

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 308

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 1998

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study concerning grazing use and open space of certain land within and adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and to extend temporarily certain grazing privileges.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) open space near Grand Teton National
4 Park continues to decline;

5 (2) as the population continues to grow in
6 Teton County, Wyoming, undeveloped land near the
7 park becomes more scarce;

8 (3) the loss of open space around Grand Teton
9 National Park has negative impacts on wildlife mi-
10 gration routes in the area and on visitors to the
11 park, and its repercussions can be felt throughout
12 the entire region;

13 (4) a few ranches make up Teton Valley's re-
14 maining open space, and the ranches depend on
15 grazing in Grand Teton National Park for summer
16 range to maintain operations;

17 (5) the Act that created Grand Teton National
18 Park allowed several permittees to continue livestock
19 grazing in the park for the life of a designated heir
20 in the family;

21 (6) some the last remaining heirs have died,
22 and as a result of the possible termination of ranch-
23 ing, the open space around the park may likely be
24 subdivided and developed;

25 (7) in order to develop the best solution to pro-
26 tect open space immediately adjacent to Grand

1 Teton National Park, the National Park Service
2 should conduct a study of grazing in the area and
3 its impact on open space in the region; and

4 (8) the study should develop workable solutions
5 that are fiscally responsible and acceptable to the
6 National Park Service, the public, local government,
7 and landowners in the area.

8 **SEC. 2. STUDY OF GRAZING USE AND OPEN SPACE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior
10 (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”), shall conduct
11 a study concerning grazing use and open space in Grand
12 Teton National Park, Wyoming (hereinafter referred to as
13 the “park”), and associated use of certain agricultural and
14 ranch lands within and adjacent to the park, including—

15 (1) base land having appurtenant grazing privi-
16 leges within the park, remaining after January 1,
17 1990, under the Act entitled “An Act to establish a
18 new Grand Teton National Park in the State of Wy-
19 oming, and for other purposes”, approved September
20 14, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 406d–1 et seq.); and

21 (2) any ranch and agricultural land adjacent to
22 the park, the use and disposition of which may af-
23 fect accomplishment of the purposes of the park’s
24 enabling Act.

25 (b) PURPOSE.—The study shall—

1 (1) assess the significance of the ranching use
2 and pastoral character (including open vistas, wild-
3 life habitat, and other public benefits) of the land;

4 (2) assess the significance of that use and char-
5 acter to the purposes for which the park was estab-
6 lished, and identify any need for preservation of, and
7 practicable means of preserving, the land that is
8 necessary to protect that use and character; and

9 (3) recommend a variety of economically fea-
10 sible and viable tools and techniques to retain the
11 pastoral qualities of the area, and estimate the costs
12 of implementing any recommendations made for the
13 preservation of the land.

14 (c) PARTICIPATION.—In conducting the study, the
15 Secretary shall consult with the Governor of the State of
16 Wyoming, the Teton County Commissioners, the Secretary
17 of Agriculture, affected landowners, and other interested
18 members of the public.

19 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years from the date
20 funding is made available, the Secretary shall submit a
21 report to Congress that contains the findings of the study
22 under subsection (a) and makes recommendations to Con-
23 gress regarding action that may be taken with respect to
24 the land described in subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF GRAZING PRIVILEGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Sec-
3 retary shall reinstate and extend for the duration of the
4 study described in section 2(a) and until such time as 6
5 months after the recommendations of the study are sub-
6 mitted, the grazing privileges described in section 2(a)(1),
7 under the same terms and conditions as were in effect
8 prior to the expiration of the privileges.

9 (b) EFFECT OF CHANGE IN LAND USE.—If, during
10 the period of the study or until 6 months after the rec-
11 ommendations of the study are submitted, any portion of
12 the land described in section 2(a)(1) is disposed of in a
13 manner that would result in the land no longer being used
14 for ranching or other agricultural purposes, the Secretary
15 shall cancel the extension described in subsection (a).

Passed the Senate September 16, 1997.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.