as a corridor into the United States for many species only rarely seen here.

In addition, the area has important archeological, historic, and paleontological resources.

This would be the fourth national conservation area designated by Congress. Each one is managed by the BLM, but each has its own, unique mandate. H.R. 4811 would require the BLM to manage the San Pedro area to protect the resources I have mentioned, it would withdraw the area from mining, and it would prevent the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new grazing permits in the area for a period of 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our colleague **JIM KOLBE**, whose district includes the area affected by this bill, and the distinguished Arizonians on the Interior Committee, Chairman **MO**

UDALL and Representative JOHN McCAIN, as well as the other members of the Arizona delegation, for working out the language the committee has reported to the House. The strong bipartisan support for this bill from the Arizona delegation is testimony to the importance all Arizonians give to their natural heritage, and to their recognition that the San Pedro River area is a unique and valuable area that fully deserves the recognition and the protection that this bill would provide.

I strongly urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

□ 1305

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4811, a bill to designate approximately 43,000 acres of BLM land in Arizona as the San Pedro National Conservation Area.

Conservation area designations are some what rare—only three such areas exist currently. However, I believe it is a useful designation because it allows us to shape the management of the area to fit particular needs while leaving the basic management scheme as one of multiple use.

In this regard, two issues came up during our hearings and markups on this legislation of concern to me because they do restrict multiple uses of the area. One, the bill bans grazing for 15 years. While I can appreciate the chairman's fear that overgrazing could occur, I believe grazing is a useful, discretionary tool which should be available to the BLM and should be addressed in the management plan for the area. The authors of the bill did, however, agree to a 15-year sunset after which time grazing can resume in the area.

Second, I was concerned that an effort might be made to close the area to hunting. I have been assured by the authors of the bill that this is not the case. Wildlife management will continue to be under the control of the State and nothing in the legislation affects their authority.

I commend my colleague from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE], in whose district the area is, and the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN], a member of the committee, for their leadership on this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Montana yield?

Mr. MARLENEE. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I also very much appreciate the gentleman's important support of this bill. I understand his concerns particularly in the area of hunt-

ing. We really very much appreciate his support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in strong support of this bill. The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area will be a welcome addition to the lands already set aside in my State of Arizona for the purpose of preserving our natural heritage. It contains important riparian, aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources which are not presently well represented in my State.

This legislation contains some important features which I believe are important. First, grazing will be banned for 15 years. This will give us a unique opportunity to have a river in Arizona that exists in a near natural state, which does not exist, that I am aware of, anywhere else in Arizona. At the same time we will have the opportunity to review the effect of this procedure and the chance to modify it if the results indicate we should. Second, ORV use will be limited in the area. ORV use will not be prohibited but it will be controlled to certain defined areas. I do not think this area is compatible with unrestricted ORV use.

This legislation retains the unique approach of a management council with plenty of local representation to assist BLM in devising a long-term management plan for the use of the San Pedro Area. This should insure that the wishes of those who will make the most use of this area are given maximum input. I think this is a wise approach.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Congressman KOLBE for his unflagging efforts to gain passage of this measure and extend my personal thanks to Mr. SEIBERLING and Chairman UDALL for their time and attention to this relatively small matter. I am sure the people of Cochise County and all of Arizona appreciate the efforts of these three gentleman in preserving such a unique area as the San Pedro for them and their children.

Mr. Speaker, this bill along with the Arizona wilderness bill and others has contributed an enormous amount to the preservation of the great natural beauty of the most beautiful State in our Nation and that of Arizona. I am grateful and proud to have the opportunity today to be part of an effort to complete that very important effort of that great preservation of the wonderful State of Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MARLENEE. I would be happy to yield to my colleague, JIM KOLBE, who is the author of this particular piece of legislation and in whose district this legislation would create a conservation district.

I would also request of the gentleman that I have the opportunity early on to view that area with him and at

some later time we can go back and review the progress that is made in conservation and in improved vegetation habitation in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE].

