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SPEAKER: Mr. BINGAMAN; Mr. HOLLINGS; Mr. GREGG; Mr. LEAHY; Mr. WELLSTONE; Mr. REED; Mr. REID; Mr. ENSIGN

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. Ensign):

S. 2612. A bill to establish **wilderness** areas, promote conservation, improve public land and provide for high quality development in Clark County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID . Mr. President, today I rise with my good friend Senator Ensign to introduce a bill that is important to Las Vegas, important to Clark County, important to Nevada, and important to America. The Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, known as the Clark County Conservation PLAN, provides a solution for southern Nevada's growth and conservation challenges.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN balances the needs for infrastructure development, recreational opportunities, and conservation of our precious natural resources in southern Nevada.

Our bill is a broad-based compromise. We do not expect everyone to advocate every provision of this bill. Indeed, we know that many people will oppose various components of our legislation. The complaints we receive will reflect the tendency for people to fear change, protect the status quo, and miss the forest for the trees in this case, the Joshua trees. [*S5376]

Before I discuss each title of the Clark County Conservation PLAN, I will take a few moments to describe the profound challenge that public land issues pose for Nevada. 87 percent of the land in Nevada, that is nearly 9 out of every 10 acres in our State, is owned and managed by the Federal Government. This includes land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Energy, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Air Force.

The Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Defense and Energy bear tremendous responsibilities for the management, development, and conservation of natural resources in Nevada. Unlike most of America where land use decisions are made by communities, in Nevada, many land use decisions require concurrence of Federal officials and, in some cases, the passage of Federal laws. This is a circumstance that very few Senators understand from experience, but I know that my colleagues can imagine the tremendous challenge inherent in this system regardless of the State they represent.

The challenge of Federal land ownership is not unique to Nevada, in fact it characterizes much of the West. However, this situation is compounded in Clark County where the fastest growing population in America springs from the heart of one of the most extreme and fragile regions in North America, the Mojave Desert.

Many people believe that this scenario embodies an impossible challenge. Some believe that guiding growth in Southern Nevada and protecting our desert for future generations are mutually exclusive. Some believe that protecting our air and water quality and setting aside some open space as **wilderness** are overly costly barriers to growth that unnecessarily restrict recreation and development. Some believe that the Federal Government's management of public land is too strict; others believe it is too lenient. Some believe that every acre of Clark County should be privatized. Some believe that not a single acre more should be auctioned from the public domain. As different as these views are, what they have in common is that they are passionately held by Nevadans.

By describing the fundamental context within which Senator Ensign and I are working, I hope I have demonstrated why compromise is not just necessary but warranted. We fully expect to be criticized for what this bill is not, for example it does not designate all of the 2 million acres in Clark County that the Nevada **Wilderness** Coalition advocates nor does it release all the **wilderness** study areas in Nevada as others advocate. We do not need to apologize for this compromise, rather we will advocate for what it is, a fair-minded, forward-looking framework for the future development and protection of public land in Clark County.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN reflects three complementary goals: 1. Enhancing our quality of life; 2. Protecting our environment for our children and grandchildren; and 3. Making public land available for quality development consistent with these two principles.

The remainder of my statement today will explain how the Clark County Conservation PLAN will improve the quality of life and enhance economic opportunities for Nevadans while enriching and protecting the awe-inspiring natural resources that bless southern Nevada for the benefit of future generations of Nevadans and all Americans.

When Congress passed the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act in 1998, we made the decision that it was in the public interest to transition away from Federal-private land exchanges and competitively auction those parcels of land deemed by the BLM to be disposable. This decision has proven to be quite effective and fair and likely represents the future of land privatization in Nevada and the West. However, at the time the law was enacted, Congress did contemplate that a limited number of ongoing land exchanges would be completed. One of these exchanges is familiarly known as the Red Rock Canyon Howard Hughes exchange. This exchange would be completed by Title I of the Clark County Conservation PLAN.

In the Red Rock Exchange, the Bureau of Land Management will acquire roughly 1,070 acres of land owned by the Howard Hughes Corporation. This land forms promontories above the gently-sloping bajada in the foothills of the La Madre Mountains on the western border of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. This acreage affords spectacular views of the Las Vegas Valley but development there would degrade the Red Rock NCA and diminish the beauty of the view from Las Vegas to the west, a view many Las Vegans treasure.

This bill provides that the lands I have described will become part of the Red Rock NCA once acquired by the federal government. In exchange for the Red Rock lands, the Howard Hughes Corporation will receive acreage of equal value, as determined by a government-certified appraiser, within the Las Vegas Valley. Finally, the Howard Hughes

Corporation will convey some of their acquired acreage to Clark County for use as a county park and for inclusion in a regional trail system. As I mentioned earlier, this proposal has been around for a number of years and enjoys unusually broad support ranging from the County to the environmental community. The time when this exchange should have reached completion through the administrative process has long since passed and a legislative resolution is now in order.

Nevada has nearly 100 **wilderness** study areas on Federal land across the State. These areas, which are primarily owned by the Bureau of Land Management, are managed to protect **wilderness** character of the lands under current law. These areas remain as de facto **wilderness** until Congress passes a bill changing **wilderness** study status by either designating the land as **wilderness** or releasing the land from **wilderness** study area consideration.

Although there is broad support for addressing Nevada's **wilderness** study areas through federal legislation, there is no consensus regarding how to do so. Those who advocate for **wilderness** designation and those who oppose further additions to the **wilderness** system hold strong and, in many cases, irreconcilable views on this issue.

Those of us who wrote this bill likewise hold different views regarding **wilderness**. In developing the **wilderness** component of this bill, Senator Ensign, Congressman Gibbons and I made compromises that will likely cause heartburn for all interested parties. We believe, however, that this is a critical step toward addressing the outstanding **wilderness** study issues in the state of Nevada. Our bill designates **wilderness** and releases **wilderness** study areas. It creates 20 **wilderness** areas: 6 managed by the BLM; 4 jointly managed by the Park Service and BLM; 7 managed by the Park Service; and 3 jointly managed by the BLM and the Forest Service

In addition to the **wilderness** described earlier, our bill releases from **wilderness** study area status acreage associated with each of the BLM and forest service areas we address. In fact, we release three BLM study areas in their entirety. Two of these areas will eventually accommodate growth at the north end of the Las Vegas Valley and help provide jobs for decades into the future. These lands might be conservatively valued at about \$1 billion.

We have provided for **wilderness** management protocols that address the particular circumstances of southern Nevada. For example, we explicitly require the Secretary of the Interior to allow for the construction, maintenance and replacement of water catchments known as guzzlers when and where that action will enhance **wilderness** wildlife resources. In addition, we believe that the use of motor vehicles should be allowed to achieve these purposes when there is no reasonable alternative and it does not require the creation of new roads.

Some **wilderness** purists argue that these man-made guzzler tanks disturb the naturally functioning ecosystems of the Mojave Desert. I respect this view, but I believe that these water projects actually help restore more natural function to ecosystems that have been forever fragmented by development including roads. These projects which are privately funded by dedicated sportsmen have a legitimate place in southern Nevada **wilderness** and this bill is clear on that point. [*S5377]

In our effort to create a fair **wilderness** designation, we have benefitted from the advice and suggestions of many Nevadans representing a range of views. These advocates include the Nevada Land Users Coalition, The Sierra Club, The Virgin Valley Sportsmen's Association, The Nevada **Wilderness** Project, The Fraternity of Desert Bighorns, the Nevada Mining Association, Red Rock Audubon, and Partners in Conservation, to name

just a few. We appreciate their help and believe that this compromise honors our commitment to listen carefully to all parties. We are also grateful for the help we have received from the Federal land managers in Clark County and look forward to working with them to improve this bill to help make their jobs easier and the public experience on public land better.

