

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3969

To amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to extend the interim protection of the Spanish Peaks planning area in the San Isabel National Forest, Colorado.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 1996

Mr. SKAGGS (for himself, Mr. McINNIS, and Mrs. SCHROEDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to extend the interim protection of the Spanish Peaks planning area in the San Isabel National Forest, Colorado.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The two volcanic peaks in Huerfano and
6 Las Animas Counties, Colorado, known as the Span-
7 ish Peaks or Wayatoya, are easterly extensions of
8 the Rocky Mountains and served as landmarks to
9 some of Colorado's earliest settlers.

1 (2) The portion of the San Isabel National For-
2 est encompassing the Spanish Peaks is within an
3 area designated on the National Register of Natural
4 Landmarks and has outstanding scenic, geological,
5 and other values.

6 (3) Public Law 96–560 provided for the man-
7 agement of the Spanish Peaks as a wilderness study
8 area so as to maintain the options of Congress re-
9 garding possible designation of these lands as com-
10 ponents of the National Wilderness Preservation
11 System.

12 (4) Section 10 of the Colorado Wilderness Act
13 of 1993 (Public Law 103–77) required continued
14 management of these lands, known as the Spanish
15 Peaks planning area, as a wilderness study area dur-
16 ing a three-year period extending through August
17 13, 1996, and required the submission to Congress
18 of a report concerning the status of private property
19 holdings within the planning area.

20 (5) Since 1993, the United States has acquired,
21 with the consent of their owners, many of the lands
22 within the Spanish Peaks planning area that were in
23 private ownership in 1993.

24 (6) Acquisition by the United States of some or
25 all of the rest of such non-Federal lands would be

1 desirable in order to facilitate management of lands
2 within the Spanish Peaks planning area as wilder-
3 ness, but neither such acquisitions nor enactment of
4 legislation to designate some or all of the planning
5 area as wilderness is likely to be completed prior to
6 the end of the period during which the planning area
7 is required to be managed as a wilderness study
8 area.

9 (7) Therefore, continued management of the
10 Spanish Peaks planning area as a wilderness study
11 area is desirable in order to retain the options of
12 Congress concerning possible designation of lands
13 within the planning area as wilderness.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to require
15 continued management of the Spanish Peaks planning
16 area as a wilderness study area until Congress can deter-
17 mine which if any of the lands within the planning area
18 are to be designated as wilderness.

19 **SEC. 2. WILDERNESS STUDY EXTENSION, SPANISH PEAKS**
20 **PLANNING AREA, COLORADO.**

21 Section 10(d) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993
22 (Public Law 103–77; 107 Stat. 765) is amended by strik-
23 ing “for a period of three years from the date of enact-

1 ment of this Act,” and inserting “until Congress deter-
2 mines otherwise,”.

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