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to having the opportunity to show the gentleman from Montana as well as the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee this area, as I explained to him in a letter. I am looking forward to showing them myself.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4811. This is a bill I sponsored, with every member of the Arizona delegation, to designate the San Pedro riparian national conservation area in Cochise County, AZ. For those Members who believe that Arizona is a sun-baked and desolate State, with only the Grand Canyon as a redeeming feature, then I hope that what we say here today will dispel that myth.

We're all proud of the districts and State we represent—and I'm no exception to that. I grew up on a ranch in Santa Cruz County, in southeastern Arizona, where we have rolling green hills, streams that nourish giant cottonwoods, and air as clean and clear as anywhere on Earth. The House of Representatives has played an active role in seeing that we're able to maintain that natural beauty, and for that, Mr. Speaker, I salute my colleague from Ohio, Mr. SEIBERLING; the distinguished members of the House Interior Committee, including JOHN McCAIN who is also a sponsor of this legislation; and most especially the chairman of the Interior Committee, my colleague from Arizona, and cosponsor, MO UDALL.

The San Pedro River—the subject of this legislation—flows north from Mexico into the United States. It passes near the city of Sierra Vista, and the towns of Hereford, Charleston, Fairbank, and Saint David. The area for designation consists of 43,000 acres lying in a narrow strip along 30 miles of river bottom between Saint David and Hereford. Along this river can be found one of the most important areas in the country for riparian wildlife, as well as archaeological and historical sites.

The ecosystem along the river is one of the best remaining in Arizona. Because of the year round water, and the riparian forests, the San Pedro is home to approximately 161 species of birds, including nearly 20 percent of the Nation's nesting population of the rare gray hawk.

It's home to 80 species of mammals, including racoons, muledeer, whitetail deer, javelina and bobcats.

It's home to at least 12 species of fish and 69 species of reptiles and amphibians.

And finally, the area is home to over 100 known prehistoric and historic

sites and nine known fossil sites. We can only guess as to how many more will be discovered given the time to study the area.

The Federal Government acquired this land a few months ago by means of a land exchange. Since then it has been closed to the public until legislation can be passed and a management plan prepared. But controlled access to the area could eventually include significant opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, nature studies, camping, and hunting. The extent of these possible uses will be determined in the management plan based on the guidelines dictated in H.R. 4811.

The purposes of this bill are several:

To place the area under the stewardship of the Bureau of Land Management;

To define the resources which Congress believes to be preeminent, and therefore to be protected;

To provide direction to the bureau as they attempt to formalize their management guidelines;

To ensure that the bureau is carrying out the purposes of this act in line with congressional intent by requiring a report to the House and Senate on the progress and implementation of this act;

To ensure full public participation and comment by establishing an advisory council to assist in the development of the management plan and in carrying out that plan;

To establish legal enforcement provisions which would enable the U.S. Government to prosecute individuals found guilty of violating the provisions or regulations of this act.

I want to take a moment to mention that I believe the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Arizona, including Dean Bibles, the State director, and Les Rosenkrance the manager of the Safford District BLM Office, and their entire staff, deserves commendation for the job they have done on this project. The kind of support this bill enjoys in Arizona is directly related to their work. They have done a marvelous job of educating the public about the importance of this area, holding numerous public hearings throughout the State to hear everyone's concerns about possible uses and abuses in the area. In March, they completed a complicated land exchange in order to acquire the property at no cost to the taxpayer, and they are working with a volunteer management steering committee in developing the management guidelines in order to ensure that the process continues in a very wide open and public way.

Without their dedication and high professionalism, this bill, and the support that exists for its passage, would not exist.

I would also like to commend the majority and minority staff of the

House Interior Committee. They have worked with my staff to ensure that the concerns of all interested groups would be addressed in this bill. The result was a substantial redraft of the original legislation which more clearly fits the unusual and particular needs of this land.