Early in the development of this bill we decided not to address **wilderness** issues within the Desert National Wildlife Range. I recognize that this is a major disappointment to many in the environmental community who view the **wilderness** resources in the Range as some of the best in the Mojave Desert. **Wilderness** in the Range is, however, beyond the scope of this bill.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN does transfer the management responsibility of three **wilderness** study areas, totaling more than 49,000 acres, from the Bureau of Land Management to the Fish and Wildlife Service. These areas lie between State Highway 93 and the Range so this transfer helps rationalize the federal land ownership pattern in northern Clark County.

In addition, this bill transfers a small parcel of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service for use as an administrative site on the road between Searchlight and Cottonwood Cove. This transfer will save taxpayer dollars by allowing the Park Service to consolidate two planned administrative sites into one and manage the Lake Mead National Recreation Area more effectively.

When Congress passed the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998, it established a new paradigm for the sale of public lands in Clark County, Nevada. One of the core principles of this new way of doing business was that the proceeds from the sale of Federal lands should be reinvested in federal, state, and local environmental protection and recreational enhancements in the state in which the lands are sold.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN Act modifies the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act and expands the so-called Las Vegas valley disposal boundary. This expansion will make an additional 25,000 acres of BLM land available for auction and development years into the future. The proceeds from the sale of this Federal land will continue to accrue to the Southern Nevada Public Lands Special Account and be invested in the purchase of environmentally sensitive land, the development of Federal land infrastructure, the implementation of the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and local government open space, recreation and conservation projects. Our bill further provides that at least one-quarter of the Special Account be dedicated to the last of these purposes.

One of the most important infrastructure issues facing southern Nevada is siting a new international airport. The County's preferred and likely site is in a dry lake bed between Jean and Primm, Nevada south of the Las Vegas Valley in the Interstate 15 transportation corridor near the California border. Congress made federal land at that site available for use as an airport, pending environmental reviews.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN complements that law in two important ways. First, our bill conveys federal land adjacent to the proposed airport to the Clark County Airport Authority so that it can promote compatible development within the area impacted by the noise of the airport. Any proceeds derived from sale of these Airport Authority lands would be distributed similarly to lands sold within the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary.

Second, our bill directs the Bureau of Land Management to reserve a right-of-way for non-exclusive utility and transportation corridors between the Las Vegas valley and the

proposed airport. This corridor is important because for the new airport to remain economical will require significant utility development to come from the north. Our bill does not dictate exactly where, when, how, or by whom this infrastructure will be developed; it simply reserves land explicitly to serve this purpose.

One of the most precious areas in southern Nevada is a relatively non-descript canyon near Henderson. It is an area graced with hundreds of wonderful and curious petroglyphs. Under ordinary circumstances, I would not reveal the location of this site because public knowledge of prehistoric rock art sites commonly leads to their destruction. In this case, however, this canyon is in desperate need of protection because it is within a short walk of the Las Vegas valley. Similar resources elsewhere in the desert Southwest have been destroyed by urban growth and lack of intensive management.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN designates the Sloan petroglyphs site and the area that comprises most of its watershed as the North McCullough Mountains **Wilderness**. **This wilderness** combined with about 32,000 acres of open space comprises the proposed Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. The NCA and **wilderness** will provide critical protection for the Sloan petroglyphs, preserve open space near Henderson's rapidly growing neighborhoods and together represent a legacy of cultural and natural resource conservation our grandchildren will value dearly one day.

The sheer number of public lands bill requests Senator Ensign and I receive is staggering. If we chose to introduce stand-alone legislation to address each legitimate issue that constituents bring to our attention, we would create an awkward patchwork of new Federal laws. In the Clark County Conservation PLAN, we have attempted to provide a comprehensive vision and framework for conservation and development in southern Nevada by balancing competing interests.

The final title of our bill includes a select few of the many important public interest land conveyances. For example, we include two land grants to further the higher education mission of Nevada's university system. One provides land to the UNLV research foundation for the development of a technology park. The other provides land for the planned Henderson State College.

We convey a small active shooting range to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for training purposes. We grant a modest parcel of land to the City of Las Vegas for the development of affordable housing. We provide for the conveyance of the Sunrise Landfill from the Bureau of Land Management to Clark County pending completion of the environmental clean-up at the site. We convey park and open space land to the City of Henderson and provide for a cooperatively managed zone comprised of federal land around Henderson Executive airport. These are relatively small but important actions that help our communities, law enforcement, and educational system better serve southern Nevada.

The Clark County Conservation PLAN Act that Senator Ensign and I introduce today promises a better tomorrow for our public lands in southern Nevada, for the more than 1.5 million people who call Clark County home, and for the millions of Americans who visit southern Nevada every year. This constructive compromise provides land for development, land grants for public purposes, **wilderness** for conservation in perpetuity, and a new national conservation area to celebrate and protect the wonderful natural and cultural resources of the North McCullough Mountains including the Sloan petroglyph site.

Senator Ensign and I have been working on this bill since he came to the Senate a year and a half ago. We are proud of the progress we've made together and with Congressman Gibbons and believe that this public lands bill should serve as a model for bipartisan cooperation and constructive compromise. We look forward to working with

Chairman Bingaman and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to perfect this bill so that we can enact the Clark County Conservation PLAN into law this year. [*S5378]

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2612

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title._This Act may be cited as the "Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002".

(b) Table of Contents._The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I_RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA LAND EXCHANGE AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Findings and purposes.

Sec. 103. Definitions.

Sec. 104. Red Rock Canyon land exchange.

Sec. 105. Status and management of acquired land.

Sec. 106. General provisions.

TITLE II_WILDERNESS AREAS

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Additions to National **Wilderness** Preservation System.

Sec. 203. Administration.

Sec. 204. Adjacent management.

Sec. 205. Overflights.

Sec. 206. Native American cultural and religious uses.

Sec. 207. Release of **wilderness** study areas.

Sec. 208. Wildlife management.

- Sec. 209. Wildfire management.
- Sec. 210. Climatological data collection.
- Sec. 211. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III_TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION

- Sec. 301. Transfer of administrative jurisdiction to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Sec. 302. Transfer of administrative jurisdiction to the National Park Service.

TITLE IV_AMENDMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT

- Sec. 401. Disposal and exchange.

TITLE V_IVANPAH CORRIDOR

- Sec. 501. Interstate Route 15 south corridor.

TITLE VI_SLOAN CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

- Sec. 601. Short title.
- Sec. 602. Purpose.
- Sec. 603. Definitions.
- Sec. 604. Establishment.
- Sec. 605. Management.
- Sec. 606. Sale of Federal parcel.
- Sec. 607. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VII_PUBLIC INTEREST CONVEYANCES

- Sec. 701. Definition of map.
- Sec. 702. Conveyance to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas Research Foundation.
- Sec. 703. Conveyance to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
- Sec. 704. Conveyance to the city of Henderson for the Nevada State College at Henderson.
- Sec. 705. Conveyance to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Sec. 706. Henderson Economic Development Zone.
- Sec. 707. Conveyance of Sunrise Mountain landfill to Clark County, Nevada.
- Sec. 708. Open space land grants.

