

the past 22 years, he has continued his dedication to his nation by serving as a volunteer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. On March 8th, 2003, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will honor over a half of a decade of service as Mr. Quirk begins his retirement.

During World War II, Mr. Quirk was a member of the famed 56th Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps and achieved the status of Double-Ace. Shot down on his 100th mission, he was subsequently held as a prisoner-of-war at Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany until April, 1945. For his commitment and bravery in the Second World War, he received the Silver Star and was additionally awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered when his plane was shot down.

Mr. Quirk returned to the U.S. in 1945 where he entered Catholic University and pursued his degree. In 1947 though, the call to serve his nation yearned in his heart and he returned to military, joining the U.S. Air Force where he would remain for the next 30 years. Over the course of his career in the U.S. Air Force, he flew with the 4th Fighter Group flying F-80 Shooting Stars, at Langley Air Force Base flying F-86 Sabre jets, in La Paz, Bolivia training Bolivian pilots to fly the P-47, and served at the Central Air Defense Force from 1951-52. In addition, he was the Commander of the 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and flew with the 453rd Tactical Fighter Training Wing. After over 30 years of military service, Mr. Quirk retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in 1977.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Quirk and his wife Kit joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as members of the voluntary division of the U.S. Coast Guard. Rising through the ranks, he was named Commodore of the 8th Coastal Region in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Michael J. Quirk on his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. His contributions to the United States of America are significant and impressive and I consider him a patriot of the highest order. On this such occasion, we honor one of America's greatest citizens; a committed soldier and dedicated volunteer.

H.J. RES. 4

HON. TIMOTHY J. RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with certain provisions in H.J. Res. 4, specifically the provisions that expand logging in federal forests and prevent any administrative or judicial review of the Tongass Land Management Plan. These changes are detrimental to our environment and our country.

When faced with a decision that may potentially damage our environment, I try to follow the lead of President Theodore Roosevelt, who founded the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1903. I share his philosophy that our environment is essential to our lives and is of the greatest importance. As President Roosevelt said, ". . . the conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others." And here we are now, 100

years later; I would like to think that we will continue to be a part of the vision that began a century ago.

I am also concerned with the provision that allows FY 2003 Bureau of Land Management funding for exploratory oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is one of our country's largest refuges and is among the most pristine and undisturbed ecosystems on Earth. The Refuge belongs to the people of the United States, not to a select few. President Roosevelt's National Wildlife Refuge System created ANWR, "For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values . . ." Let us render to our future generations a world more enriched than we have found it.

DAVID P. HANLON

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the life of David P. Hanlon, beloved principal of McDowell Intermediate High School in Erie, Pennsylvania, who passed away tragically at the age of 46 on January 10, 2003.

Dave Hanlon will be remembered by the Millcreek community as a dedicated and loving husband, father, teacher, coach, and friend.

As Millcreek Township's athletic director and later MIHS Principal, Hanlon was known for his reassuring presence and ability to inspire students.

He would spend little time in his office during the day, preferring instead to walk the halls of McDowell reaching out to students and teachers. But he spent many late nights at his desk implementing his ambitious plans for the school's future. Dave Hanlon was a fixture at McDowell arts and sporting events, and led many school trips including a government class trip that visited the Capitol two years ago.

Because of his contagious enthusiasm for McDowell, it was often said that he bled blue and white, the McDowell Trojans' school colors.

Mike Gallagher, a close friend, once observed that Hanlon's ability to connect with students "changed the way kids view adults in their lives."

The Reverend John Detisch eulogized that "David was a teacher. And what he taught came not so much from the classroom; what he taught came from the heart."

McDowell sophomore Hubbell McGeorge wrote the following about Dave Hanlon's immeasurable impact on students lives:

"The first day back to school after such a tragedy is very hard. It feels like a piece of all of us is missing and can't be fixed. There is, and will be, a hole in the school, the district, and the community for years to come."

Dave Hanlon's dedication to his students was surpassed only by his devotion to his wife Paige and three children, Collin, Peyton, and Braden. On the last day of his life, Dave Hanlon confided to a student about the "perfect life" he had found with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of David P. Hanlon, a devoted family man and model edu-

cator who will be deeply missed by an entire community.

