

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3421

To remove use and disposal restrictions on property located in the City of Winslow, Navajo County, Arizona.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2013

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To remove use and disposal restrictions on property located in the City of Winslow, Navajo County, Arizona.

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. REMOVAL OF USE AND DISPOSAL RESTRIC-**  
4 **TIONS ON WINSLOW HOSPITALITY PARK.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) According to the 2010 Census, the City of  
7 Winslow, located in Navajo County, is a rural com-  
8 munity of 9,655 residents.

1           (2) The community is dependent on revenue  
2 from economic development and tourism to fund  
3 vital city services.

4           (3) Winslow Hospitality Park, a 123-acre prop-  
5 erty, has been owned by the City of Winslow since  
6 February 12, 1953, when the City gained title to the  
7 land from the Santa Fe Railroad.

8           (4) The City received a Land and Water Con-  
9 servation Grant on May 16, 1979, for \$299,915 to  
10 match City funds for the purpose of developing the  
11 land into a golf course.

12           (5) Over the next 23 years, the City spent  
13 \$3,935,363 on managing, maintaining, and oper-  
14 ating the golf course.

15           (6) Due to poor turf growth and lack of patron-  
16 age, course management became so costly and bur-  
17 densome to the City that the golf course ceased op-  
18 erations in 2003, while it remained open for public  
19 use.

20           (7) The City signed an intergovernmental  
21 agreement with State of Arizona Outdoor Recreation  
22 Coordinating Commission that was subsequently ap-  
23 proved by the Department of the Interior, through  
24 the National Park Service, as the administrator of  
25 the grant that stated that the City “shall be respon-

1 sible for the operation and maintenance after com-  
2 pletion of said project for a 25-year period of time  
3 as determined by the AORCC or the Director of the  
4 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service as  
5 commensurate with the project fund investment and  
6 federal requirements, if any. Any term of mainte-  
7 nance and operation of less than 25 years described  
8 by the participant must be approved by the AORCC  
9 and the Heritage Conservation Service”.

10 (8) In 2003, due to the failure of the golf  
11 course, the City inquired with Arizona State Parks,  
12 the successor agency to the Arizona Outdoor Recre-  
13 ation Coordinating Commission, regarding how to  
14 terminate the 25-year agreement one year early and  
15 the National Park Service informed the City for the  
16 first time that the land must be used “in per-  
17 petuity” for public recreation contrary to the origi-  
18 nal intergovernmental agreement which the National  
19 Park Service had approved.

20 (9) The National Park Service stated the only  
21 way to release the lien on the land was to donate to  
22 the Federal Government land of equal or greater  
23 value.

24 (10) The City of Winslow owns title to the land  
25 known as Winslow Hospitality Park and should not

1 have to donate additional land to the Federal Gov-  
2 ernment to use land that it already owns for non-  
3 public purposes, especially when the City was never  
4 informed of the “in perpetuity” maintenance re-  
5 quirement during its performance of the intergovern-  
6 mental agreement.

7 (11) The estimated value of this land according  
8 to a February 2, 2011, appraisal is \$211,000.

9 (12) Using this land for non-public purposes  
10 would financially enable the City by encouraging de-  
11 velopment without any cost to the Federal Govern-  
12 ment.

13 (b) REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS.—Notwithstanding  
14 section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund  
15 Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–8(f)(3)), the approximately  
16 123 acres of land located in the City of Winslow, Navajo  
17 County, Arizona, and designated as the “Winslow Hospi-  
18 tality Park”, may be disposed of or used for purposes  
19 other than public recreation.

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