Sec. 709. Relocation of right-of-way corridor located in Clark and Lincoln Counties in the State of Nevada.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) Agreement._The term "Agreement" means the Agreement entitled "Interim Cooperative Management Agreement Between the United States Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management and Clark County", dated November 4, 1992.
- (2) County._The term "County" means Clark County, Nevada.
- (3) Secretary._The term "Secretary" means
 - (A) in the case of land in the National Forest System, the Secretary of Agriculture; and
 - (B) in the case of land not in the National Forest System, the Secretary of the Interior.
- (4) State._The term "State" means the State of Nevada.

TITLE I_RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA LAND EXCHANGE AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Protection and Enhancement Act of 2002".

SEC. 102. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

- (a) Findings._Congress finds that
 - (1) the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is a natural resource of major significance to the people of the State and the United States, and must be protected and enhanced for the enjoyment of future generations;
 - (2) in 1990, Congress enacted the Southern Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc et seq.), which provides for the protection and enhancement of the conservation area;
 - (3) the Howard Hughes Corporation, which owns much of the private land outside the eastern boundary of the conservation area, is developing a large-scale master-planned community on the land;
 - (4) included in the land holdings of the Corporation are 1,087 acres of high-ground land adjacent to the eastern edge of the conservation area that were originally intended to be included in the conservation area, but as of the date of enactment of this Act, have not been acquired by the United States;
 - (5) the protection of the high-ground land would preserve an important element of the western Las Vegas Valley viewshed; and
 - (6) the Corporation is willing to convey title to the high-ground land to the United States so that the land can be preserved to protect and expand the boundaries of the

conservation area.

- (b) Purposes._The purposes of this title are_
- (1) to authorize the United States to exchange Federal land for the non-Federal land of the Corporation referred to in subsection (a)(6);
 - (2) to protect and enhance the conservation area;
 - (3) to expand the boundaries of the conservation area; and
 - (4) to carry out the purposes of_
 - (A) the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc et seq.); and
 - (B) the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2343).

SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

- (1) Conservation area._The term "conservation area" means the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area established by section 3(a) of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc-1(a)).
- (2) Corporation._The term "Corporation" means the Howard Hughes Corporation, an affiliate of the Rouse Company, which has its principal place of business at 10000 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- (3) Federal parcel._The term "Federal parcel" means the approximately 1000 acres of Federal land in the State proposed to be exchanged for the non-Federal parcel, as depicted on the map.
- (4) Map._The term "Map" means the map entitled "Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act", dated June 10, 2002.
- (5) Non-federal parcel._The term "non-Federal parcel" means the approximately 1,085 acres of non-Federal land in the State owned by the Corporation that is proposed to be exchanged for the Federal parcel, as depicted on the Map.
- (6) Secretary._The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 104. RED ROCK CANYON LAND EXCHANGE.

- (a) In General._The Secretary shall accept an offer of the Corporation to convey all right, title, and interest in the non-Federal parcel to the United States in exchange for the Federal parcel.
- (b) Conveyance._Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Corporation makes an offer under subsection (a), the Secretary shall convey_
 - (1) a portion of the Federal parcel, depicted on the Map as "Public land selected for exchange" to the Corporation; and

(2) subject to subsection (f), a portion of the Federal parcel, depicted on the Map as "Proposed BLM transfer for County park", to the County.

(c) Valuation. An appraiser approved by the Secretary shall determine—

(1) the value and exact acreage of the Federal parcel; and

(2) the value of the non-Federal parcel.

(d) Timing. The exchange of the Federal parcel and the non-Federal parcel under this section shall occur concurrently.

(e) Map.—

(1) Revision. As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a revised map reflecting the modifications to the boundary of the conservation area under this section.

(2) Public availability. A copy of the Map and the revised map shall be on file and available for public inspection in—

(A) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the Office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the State; and

(C) the Las Vegas District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) Technical corrections. The Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the Map and the revised map.

(f) Land Transferred to County.—

(1) In general. The portion of the Federal parcel conveyed to the County under subsection (b)(2) shall be used by the County as—

(A) a public park; or

(B) part of a public regional trail system.

(2) Reversion. The portion of the Federal parcel conveyed to the County shall revert to the United States if the County—

(A) transfers, or attempts to transfer, the portion of the Federal parcel; or

(B) uses the portion of the Federal parcel in a manner inconsistent with paragraph (1).

SEC. 105. STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.

(a) Administration. The non-Federal parcel acquired by the United States in the land [~~S5379~~] exchange under section 104 shall be added to, and administered by the Secretary as part of, the conservation area in accordance with—

(1) the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc et seq.);

(2) the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2343); and

(3) other applicable law.

(b) Boundary Adjustment._If any part of the non-Federal parcel acquired under section 104 lies outside the boundary of the conservation area, the Secretary—

(1) shall adjust the boundary of the conservation area to include that part of the non-Federal parcel; and

(2) shall prepare a map depicting the boundary adjustment, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in accordance with section 104(e)(2).

(c) Conforming Amendment._Section 3(a)(2) of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc-1(a)(2)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and such additional areas as are included in the conservation area under the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Protection and Enhancement Act of 2002, the exact acreage of which shall be determined by a final appraisal conducted by an appraiser approved by the Secretary".

SEC. 106. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) Valid Existing Rights._Each conveyance under section 104 shall be subject to valid existing rights, leases, rights-of-way, and permits.

(b) Withdrawal of Affected Land._Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary may withdraw the Federal parcel from operation of the public land laws (including mining laws).

TITLE II_WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) public land in the County contains unique and spectacular natural resources, including—

(A) priceless habitat for numerous species of plants and wildlife; and

(B) thousands of acres of pristine land that remain in a natural state; and

(2) continued preservation of those areas would benefit the County and all of the United States by—

(A) ensuring the conservation of ecologically diverse habitat;

(B) conserving primitive recreational resources; and

(C) protecting air and water quality.

SEC. 202. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) Additions._The following land in the State is designated as **wilderness** and as components of the National **Wilderness** Preservation System:

- (1) Arrow canyon **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 27,495 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Arrow Canyon", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Arrow Canyon **Wilderness**".
- (2) Black canyon **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 17,220 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "Black Canyon **Wilderness**".
- (3) Black mountain **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 14,625 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Muddy Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Black Mountain **Wilderness**".
- (4) Bridge canyon **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 7,761 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "Bridge Canyon **Wilderness**".
- (5) El dorado **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 31,950 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "El Dorado **Wilderness**".
- (6) Hamblin mountain **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 17,047 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Muddy Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Hamblin Mountain **Wilderness**".
- (7) Ireteba peaks **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 31,321 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "Ireteba Peaks **Wilderness**".
- (8) Jimbilnan **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 18,879 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Muddy Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Jimbilnan **Wilderness**".
- (9) Jumbo springs **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 4,631 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Gold Butte", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Jumbo Springs **Wilderness**".
- (10) La madre mountain **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land within the Toiyabe National Forest and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 46,634 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Spring Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "La Madre Mountain **Wilderness**".
- (11) Lime canyon **wilderness**.—Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land

Management, comprising approximately 16,710 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Gold Butte", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Lime Canyon **Wilderness**".