INTRODUCTION OF FOREST RESTORATION AND FIRE RISK REDUCTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, along with my cousin and colleague, Representative Tom Udall of New Mexico, I am today introducing the Forest Restoration and Fire Reduction Act.

This bill is designed to accelerate efforts to reduce the risks from wildfires to communities—including their water supplies—and to promote locally-based efforts to restore the conditions of our forest lands. It is the result of over four years of involvement with questions of forest management and particularly the dangers of unusually severe wildfires.

Since my election to Congress, I have visited forest lands in Colorado and elsewhere to see first hand the result of over 100 years of national policies emphasizing fire suppression—the accumulation of small diameter trees and thick underbrush. I have also examined areas where work has been done to reduce the likelihood of such fires and to move toward forest conditions that will make it possible for fire to play its historic role as a natural and valuable part of forest ecosystems. And I have studied areas like the lands affected by last year's Hayman Fire—which burned over 130,000 acres near Denver—to learn about the harm to lands, communities, and water supplies that can come from unnaturally hot fires resulting from drought and high winds combined with the build-up of vegetative fuels.

I have also been listening to many Coloradans, other Westerners, scientists, and others with expertise in forest management to learn their views on the conditions of our forests and what if anything they think should be done to improve those conditions.

From what I have learned, I have long been convinced that in some forest regimes, such as the ponderosa forests along Colorado's Front Range, reducing fuel loads through thinning—by controlled burns or mechanical means—can lessen the likelihood of unusually severe fires.

I am also convinced that our limited resources—both of time, people, and money—should be expended on doing that kind of work in the areas where the likelihood of unusually severe wildfires presents the most urgent risk to homes, people and water supplies. Those areas are the lands where homes and municipal water facilities adjoin or intermingle with forest lands. These areas are often called the "wildland/urban interface, but Coloradans usually call them the "red zones." They extend across ownership boundaries, including not only federal lands but lands owned by others as well. In Colorado, the "red zones" encompass over 6 million acres—and there are additional millions of acres of such high priority lands throughout the country.

I have long worked to accelerate thinning projects in Colorado's "red zones." In July of 2000, I introduced a bill—cosponsored by my

colleague from Colorado Springs, Representative JOEL HEFLEY—to help get that work underway. It was not enacted, but many of its provisions were incorporated into the National Fire Plan put into place by Congress and the Clinton Administration after that fiery summer. Since then, I have strongly supported the National Fire Plan, but I have been concerned about the way it has been implemented—and particularly about the fact that there has been a continuing failure to put proper emphasis on urgently-needed work in the interface areas—the “red zones.” I joined others in asking the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the implementation of the National Fire Plan, to see what improvements were needed. Based on GAO’s report, I again joined with Representative HEFLEY to introduce legislation to make needed changes.

Since then, the Bush Administration has made some of the changes that were needed, but it still is expending too much time and money on thinning projects in low-priority areas. At the outset, only about 25 percent of the lands where thinning was done were in the “red zones.” Since then, there has been some improvement, but only a little. And unless there is a dramatic change, the prospect is not good—the President’s budget request for fiscal year 2004 actually calls for treating fewer “red zone” acres than was done in fiscal 2002!

The bill my cousin and I are introducing today would make the kind of dramatic change in this part of the National Fire Plan that is so badly needed. It would require that in the future all thinning projects funded as part of the National Fire Plan involve lands in the “red zones,” and it would enable funds for those projects to be used not only on Federal lands but on any other lands in those interface areas where such treatments are needed.

Some who share my desire to accelerate needed thinning projects say that the environmental laws and procedures for public involvement are obstacles that must be removed. I disagree. And some claim many projects have been delayed or halted because of opposition, appeals, and litigation instigated by some environmental groups. However, the facts show otherwise. Some groups or individuals indeed have appealed some thinning projects, but that has been more the exception than the rule—and even when there have been appeals, often they have not challenged entire project, but just portions involving cutting trees or building roads in roadless areas or other sensitive areas—areas that for the most part are not located in the high risk red zones.

