

GREAT WESTERN SCENIC TRAIL STUDY

FEBRUARY 27, 1995.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 531]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 531) to designate the Great Western Scenic Trail as a study trail under the National Trails System Act, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. POTENTIAL ADDITION OF GREAT WESTERN SCENIC TRIAL TO NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM GREAT WESTERN TRAIL.

Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(38) The Great Western Scenic Trail, a system of trails to accommodate a variety of travel users in a corridor of approximately 3,100 miles in length extending from the Arizona-Mexico border to the Idaho-Montana-Canada border, following the approximate route depicted on the map identified as ‘Great Western Trail Corridor, 1988’, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. The trail study shall be conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with subsection (b) and shall include—

“(A) the current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;

“(B) the estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interests in lands, if any; and

“(C) an examination of the appropriateness of motorized trail use along the trail.”.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTED BILL

H.R. 531 would amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Great Western Scenic Trail for potential addition to the

National Trails System. The Great Western Scenic Trail would accommodate a variety of travel users along a corridor of approximately 3,100 miles from the Idaho-Canada border to the Arizona-Mexico border.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 531 is to amend Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) to add the Great Western Scenic Trail as a study trail.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Under the National Trails System Act, Congress may designate a trail for study for inclusion within the National Trails System. H.R. 531 will authorize the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Secretary of Interior to study the Great Western Scenic Trail for inclusion in the National Trails System.

The Great Western Scenic Trail is a north/south trail system extending from Canada to Mexico. The proposed route takes advantage of many existing trails and roads plus the abundance of public lands throughout the Rocky Mountain area. This route will avoid new construction for the trail and acquisition of private rights. The Committee intends that the impacts and/or conflicts with private property be minimized as much as practicable.

The Great Western Scenic Trail is envisioned as a "multiple use" trail that would accommodate nearly all methods of recreational trail use including hiking, biking, skiing, horses, boating, four wheel and off road vehicles. This is reaffirmed in H.R. 531 by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to examine the appropriateness of motorized trail use along the trail.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 531 was introduced by Mr. Hansen of Utah on January 17, 1995. The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee, to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands. On January 24, 1995, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands received testimony from the U.S. Forest Service on H.R. 531. On January 26, 1995, the Subcommittee met to consider H.R. 531 in markup session. At the markup, Mr. Hansen offered an amendment to the bill which deleted language regarding the inventory of rights of way along the Trail corridor and replaced that language with the protections called for in the National Trail System Act. The amendment was adopted by voice vote, and the bill, as amended was ordered reported to the Committee on Resources. On February 15, 1995, the Committee on Resources considered H.R. 531 in markup session. No additional amendments were offered to the bill, and the bill, as amended, was ordered reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the

House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that the enactment of H.R. 531 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 531. However, clause 7(d) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirements of clause 2(l)(3)(A) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands held a hearing on January 24, 1995, and received testimony regarding H.R. 531 from the U.S. Forest Service. The oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee are reflected in this report.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(D) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 531.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(l)(3)(C) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for H.R. 531 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, February 22, 1995.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 531, a bill to designate the Great Western Scenic Trail as a study trail under the National Trails System Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on February 15, 1995. CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would result in costs of about \$300,000 to the federal government over fiscal years 1996-1997. Because enactment of H.R. 531 would not af-

fect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 531 would amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Great Western Trail as a potential addition to the National Trails System. This bill would require only that the Secretary of Agriculture conduct a study of various issues concerning the trail. Based on information provided by the Forest Service, CBO estimates that this study would cost about \$300,000, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, and would take two years to complete.

Enacting H.R. 531 would result in no cost to state or local governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Theresa Gullo, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM,
(For Robert D. Reischauer, *Director*).

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Committee received no departmental reports on H.R. 531.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, as shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 5 OF THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT

NATIONAL SCENIC AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAILS

SEC. 5. (a) * * *

* * * * *

(c) The following routes shall be studied in accordance with the objectives outlined in subsection (b) of this section:

(1) * * *

* * * * *

(38) The Great Western Scenic Trail, a system of trails to accommodate a variety of travel users in a corridor of approximately 3,100 miles in length extending from the Arizona-Mexico border to the Idaho-Montana-Canada border, following the approximate route depicted on the map identified as "Great Western Trail Corridor, 1988", which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. The trail study shall be conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with subsection (b) and shall include—

(A) the current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;

(B) the estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interests in lands, if any; and

(C) an examination of the appropriateness of motorized trail use along the trail.

* * * * *