(12) Mt. charleston **wilderness**._Certain Federal land within the Toiyabe National Forest and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 13,598 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Spring Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be included in the Mt. Charleston **Wilderness**.

(13) Muddy mountains **wilderness**._Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an adjacent portion of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 48,019 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Muddy Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Muddy Mountains **Wilderness**".

(14) Nellis wash **wilderness**._Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 16,423 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "Nellis Wash **Wilderness**".

(15) North mccullough **wilderness**._Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 14,763 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "McCulloughs", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "North McCullough **Wilderness**".

(16) Pine creek **wilderness**._Certain Federal land within the Toiyabe National Forest and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 25,375 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Spring Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Pine Creek **Wilderness**".

(17) Pinto valley **wilderness**._Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 6,912 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Muddy Mountains", dated June 5, 2002, which shall be known as the "Pinto Valley **Wilderness**".

(18) South mccullough **wilderness**._Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 44,245 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "McCulloughs", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "South McCullough **Wilderness**".

(19) Spirit mountain **wilderness**._Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and an adjacent portion of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 34,261 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "Spirit Mountain **Wilderness**".

(20) Wee thump joshua tree **wilderness**._Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 6,050 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "McCulloughs", dated June 10, 2002, which shall be known as the "Wee Thump Joshua Tree **Wilderness**".

(b) Boundary._The boundary of any portion of a **wilderness** area designated by subsection (a) that is bordered by Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, or the Colorado River shall

be 300 feet inland from the high water line.

(c) Map and Legal Description._

(1) In general._As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each **wilderness** area designated by subsection (a) with the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) Effect._Each map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(3) Availability._Each map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in (as appropriate)_

- (A) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;
- (B) the Office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the State;
- (C) the Las Vegas District Office of the Bureau of Land Management;
- (D) the Office of the Director of the National Park Service; and
- (E) the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **Wilderness** Area Administration._Subject to valid existing rights, including [*S5380] rights to access the area, each area designated as **wilderness** by this title shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the **Wilderness** Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) governing areas designated by that Act as **wilderness**, except that any reference in the provisions to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Livestock._Within the **wilderness** areas designated under this title, the grazing of livestock in areas in which grazing is allowed on the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices that_

- (1) the Secretary considers necessary; and
 - (2) conform to and implement the intent of Congress regarding grazing in those areas as such intent is expressed in_
- (A) the **Wilderness** Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);
 - (B) section 101(f) of the Arizona Desert **Wilderness** Act of 1990 (104 Stat. 4473); and
 - (C) Appendix A of House [Report No. 101-405](#) of the 101st Congress.

(c) Incorporation of Acquired Land and Interests._Any land or interest in land within the boundaries of an area designated as **wilderness** by this title that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the **wilderness** area within which the acquired land or interest in land is located.

(d) Air Quality Designation._Notwithstanding sections 162 and 164 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7472, 7474), any **wilderness** area designated under this title shall retain a Class II air quality designation and may not be redesignated as Class I.

SEC. 204. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.

(a) In General._Congress does not intend for the designation of **wilderness** in the State pursuant to this title to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around any such **wilderness** area.

(b) Nonwilderness Activities._The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a **wilderness** designated under this title shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the **wilderness** area.

SEC. 205. OVERFLIGHTS.

Nothing in this title restricts or precludes_

(1) overflights, including low-level overflights, over the areas designated as **wilderness** by this title, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within the **wilderness** areas;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes, over the **wilderness** areas.

SEC. 206. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS USES.

In recognition of the past use of portions of the areas designated as **wilderness** by this title by Native Americans for traditional cultural and religious purposes, the Secretary shall ensure, from time to time, nonexclusive access by Native Americans to the areas for those purposes, including wood gathering for personal use and the collecting of plants or herbs.

SEC. 207. RELEASE OF **WILDERNESS** STUDY AREAS.

(a) Finding._Congress finds that, for the purposes of sections 202 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1782), the public land in the County administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the following areas have been adequately studied for **wilderness** designation:

(1) The Garrett Buttes **Wilderness** Study Area.

(2) The Quail Springs **Wilderness** Study Area.

(3) The Nellis A,B,C **Wilderness** Study Area.

(4) Any portion of the **wilderness** study areas_

(A) not designated as **wilderness** by section 202(a); and

(B) designated for release on_

(i) the map entitled "Muddy Mountains" and dated June 5, 2002;

- (ii) the map entitled "Spring Mountains" and dated June 5, 2002;
 - (iii) the map entitled "Arrow Canyon" and dated June 5, 2002;
 - (iv) the map entitled "Gold Butte" and dated June 5, 2002;
 - (v) the map entitled "McCullough Mountains" and dated June 10, 2002;
 - (vi) the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain" and dated June 10, 2002; or
- (vii) the map entitled "Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act" and dated June 10, 2002.
- (b) Release._Except as provided in subsection (c), any public land described in subsection (a) that is not designated as **wilderness** by this title_
- (1) shall not be subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and
 - (2) shall be managed in accordance with_
- (A) land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and
 - (B) the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, including any amendments to the plan.
- (c) Land Not Released._The following land is not released from the **wilderness** study requirements of sections 202 and 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1782):
- (1) Meadow Valley Mountains **Wilderness** Study Area.
 - (2) Million Hills **Wilderness** Study Area.
 - (3) Mt. Stirling **Wilderness** Study Area.
 - (4) Mormon Mountains **Wilderness** Study Area.
 - (5) Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area.
 - (6) Virgin Mountain Instant Study Area.
- (d) Right-of-Way Grants._
- (1) Sunrise mountain._
- (A) In general._To facilitate energy security and the timely delivery of new energy supplies to the States of Nevada and California and the Southwest, notwithstanding section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the Secretary shall issue to the State-regulated sponsor of the Centennial Project a right-of-way grant for the construction and maintenance of 2 500-kilovolt electrical transmission lines.
- (B) Location._The transmission lines described in subparagraph (A) shall be constructed within the 1,400-foot-wide utility right-of-way corridor in the Sunrise Mountain Instant

Study Area in the County.

(2) Meadow valley mountains **wilderness** study area._The Secretary shall issue to the developers of the proposed Meadow Valley generating project a right-of-way grant for the construction and maintenance of electric and water transmission lines in the Meadow Valley Mountains **Wilderness** Study Area in Clark and Lincoln Counties in the State.

SEC. 208. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

(a) In General._The Secretary shall conduct such management activities as are necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and fish and wildlife habitats in the areas designated as **wilderness** by this title.

(b) Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping._

(1) In general._The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and trapping on land and water in **wilderness** areas designated by this title in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

(2) Limitations._

(A) Regulations._The Secretary may designate by regulation areas in which, and establish periods during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted in the **wilderness** areas designated by this title.

(B) Consultation._Except in emergencies, the Secretary shall consult with, and obtain the approval of, the appropriate State agency before promulgating regulations under subparagraph (A) that close a portion of the **wilderness** areas to hunting, fishing, or trapping.

(c) Motorized Vehicles._

(1) In general._The Secretary shall authorize the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles in the **wilderness** areas, including the uses described in paragraph (2), if the use of motorized vehicles would_

(A) as determined by the Secretary, enhance **wilderness** values by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations and other natural resources; and

(B) accomplish the purposes for which the use is authorized while causing the least amount of damage to the **wilderness** areas, as compared with the alternatives.