I do not think it is necessary—let alone desirable—to exempt fire-risk reduction projects from environmental review, public comments and administrative appeals. While some say this would reduce delays, it could have just the opposite result, by inviting more litigation—the slowest process of all. It would run counter to the sound policy of enabling the public to be involved on decisions about their public lands and would not assist in developing sound forest management.

Instead, the bill we are introducing today builds on the consensus that has developed about the need to thin in the “red zones,” while making some procedural adjustments that can expedite the process of resolving appeals.

It would develop support at the front end for projects that are urgently needed, narrowly tai-

lored and scientifically sound. It would do this through the creation of a cooperative program for hazardous fuels reduction projects with both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The centerpiece of this program is the creation of statewide advisory councils to work with these agencies in each state on the selection of specific projects. These councils would include broad representation of interests and would include scientific participation. The councils would develop projects in a collaborative fashion so as to avoid opposition, delays and appeals at the back-end when projects are being implemented.

To be eligible under this program, the projects considered by the councils would have to meet certain criteria: they would have to be exclusively located in “red zone” areas and be outside of wilderness areas, roadless areas and other sensitive areas (lands that are typically not in the red zones and that in any event do not present as urgent a risk of unusually severe wildfires). The projects would have to be designed so as to minimize the cutting of large or old growth trees, which have proven to be resilient to fire events and are important to the ecology and diversity of our forested lands.

The bill also would promote appropriate economic reuse of the brush, small trees, and similar material removed from the forests in connection with fuel-reduction projects. It would authorize federal assistance to homeowners seeking to reduce the risk to their “red zone” homes through the use of “defensible space” techniques or similar steps. And it includes provisions to establish collaborative, community-based restoration projects that would work on important tasks such as controlling erosion, implementing recovery plans for threatened or endangered species, restoration of native species of fish and wildlife, road and trail upkeep or obliteration.

I believe that this bill would help us address the urgent fire risk situation on our forests. It keeps faith with the need to involve the public in the management of our precious public lands while also bringing important scientific principles to the table. It focuses scarce resources on the highest priority areas while maintaining opportunities to consider environmental and other potential impacts. In short, I believe that the program developed in this bill, along with the assistance it provides and the oversight it allows, appropriately address some of the most important aspects of current forest management—and I think the bill deserve wide support.

For the information of our colleague, I am attaching a short outline of the bill’s main provisions.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR PROVISIONS OF DRAFT FOREST RESTORATION AND FIRE RISK REDUCTION ACT

FINDINGS.—Includes findings concerning results of past fire-suppression policies, need for actions to reduce the risks to communities and municipal water supplies and to restore ecological health of forests through cooperative efforts.

PURPOSES.—Identifies 5 purposes of the bill:

- (1) Reduction of wildfire risks to communities and water supplies;
- (2) Refocusing of National Fire Plan fuel-reduction spending to highest-priority areas;
- (3) Improving communication and joint problem-solving;

(4) Encouraging sustainable communities and forests through collaborative partnerships focused on forest restoration and fire-risk reduction;

(5) Developing, demonstrating, and evaluating forest restoration techniques and projects.

FOCUS ON “RED ZONES”.—Requires all future National Fire plan funds for fuel-reduction projects go for work in wildland-urban interface or to protect municipal water supplies.

PROGRAM FOR HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS.—Establishes cooperative community program to enable stakeholders to participate with Forest Service and BLM in planning and carrying out projects to reduce build up of hazardous fuels on forested lands in order to lessen risks to communities and municipal water supplies; establishes eligibility criteria for projects and limits federal share of costs to 80 percent; specifies that no projects can be done in wilderness or wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless areas, or other parts of the Federal lands where removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted, and requires that limits be set on number and size of trees that can be removed in a project area; sets eligibility requirements and deadlines for any appeals of Forest Service fuel-reduction projects covered by the bill, while allowing waiver of deadlines to promote negotiations.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR FUEL-REDUCTION PROJECTS.—Requires consultation with State Foresters and technical advisory panels to determine priorities for fuel-reduction projects. Specifies panel membership.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—Requires project monitoring and evaluation.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.—Provides for public participation and set procedures related to development and review of fuel-reduction projects