The changes to my bill which were adopted in committee significantly improves the bill by more specifically directing the kind of management that is foreseen for this area. It accomplishes this, I might add, without unnecessarily tying the hands of the actual land managers, those folks who are in the field and must deal with the reality of managing large, valuable tracts of land in a manner that will protect and enhance this area for the enjoyment of generations to come.

As one member of the committee stated when the bill was marked up last week, this bill is an example of reality dictating the substance of legislation, rather than legislation being thrust upon reality.

The list of groups who have expressed support for passage of this bill include the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Arizona Nature Conservancy, the Arizona Native Plant Society, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, as well as the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of Management and Budget. This is a farflung group of varied interests and perspectives. The 3 months since I introduced this legislation have been filled with numerous meetings, conferences and telephone calls to make sure that this legislation is right for the land. I can stand here today and say that, with the help of all of these groups, and many other interested individuals, this legislation is right.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation today, that we might let the other body know that we want this legislation passed this session.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman from Montana yield further?

Mr. MARLENEE. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN].

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention that our great Arizona historian Marshall Trimble in his book "Arizona Adventure" talks about the riparian habitat in Arizona in the days gone by. In his book he says:

In the high country, abundant stands of quaking aspens were a gourmet's delight for the wily, paddle-tailed critters. Further downstream, cottonwood and willows lined the banks of rivers and streams. During this pristine period, prior to giant irrigation projects, tree-cutting and overgrazing, the verdant land was a veritable paradise.

I believe this legislation today can at least restore a small part of Arizona to that degree of pristine beauty.

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

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

As has already been pointed out, this bill makes no changes in existing law relating to hunting on public lands. All it does is to provide a general guide to the BLM as to the objectives that it is to follow in managing this land and developing a management plan.

I would point out, however, that that does include the right and duty where necessary to limit access to certain areas, and by controlling access it may obviously have an effect on hunting in those areas, but it is all to be done within the overall framework of this bill. It does not change the existing law with respect to which entity, the State or the Federal Government, decides which species may be hunted and where.

I just wanted to clarify that point for the RECORD.

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SEIBERLING. I yield to the gentleman from Montana [Mr. MARLENEE].

Mr. MARLENEE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the BLM and the Forest Service do have the ability and the right to limit access, ingress, or egress on any of the current public lands that they are managing.

Mr. SEIBERLING. That is correct. And, as has already been pointed out, this area presently is closed by the BLM pending action by Congress on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise in strong support today of H.R. 4811, which would designate the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. This new area lies in Cochise County, AZ which I represented here in Congress for many years.

The lands covered by the bill are 43,000 acres of private lands that were acquired by the BLM in a major land exchange earlier this year. The lands are all in a narrow strip along about 30 miles of the San Pedro River that runs north from the Mexican border. Arizonans, as well as Federal officials, have been interested in protecting these special lands for many years.

The riparian area still retains about 75 percent of its native flora which is very unusual for a river in the Southwest. The nearby Gila, for example, has retained only about 10 percent and the Pecos about 15 percent. It is habitat for at least 20 species of raptors, a third of the entire United States population of gray hawks, and a total of about 210 species of birds. The diversity of mammals is considered the greatest of any area of comparable size in the country. The water that attracts

wildlife also has attracted man for thousands of years so the area is rich in archeological sites from early man, through 20th century Indians and Spanish settlers. The public recreation possibilities are outstanding.

The bill designates the area a "national conservation area." There are no real standards for what makes a national conservation area and we have approached the construction of this particular designation very carefully. Although generally my committee frowns on such designations because they are not well defined, we also recognize that this particular situation presents an opportunity to craft a management scheme that fits the unusual circumstances on the San Pedro.

The basic approach is to define the essential resources of the area—wildlife, archeologic, paleontologic, scientific, cultural, educational and recreational—and instruct BLM to draft a management plan promoting activities that further the protection and development of these resources while discouraging or prohibiting all activities that do not.

BLM is given pretty wide latitude in this regard, but there are some significant exceptions. First, all mining is banned after two current contracts signed by the former private landholder expire. Second, all vehicles are banned except on roads designated for their use by the management plan.