(2) Authorized uses._The uses referred to in paragraph (1) include_

(A) the use of motorized vehicles by_

(i) a State agency responsible for fish and wildlife management; or

(ii) a designee of such a State agency;

(B) the use of aircraft to survey, capture, transplant, and monitor wildlife populations;

(C) when necessary to protect or rehabilitate natural resources in the **wilderness** areas, access by motorized vehicles for the_

(i) repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of water developments, including guzzlers, in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) the installation, repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of new water developments, including guzzlers; and

(D) the use of motorized equipment, including aircraft, to manage and remove, as appropriate, feral stock, feral horses, and feral burros.

(d) **Wildlife Water Development Projects.**—The Secretary shall authorize the construction of structures and facilities for wildlife water development projects, including guzzlers, in the **wilderness** areas designated by this title if—

(1) the construction activities will, as determined by the Secretary, enhance **wilderness** values by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(2) the visual impacts of the construction activities on the **wilderness** areas can reasonably be minimized.

(e) **Buffer.**—A road in the State that is bordered by a **wilderness** area designated by this title shall include a buffer on each side of the road that is the greater of—

(1) 100 feet wide; or

(2) the width of the buffer on the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) **Effect.**—Nothing in this title diminishes the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management, including regulation of hunting and fishing on public land in the State. [*S5381]

SEC. 209. WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT.

Nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) to manage wildfires in the **wilderness** areas designated by this title.

SEC. 210. CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.

Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, nothing in this title precludes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the **wilderness** areas designated by this title if the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, and water reservoir operation activities.

SEC. 211. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title.

TITLE III_TRANSFERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION

SEC. 301. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TO THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

(a) In General._The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service administrative jurisdiction over the parcel of land described in subsection (b) for inclusion in the Desert National Wildlife Range.

(b) Description of Land._The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 49,817 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, as depicted on the map entitled "Arrow Canyon" and dated June 5, 2002.

(c) **Wilderness** Release._

(1) Finding._Congress finds that the parcel of land described in subsection (b) has been adequately studied for **wilderness** designation for the purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)).

(2) Release._The parcel of land described in subsection (b)_

(A) shall not be subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(B) shall be managed in accordance with_

(i) land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(ii) the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

(d) Use of Land._To the extent not prohibited by Federal or State law, the parcel of land described in subsection (b) shall be available for the extraction of mineral resources.

SEC. 302. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

(a) In General._The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer to the National Park Service administrative jurisdiction over the parcel of land described in subsection (b) for inclusion in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

(b) Description of Land._The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 10 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, as depicted on the map entitled "El Dorado/Spirit Mountain" and dated June 10, 2002.

(c) Use of Land._The parcel of land described in subsection (b) shall be used by the National Park Service for administrative facilities.

TITLE IV_AMENDMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT

SEC. 401. DISPOSAL AND EXCHANGE.

(a) In General._Section 4 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2344) is amended_

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking "entitled Las Vegas Valley, Nevada, Land Disposal Map", April 10, 1997" and inserting "entitled Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act", dated June 10, 2002"; and

(2) in subsection (e)(3)_

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by inserting "or regional governmental entity" after "local government"; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) Administration._Of the amounts available to the Secretary from the special account in any fiscal year (determined without taking into account amounts deposited under subsection (g)(4))_

"(i) not more than 25 percent of the amounts may be used in any fiscal year for the purposes described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

"(ii) not less than 25 percent of the amounts may be used in any fiscal year for the purposes described in subparagraph (A)(iv).".

(b) Effective Date._The amendments made by subsection (a) take effect on January 31, 2003.

TITLE V_IVANPAH CORRIDOR

SEC. 501. INTERSTATE ROUTE 15 SOUTH CORRIDOR.

(a) Management of Interstate Route 15 Corridor Land._

(1) In general._The Secretary shall manage the land located along the Interstate Route 15 corridor south of the Las Vegas Valley to the border between the States of California and Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002" and dated June 10, 2002, in accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2343) and this section.

(2) Availability of map._The map described in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in_

(A) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the Office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the State; and

(C) the Las Vegas District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) Multiple use management._Subject to any land management designations under the 1998 Las Vegas District Resource Management Plan or the Clark County Multi-Species Conservation Plan, land depicted on the map described in paragraph (1) shall be managed for multiple use purposes.

(4) Termination of administrative withdrawal._The administrative withdrawal of the land identified as the "Interstate 15 South Corridor" on the map entitled "Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002" and dated June 10, 2002, from mineral entry dated July 23, 1997, and as amended March 9, 1998, is terminated.

(5) Transportation and utilities corridor._Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), the Secretary, in accordance with this section and other applicable law and subject to valid existing rights, shall establish a 2,640-foot wide corridor between the Las Vegas valley and the proposed Ivanpah Airport for the placement, on a nonexclusive basis, of utilities and

transportation.

(b) Ivanpah Airport Environs Overlay District Land Transfer.

(1) In general._Subject to paragraph (2) and valid existing rights, on request by the County, the Secretary shall transfer to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land identified on the map entitled "Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002" and dated June 10, 2002.

(2) Conditions for transfer._As a condition of the transfer under paragraph (1), the County shall agree_

(A) to manage the transferred land in accordance with section 47504 of title 49, United States Code (including regulations promulgated under that section); and

(B) that if any portion of the transferred land is sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed or leased by the County_

(i) the sale, lease, or other conveyance shall be_

(I) subject to a limitation that requires that any use of the transferred land be consistent with the Agreement and section 47504 of title 49, United States Code (including regulations promulgated under that section); and

(II) for fair market value; and

(ii) of any gross proceeds received by the County from the sale, lease, or other conveyance of the land, the County shall_

(I) contribute 85 percent to the special account established by section 4(e)(1)(C) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2345);

(II) contribute 5 percent to the State for use in the general education program of the State; and

(III) reserve 10 percent for use by the Clark County Department of Aviation for airport development and noise compatibility programs.

(c) Withdrawal of Land.

(1) In general._Subject to valid existing rights, the corridor described in subsection (a)(5) and the land transferred to the County under subsection (b)(1) are withdrawn from location and entry under the mining laws, and from operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, until such time as_

(A) the Secretary terminates the withdrawal; or

(B) the corridor or land, respectively, is patented.

(2) Areas of critical environmental concern._Subject to valid existing rights, any Federal land in an area of critical environmental concern that is designated for segregation and withdrawal under the 1998 Las Vegas Resource Management Plan is segregated and withdrawn from the operation of the mining laws in accordance with that plan.

TITLE VI_SLOAN CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act".

SEC. 602. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to establish the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the cultural, archaeological, natural, **wilderness**, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, education, and scenic resources of the Conservation Area.

SEC. 603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

- (1) Conservation area._The term "Conservation Area" means the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area established by section 604(a).
- (2) Federal parcel._The term "Federal parcel" means the parcel of Federal land consisting of approximately 500 acres that is identified as "Tract A" on the map entitled "Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act" and dated June 10, 2002. [*S5382]
- (3) Management plan._The term "management plan" means the management plan for the Conservation Area developed under section 605(b).
- (4) Map._The term "map" means the map submitted under section 604(c).

SEC. 604. ESTABLISHMENT.

- (a) In General._For the purpose described in section 602, there is established in the State a conservation area to be known as the "Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area".
- (b) Area Included._The Conservation Area shall consist of approximately 47,000 acres of public land in the County, as generally depicted on the map.
- (c) Map and Legal Description._
 - (1) In general._As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a map and legal description of the Conservation Area.
 - (2) Effect._The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description.
 - (3) Public availability._A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in_
 - (i) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;
 - (ii) the Office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the State; and
 - (iii) the Las Vegas District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 605. MANAGEMENT.