FOREST RESTORATION AND HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.—Establishes cooperative program for projects to—Help owners reduce risks of damage from wildfire to homes in wildland-urban interface; protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and promote recovery of threatened and endangered species; control and remove noxious and invasive species; control erosion and maintain or close roads and trails; provide job training and promote creation of new small businesses focused on forest restoration and use of by-products from other projects

FOREST RESTORATION AND VALUE-ADDED CENTERS.—Provides for establishment of at least one center in each Forest Service region, to provide technical assistance to non-profit organizations, small businesses, and others interested in undertaking forest restoration activities, including environmental assessments and monitoring. Provides for advisory committees to help determine location of centers. Directs Forest Service to provide 75 percent of initial operating costs of centers, up to \$1 million annually. Provides for demonstration project of one similar center related to BLM lands and report on whether this should be expanded.

COMPETITIVE SERVICE HIRING PREFERENCES.—Allows Forest Service and BLM to give preference in hiring to people aged 21 or above who have completed at least one year’s satisfactory service in a certified youth service or conservation corps.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING.—Provides for Forest Service applied research program to identify ways to minimize adverse effects of restoration methods and treatments and to test and develop value-added products from restoration byproducts.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of Roosevelt County, New Mexico, which was formed on February 28, 1903. The citizens of Roosevelt County this year are celebrating the many virtues of their wonderful community. Roosevelt County is a good place to call home. It has outstanding schools, safe streets, family oriented neighborhoods, civic volunteerism and community values that make it an exceptional place to live and raise a family. We have much to celebrate on this centennial.

Roosevelt County was named for the twenty-sixth President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, who enlisted New Mexican Rough Riders when he climbed San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. The city of Portales is the county seat. Other communities in the county include: Elida, Floyd, Dora, Causey, Arch, Kenna, Lingo, Milnesand, Pep, and Rogers. Roosevelt County is located on the high plains of eastern New Mexico in the heart of cattle country, with ranching, farming, the dairy industry, and the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railway comprising important components of the community's economic base. Located 11 miles to the northeast of Portales is Cannon Air Force Base, which adds a very important dimension to the character of the area.

Roosevelt County was cultivated by ranching, farming, the railroad and related businesses over a hundred years ago. In 1902 a few homesteaders settled in; a year later, the homesteaders were arriving more increasingly in the area around Portales. Settlers were drawn to Roosevelt County due to the access of the railroad and the availability of shallow water. A homesteader could take a pick and shovel and dig a well of about 15 feet deep and would have plenty of water for domestic use. Most other settlers outside the Portales Valley had to haul drinking water from a few wells made by ranchers, until they could afford to drill their own. It is hard to imagine the availability of that much water now, which Roosevelt County considers its most precious natural resource.

The name "Portales" fits this charming university town even more today than when it was coined in the 1800s. Named for a nearby campsite where spring waters gushed from a series of cave-like porches across pueblo-style houses, Portales, or "Porches" in Spanish, is an entryway into New Mexico on the eastern border. Portales Springs is the most famous watering hole on the Old Fort Sumner Trail and often welcomed Billy the Kid and his partners during the infamous Lincoln County War.

Agriculture is the major industry of Roosevelt County. The leading crops are Valencia peanuts, alfalfa, cotton, wheat, corn, milo, hay, and potatoes. Valencia peanuts, noted for their sweet taste, are exported all across the United States as well as to several countries around the world. Roosevelt County is home to the only peanut butter manufacturing facility in New Mexico. Additionally, its peanut butter is currently ranked the fifth highest quality

peanut butter on the market today by Consumer Reports.

Livestock feeding and dairy farming are also important to the local economy. Other industries include soft drink canners, an ethanol production facility, grain storage and shipping, trucking and milk processing. The dairy industry is the second largest agricultural industry in New Mexico, and our state is the nation's seventh largest producer of milk.