And finally, grazing is banned for at least 15 years. Like all too much of the lands in the Southwest, and especially its riparian lands, this area has been overgrazed. Our purpose in banning grazing, however, is not to make an antigrazing statement. Rather, it is an effort to create a riparian zone that has not been grazed by livestock, to study its ecosystem and provide a benchmark by which we can judge other riparian areas that may be characterized by good, bad, or indifferent grazing management practices. The ban against livestock grazing expires in 15 years so BLM can be given an opportunity to reevaluate this approach at that time. I want to emphasize that the fact that the ban sunsets in 15 years should in no way be interpreted as congressional intent to resume grazing after 15 years. It is my strong belief that grazing should be reintroduced only if the land managers believe it is necessary to do so for the ecological health of the riparian area and only then in such limited areas and for such limited time as they think is necessary.

There are essentially three current commercial activities in the area. All of them are operating under contracts with the former private landowner. These contracts all expire at the end of this year or the next. BLM intends to move all three of them—a grazing operation, a sand and gravel mine, and a "slumpblock" operation—out of the area when their contracts expire, and we fully support that intention.

Mr. Speaker, we have had unusual bipartisan cooperation and support from the very beginning of the effort to conserve the San Pedro. I want to offer a special note of appreciation to Dean Bibles, the Arizona State Director of BLM, for making the acquisition and protection of this area a personal priority and for meeting this challenge with great skill and dedication. I also would like to thank the rest of the Arizona congressional delegation for

their help and to offer my congratulations to those many private citizens in southern Arizona who have worked so hard for this day for many years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GLICKMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SEIBERLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4811, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

SOCORRO COUNTY, NM, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4971) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in lands in Socorro County, NM, to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4971

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF LANDS.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights and except as provided in section 3, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized and directed to convey to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Institute"), Socorro, New Mexico, at fair market value, as determined by the Secretary, all right, title and interest of the United States in and to the public lands aggregating approximately 8,501.55 acres in Socorro County, New Mexico, as generally depicted on a map entitled "New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Land Transfer, Socorro, New Mexico," dated 1985, to be used for research and education.

(b) SURVEY.—The conveyance required by subsection (a) shall occur only after the Institute performs and provides to the Secretary a survey of the archeological resources of the area which identifies the mitigation measures, if any, that the Institute, in coordination with the State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Office, will implement following the conveyance and shall be conditioned on the implementation of such mitigation measures.

SEC. 2. MAPS AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS.

As soon as practicable after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a map and legal description of the public lands designated in the first section of this Act to the Committee on Energy and Natu-

ral Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives. Such a map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that any clerical or typographical errors or legal description may be corrected. The Secretary shall place such map and legal description on file, and make them available for public inspection, in the Office of the Director, New Mexico State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

SEC. 3. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.

There are reserved to the United States all minerals that may be found in the lands described in the first section: *Provided, however*, That such lands, except for valid existing rights, shall not be available for location and patent under the U.S. Mining Law, Act of May 10, 1872, 17 Stat. 91, 30 U.S.C. 22, 28, 28b.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a second demanded?

Mr. MARLENEE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SEIBERLING) will be recognized for 20 minutes and the gentleman from Montana (Mr. MARLENEE) will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SEIBERLING).

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology the surface estate in 8,500 acres of Federal lands in Socorro County, NM.

The conveyance would be for fair market value as determined by the Secretary, and the mineral rights in the lands would be retained by the United States.

The conveyance would allow the expansion of the field laboratory which the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology uses for research purposes.

Legislation is required if the sale is to occur in a timely manner, as BLM has not completed the necessary revisions of its plans to enable them to dispose of the lands.

Mr. Speaker, the administration testified they had no objection to the bill, and I note that a similar bill (S. 1963) has been passed by the other body.

Our committee has reported the bill with a number of technical amendments which will require us to send this matter back to the Senate for further action. However, so far as I know, the changes are not controversial and I urge passage of the bill.

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