(a) In General._The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the Conservation Area_

(1) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the Conservation Area; and

(2) in accordance with_

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(B) other applicable law, including this Act.

(b) Management Plan._

(1) In general._Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the State, the city of Henderson, the County, and any other interested persons, shall develop a comprehensive management plan for the Conservation Area.

(2) Requirements._The management plan shall_

(A) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area; and

(B)(i) authorize the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area_

(I) for installing, repairing, maintaining, and reconstructing water development projects, including guzzlers, that would enhance the Conservation Area by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(II) subject to any limitations that are not more restrictive than the limitations on such uses authorized in **wilderness** areas under clauses (i) and (ii) of section 208(c)(2)(C); and

(ii) include or provide recommendations on ways of minimizing the visual impacts of such activities on the Conservation Area.

(c) Use._The Secretary may allow any use of the Conservation Area that the Secretary determines will further the purpose described in section 602.

(d) Motorized Vehicles._Except as needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Area shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for the use of motorized vehicles by the management plan developed under subsection (b).

(e) Withdrawal._

(1) In general._Subject to valid existing rights and the right-of-way issued under subsection (h), all public land in the Conservation Area is withdrawn from_

(A) all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(2) Additional land._Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary acquires mineral or other interests in a parcel of land within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act, the parcel is withdrawn from operation of the laws referred to in paragraph (1) on the date of acquisition of the land.

(f) Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping._

(1) In general._Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and trapping in the Conservation Area in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

(2) Limitations._

(A) Regulations._The Secretary may designate by regulation areas in which, and establish periods during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted in the Conservation Area.

(B) Consultation._Except in emergencies, the Secretary shall consult with, and obtain the approval of, the appropriate State agency before promulgating regulations under subparagraph (A) that close a portion of the Conservation Area to hunting, fishing, or trapping.

(g) No Buffer Zones._

(1) In general._The establishment of the Conservation Area shall not create an express or implied protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Conservation Area.

(2) Private land._If the use of, or conduct of an activity on, private land that shares a boundary with the Conservation Area is consistent with applicable law, nothing in this title concerning the establishment of the Conservation Area shall prohibit or limit the use or conduct of the activity.

(h) Right-of-Way._Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the city of Henderson the public right-of-way requested for rural roadway and public trail purposes under the application numbered N-65874.

SEC. 606. SALE OF FEDERAL PARCEL.

(a) In General._Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713) and subject to valid existing rights, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the highest qualified bidder all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal parcel.

(b) Disposition of Proceeds._Of the gross proceeds from the conveyance of land under subsection (a)_

(1) 5 percent shall be available to the State for use in the general education program of the State;

(2) 8 percent shall be deposited in the special account established by section 4(e)(1)(C) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2345), to be available without further appropriation for a comprehensive southern Nevada litter cleanup and public awareness campaign; and

(3) the remainder shall be deposited in the special account described in paragraph (2), to be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation for—

(A) the construction and operation of facilities at, and other management activities in, the Conservation Area;

(B) the construction and repair of trails and roads in the Conservation Area authorized under the management plan;

(C) research on and interpretation of the archaeological and geological resources of Sloan Canyon; and

(D) any other purpose that the Secretary determines to be consistent with the purpose described in section 602.

SEC. 607. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title.

TITLE VII_PUBLIC INTEREST CONVEYANCES

SEC. 701. DEFINITION OF MAP.

In this title, the term "map" means the map entitled "Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act" and dated June 10, 2002.

SEC. 702. CONVEYANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AT LAS VEGAS RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

(a) Findings and Purposes.—

(1) Findings.—Congress finds that—

(A) the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, needs land in the greater Las Vegas area to provide for the future growth of the university;

(B) the proposal by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for construction of a research park and technology center in the greater Las Vegas area would enhance the high tech industry and entrepreneurship in the State; and

(C) the land transferred to the Clark County Department of Aviation under section 4(g) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2346) is the best location for the research park and technology center.

(2) Purposes.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to provide a suitable location for the construction of a research park and technology center in the greater Las Vegas area;

(B) to provide the public with opportunities for education and research in the field of high technology; and

(C) to provide the State with opportunities for competition and economic development in the field of high technology.

(b) Technology Research Center._

(1) Conveyance._Notwithstanding section 4(g)(4) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2347), the Clark County Department of Aviation may convey, without consideration, all right, title, and interest in and to the parcel of land described in paragraph (2) to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas Research Foundation for the development of a technology research center.

(2) Description of land._The parcel of land referred to in paragraph (1) is the parcel of Clark County Department of Aviation land_

(A) consisting of approximately 115 acres; and

(B) located in the SW 1/4 of section 33, T. 21 S., R. 60 E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

SEC. 703. CONVEYANCE TO THE LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary shall convey to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, without consideration, all right, title, and interest in and to the parcel of land identified as "Tract F" on the map for use as a shooting range.

SEC. 704. CONVEYANCE TO THE CITY OF HENDERSON FOR THE NEVADA STATE COLLEGE AT HENDERSON.

(a) Definitions._In this section:

(1) Chancellor._The term "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the University system.
[*S5383]

(2) City._The term "City" means the city of Henderson, Nevada.

(3) College._The term "College" means the Nevada State College at Henderson.

(4) University system._The term "University system" means the University and Community College System of Nevada.

(b) Conveyance._

(1) In general._Notwithstanding the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and section 1(c) of the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act") (43 U.S.C. 869(c)), not later than 60 days after the date on which the survey is approved under paragraph (3)(A)(ii), the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of Federal land identified as "Tract H" on the map for use as a campus for the College.

(2) Conditions._

(A) In general._As a condition of the conveyance under paragraph (1), the Chancellor and the City shall agree in writing_

(i) to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance, including the costs of any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or historical resources studies;

- (ii) to use the Federal land conveyed for educational and recreational purposes;
 - (iii) to release and indemnify the United States from any claims or liabilities which may arise from uses that are carried out on the Federal land on or before the date of enactment of this Act by the United States or any person;
 - (iv) to provide to the Secretary, on request, any report, data, or other information relating to the operations of the College that may be necessary, as determined by the Secretary, to determine whether the College is in compliance with this Act;
 - (v) as soon as practicable after the date of the conveyance under paragraph (1), to erect at the College an appropriate and centrally located monument that acknowledges the conveyance of the Federal land by the United States for the purpose of furthering the higher education of citizens in the State;
 - (vi) to provide information to the students of the College on the role of the United States in the establishment of the College; and
 - (vii) to assist the Bureau of Land Management in providing information to the students of the College and the citizens of the State on
 - (I) public land in the State; and
 - (II) the role of the Bureau of Land Management in managing, preserving, and protecting the public land.
- (B) Valid existing rights._The conveyance under paragraph (1) shall be subject to all valid existing rights.
- (3) Use of federal land._
- (A) In general._The College and the City may use the land conveyed under paragraph (1) for any purpose relating to the establishment, operation, growth, and maintenance of the College, including the construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition of
 - (i) classroom facilities;
 - (ii) laboratories;
 - (iii) performance spaces;
 - (iv) student housing;
 - (v) administrative facilities;
 - (vi) sports and recreational facilities and fields;
 - (vii) food service, concession, and related facilities;
 - (viii) parks and roads; and
 - (ix) water, gas, electricity, phone, Internet, and other utility delivery systems.
- (B) Profitable activities._The manufacturing, distribution, marketing, and selling of

refreshments, books, sundries, College logo merchandise, and related materials on the Federal land for a profit shall be considered to be an educational or recreational use for the purposes of this section, if—

- (i) the profitable activities are reasonably related to the educational or recreational purposes of the College; and
- (ii) any profits are used to further the educational or recreational purposes of the College.