Portales is the proud home to Eastern New Mexico University, the third largest university in the Land of Enchantment, offering over 50 undergraduate and 15 graduate majors. The university offers a broad curriculum of vocational, technical and academic disciplines and is the center of the region's cultural life. The school has brought many opportunities to graduates since 1934. In conjunction with the city, the university sponsors an annual Peanut Valley Festival that provides excitement and entertainment for the community and attracts hundreds of visitors each year. I had the opportunity earlier this week to meet with the president of the university, Dr. Steven Gamble, to receive an update on the progress the institution is making. The residents of eastern New Mexico are fortunate to have such a fine place of higher learning in their midst.

On this grand occasion, I want to express my best wishes to Portales Mayor Orlando Ortega and all the local elected officials throughout Roosevelt County that are determined to make this area an even better place to live and raise families. The elected county officials are as follows: Dennis Lopez, District 1 Commissioner; Charles Davis, District 2 Commissioner; Thomas Clark, District 3 Commissioner; Gene Creighton, District 4 Commissioner; Paul Grider, District 5 Commissioner; Nancy Gentry, Probate Judge; Tom Gossett, County Sheriff; Nancy Belcher, Treasurer; Royene Tivis, Assessor; and Joyce Lee Frazee, County Clerk. I pledge to continue to work with these leaders to promote an atmosphere in which economic development can flourish.

The signs of Roosevelt County's progress are evident. President Bush recently approved the fiscal year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill containing \$250,000 to continue the development of the Ute Reservoir Pipeline, which is critical for the sustained growth and water needs of this area. We have a long way to go on this project, but this funding is a crucial step forward.

Citizens have also seen fit to finance the construction of the Roosevelt General Hospital. Costing nearly nine million dollars, this facility is serving the health needs of local residents. The new Portales Junior High School was recently built to replace a decaying 75th year-old facility. A new Communications Center is being built at Eastern New Mexico University, and the local library in Portales has recently been upgraded with new technology and a more modern, usable facility. Finally, there is the new Portales Recreation Center, which will serve scores of local youth and give them a safe environment to have fun and learn. All of these improvements were financed by voters through local elections and other contributions from local neighbors.

The people of Roosevelt County have a past to be proud of, and a future that continues to unveil promising opportunities. The pull of the future is only as good as the past that empowers it, and in Roosevelt County a fine and solid history lays a well-lit path for the future.

Mr. Speaker, Roosevelt County is one of the finest regions in the State of New Mexico. This area is symbolic of traditional American values. The residents work hard, are dedicated to their families, support their schools and volunteer to help their neighbors. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all its residents continued success as their community enters its second century.

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate a month-long learning experience that all of us as Americans should join in celebrating. This month we focus on recalling and embracing a unique part of our American History and the roles of African Americans in shaping what our country is today. History teaches us that every culture and every society endures good and bad, and it is essential that we continue to learn from our past.

From slavery abolitionists like Harriett Tubman to civil rights activists like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—even students like the Little Rock Nine who showed unimaginable courage—we have much to learn from the lives of these past and present leaders. They leave quite a mark on the pages of our history books and in the fabric of our country.

During this month, it is important that we seek to learn more about historical Black figures; it is important because it shows us what great contributions they made even during an era when many people thought Blacks had nothing to offer. Quite to the contrary—the African American community has given us some of our greatest writers, inventors, athletes, philosophers, musicians, and spiritual and community leaders during dark times in our history.

It is during this month that Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass, Toni Morrison, and baseball great Hank Aaron celebrated their birthdays. It was during this month in 1870 that the 15th Amendment was passed, granting Blacks the right to vote. And this year, during this month, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, who was lost on the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, died as a pioneer and a living symbol of the progress African Americans have made and the successes yet to come.

Black History Month celebrates people and events that were disregarded for long periods of time. It's time we remember. It's time we make Black history our history.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 2003

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Peace Corps Day and recognize the Peace Corps for its stellar record of achievement throughout the past five decades. The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity and expand