(C) Other entities.—The College may—

- (i) consistent with Federal and State law, lease or otherwise provide property or space at the College, with or without consideration, to religious, public interest, community, or other groups for services and events that are of interest to the College, the City, or any community located in the Las Vegas Valley;
- (ii) allow the City or any other community in the Las Vegas Valley to use facilities of the College for educational and recreational programs of the City or community; and
- (iii) in conjunction with the City, plan, finance, (including the provision of cost-share assistance), construct, and operate facilities for the City on the Federal land conveyed for educational or recreational purposes consistent with this section.

(4) Reversion.—

(A) Notice.—If the Federal land or any portion of the Federal land conveyed under paragraph (1) ceases to be used for the College, the Secretary shall notify the President and the City in writing of the intention of the Secretary to reclaim title to the Federal land or any portion of the Federal land, including any improvements to the Federal land, on behalf of the United States.

(B) Evidence.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of a notification under subparagraph (A), the President may submit to the Secretary any evidence that the Federal land, or any portion of the Federal land, is being used in accordance with the purposes of this section.

(C) Purchase by university system.—

(i) Offer.—Instead of reclaiming title to the Federal land or any portion of the Federal land under this paragraph, the Secretary may allow the University system to obtain title to the Federal land or any portion of the Federal land in exchange for payment by the University system of an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, excluding the value of any improvements, for any portions of the Federal land not being used for the purposes specified in this section.

(ii) Auction.—If the University system elects not to purchase the Federal land under clause (i)—

(I) the Federal land shall revert to the United States; and

(II) the Secretary shall—

(aa) dispose of the Federal land at public auction for fair market value; and

(bb) deposit the proceeds of the disposal in accordance with section 4(e)(1) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat.

2343).

SEC. 705. CONVEYANCE TO THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

(a) Definitions._In this section:

(1) City._The term "City" means the city of Las Vegas, Nevada.

(2) Secretary._The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) Conveyance._The Secretary shall convey to the City, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land identified as "Tract C" and "Tract D" on the map.

(c) Reversion._If a parcel of land conveyed to the City under subsection (b) ceases to be used for affordable housing or for a purpose related to affordable housing, the parcel shall, if determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, revert to the United States.

SEC. 706. HENDERSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE.

(a) Definitions._In this section:

(1) City._The term "City" means the city of Henderson, Nevada.

(2) Federal land._The term "Federal land" means the parcels of Federal land identified as "Tract G" on the map.

(b) Conveyance._

(1) In general._Subject to paragraph (2) and valid existing rights, on request by the City, the Secretary shall convey to the City, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(2) Conditions._As a condition of the conveyance of land under paragraph (1), the City shall agree_

(A) to manage, in consultation with the Clark County Department of Aviation, the land in accordance with section 47504 of title 49, United States Code; and

(B) that if any portion of the Federal land is sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed by the City_

(i) the sale, lease, or conveyance shall be_

(I) for the purposes of implementing the economic development goals of the City;

(II) subject to a requirement that any use of the transferred land be consistent with section 47504 of title 49, United States Code; and

(III) for an amount equal to_

(aa) at least fair market value; plus

(bb) as the City determines to be appropriate, any administrative costs of the City relating to the Federal land, including costs_

(AA) associated with the sale, lease, or conveyance of the Federal land;

(BB) for planning, engineering, surveying, and subdividing the land; and

(CC) as the City determines appropriate, for the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure for the economic development zone; and

(ii) the City shall deposit the proceeds from any sale, lease, or other conveyance of the Federal land, excluding any administrative costs received under item (bb), in accordance with section 4(e)(1) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2343).

(3) Availability of map._The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in_

- (A) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;
- (B) the Office of the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the State; and
- (C) the Las Vegas District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) Reservation for recreational or public purposes._

(A) In general._The City may elect to use 1 or more parcels of Federal land for recreational or public purposes under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act") (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(B) Consideration._If the City makes an election under subparagraph (A), the City shall pay to the Bureau of Land Management an amount determined under that Act.

(5) Reversion._A parcel of Federal land shall revert to the United States if_

(A) a parcel used by the City for local recreational or public purposes under paragraph (4)_

(i) ceases to be used by the City for such purposes; and

(ii) is not sold, leased, or conveyed in accordance with paragraph (2)(B); or [*S5384]

(B) by the date specified in paragraph (6), the City does not_

(i) elect to use the parcel for local recreational or public purposes under paragraph (4); or

(ii) sell, lease, or convey the Federal parcel in accordance with paragraph (2)(B).

(6) Termination of effectiveness._The authority provided by this section terminates on the date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 707. CONVEYANCE OF SUNRISE MOUNTAIN LANDFILL TO CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) In General._Not later than 1 year after the date on which a cleanup of the land identified as "Tract E" on the map is completed, the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land.

(b) Survey._

(1) In general._The Secretary shall conduct a survey to determine the exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a).

(2) Cost._The County shall be responsible for the cost of the survey conducted under paragraph (1).

(c) Conditions._

(1) In general._As a condition of the conveyance of the land under subsection (a), the County shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary that provides that_

(A) the Secretary shall not be liable for any claims arising from the land after the date of conveyance; and

(B) the County may use the land conveyed for any purpose.

(2) Valid existing rights._

(A) In general._Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the conveyance of land under subsection (a) shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(B) Exception._On conveyance of the land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall terminate any lease with respect to the land that_

(i) was issued under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act") (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.); and

(ii) is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) Waiver of Certain Requirements._The conveyance of land under subsection (a)_

(1) shall not require the Secretary to update the 1998 Las Vegas Valley Resource Management Plan; and

(2) shall not be subject to any law (including a regulation) that limits the acreage authorized to be transferred by the Secretary in any transaction or year.

SEC. 708. OPEN SPACE LAND GRANTS.

(a) Conveyance._

(1) In general._Notwithstanding section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), the Secretary shall convey to the city of Henderson, Nevada (referred to in this section as the "City"), subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land identified as "Tract B" on the map entitled "McCulloughs" and dated June 10, 2002.

(2) Costs._Any costs relating to the conveyance of the parcel of land under paragraph (1), including costs for a survey and other administrative costs, shall be paid by the City.

(b) Use of Land._

(1) In general._The parcel of land conveyed to the City under subsection (a)(1) shall be

used_

- (A) for the conservation of natural resources;
- (B) for public recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, biking, and birdwatching;
- (C) as part of a regional trail system; and
- (D) for flood control facilities.

(2) Facilities._Any facility on the parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a)(1) shall be constructed and managed in a manner consistent with the uses specified in paragraph (1).

(3) Reversion._If the parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a)(1) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the uses specified in paragraph (1), the parcel of land shall, if determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(c) **Wilderness** Release._Congress finds that the parcel of land identified in subsection (a)(1)_

(1) has been adequately studied for **wilderness** designation for the purposes of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(2) shall not be subject to the requirements of that section relating to the management of **wilderness** study areas.

SEC. 709. RELOCATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR LOCATED IN CLARK AND LINCOLN COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF NEVADA.

(a) Definitions._In this section:

(1) Agreement._The term "Agreement" means the land exchange agreement between Aerojet-General Corporation and the United States, dated July 13, 1988.

(2) Secretary._The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) Relocation._The Secretary shall, without consideration, relocate the right-of-way corridor described in subsection (c) to the area described in subsection (d).

(c) Description of Right-of-Way Corridor._The right-of-way corridor referred to in subsection (a) consists of the right-of-way corridor_

(1) numbered U-42519;

(2) referred to in the patent numbered 27-88-0013 and dated July 18, 1988; and

(3) more particularly described in section 14(a) of the Agreement.

(d) Description of Area._The area referred to in subsection (a) consists of an area_

(1) 1,000 feet wide; and

(2) located west of and parallel to the centerline of United States Route 93.

Mr. ENSIGN . Mr. President, today it is a great privilege and honor for me to introduce

the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 with my good friend and colleague from Nevada, Senator Harry Reid.

The introduction of this legislation today is the culmination of over a year of work. We held public forums in Clark County to solicit the input of interested parties. My staff spent many hours with local government officials, the environmental community, multiple-use groups, utility providers, home developers, sportsmen, and other Nevadans to reach a compromise on how we tackle the tough issues we face in Clark County. While it is a daunting job to bring Nevadans with opposing perspectives together on the controversial topic of **wilderness**, I believe we have achieved a consensus that is good for all citizens in Clark County. We will look back 30 years from now and realize how this legislation contributed to the quality of life we cherish in southern Nevada.

Because the Federal government manages 87 percent of the land in Nevada, the federal presence imposes enormous barriers to land use planning in a state that, again, outpaces every other state in population growth. I know I speak for many Nevadans when I say that we wish we did not have so much federal land within our borders. But the reality is that we do, and that this legislation is necessary to plan for growth and to set aside our pristine lands for future generations to enjoy and visit. In many states, land use planning takes place in city council chambers. We do not have that luxury, as we have to obtain the consent of the Congress to make some of the most basic decisions. Despite those obstacles, Senator Reid and I are putting forward legislation that is a model for fast-growing communities struggling to balance the equally important goals of environmental protection, planned residential and business development, and the allocation of scarce resources such as water.

One of my proudest achievements during my service in the U.S. House of Representatives was the enactment of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, or what is probably better known in Nevada as the Ensign-Bryan bill. Like the legislation Senator Reid and I are introducing today, the Ensign-Bryan bill was the product of bipartisan cooperation and the spirit of inclusion. Senator Bryan, who deserves much credit for that landmark measure, and I hosted a public lands task force to identify and propose solutions to the unique problems we faced in the Las Vegas Valley. One of the major reforms that came about because of the Ensign-Bryan bill was the change in the way public land is disposed of in the Las Vegas Valley. We drew a disposal boundary around the valley and asked the Bureau of Land Management to auction the land to the highest bidder, in consultation with local governments. The proceeds of those land auctions millions of dollars have been going into a special fund to build parks and trails, acquire environmentally sensitive land, initiate capital improvements in our beautiful recreation and conservations areas, and maintain the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. We also allocated funds for water infrastructure and to the general education fund of the State of Nevada. This legislation continues to encourage orderly growth, improves the environment, and benefits the schoolchildren of Nevada.

Federal land has become so valuable because of the infrastructure installed by private developers, local governments, and the taxpayers of Nevada. It is because of the phenomenal growth in southern Nevada that public land auctions have brought in millions of dollars. Eighty-five percent of the proceeds from public land auctions in southern Nevada are reinvested in environmental projects. So, I would challenge those who claim that the federal government is not getting its fair share of the proceeds from land sales. In fact, [*S5385] the federal government is receiving large sums of money because of the value-added infrastructure supported by Nevadans.

In the Clark County Conservation of Public Lands and Natural Resources Act, we build upon the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act and settle a number of

wilderness designations that have been pending since 1991. This bill designates 224,000 acres of BLM **wilderness** while it releases 231,000 acres of **wilderness** study areas. In the jurisdiction of the National Park Service adjacent to the Colorado River and Lake Mead, 184,000 acres of **wilderness** are designated. In all, 444,000 acres in Clark County will be added to our national **wilderness** preservation system. While the acreage is more than supported by a coalition of multiple-use advocates in Nevada, the acreage is about one-fifth of the amount requested by the Friends of Nevada **Wilderness**. This compromise is fair.

I am particularly proud that the bill creates a second National Conservation Area in southern Nevada, the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. Having such a magnificent resource at the edge of the City of Henderson will provide countless new recreation opportunities for those residents and provide open space that is so important to the quality of life in the Las Vegas Valley. I am happy we were able to improve the existing Red Rock National Conservation Area by adding pristine land to the NCA held by the Howard Hughes Corporation.

An important feature of this legislation I worked to include is the creation of a comprehensive Southern Nevada Litter Cleanup Campaign. As is the case in many desert communities, there is unfortunately a prevalence of discarded trash along our highways and on tracts of vacant BLM land within city limits. We must instill an ethic in our community and sense of awareness that we cannot continue to treat our desert lands as garbage dumps. While I attended college in Oregon, I saw how effective the "Keep Oregon Green" campaign worked. I am certain the same approach can produce results in southern Nevada, and that it can be accomplished through the leadership of volunteers, civic organizations, environmental groups, and private industry, without the bureaucracy. I look forward to leaving to my children a community that is much cleaner than the one we have today.

I worked to include protections in the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources so that existing access in **wilderness** is preserved. In addition to reserving motorized access through cherry-stemmed roads on maps referred to in the bill, we make it clear that reasonable access to water developments is permitted in **wilderness** areas. Groups such as the Fraternity of the Big Horn Sheep provide critical water to ensure the health of big horn sheep populations in southern Nevada. Of course, all valid existing rights are honored including grazing and mining. Buffers of at least 100 along each side of the road are preserved. We also authorize fire suppression and climatological data collection. All in all, reasonable access to **wilderness** has been achieved and I am especially appreciative of Senator Reid's flexibility in addressing the concerns of multiple-use groups in this regard.

This legislation ensures Clark County's orderly growth over the next several decades through the establishment of educational and research institutions, industrial parks, and residential development. The original disposal boundary defined in the Ensign-Bryan Act has been expanded to accommodate planned growth in Clark County, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North Las Vegas, and the City of Henderson. We have some of the finest planned communities in the world in southern Nevada and I know that the new lands will be showcases for quality living for a broad spectrum of Nevadans. The bill sets aside land for the Clark County Department of Aviation for the development of the Ivanpah Airport south of Las Vegas, the only major international airport in the United States that will be constructed from scratch in the next ten years. And very importantly, we have opened up an energy corridor that will augment Nevada's and the Southwest's electricity needs.

I also wanted to mention the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. As the home to many threatened species, Clark County has entered into an agreement with

the Fish and Wildlife Service so that the rapid growth we have been experiencing does not destroy critical plant and animal habitats. Senator Reid and I have included language to ensure that the MSHCP is not revoked when releasing lands from **wilderness** study status. However, the agreement Senator Reid and I reached does not mean that lands will be unavailable for multiple-use in the future; we wanted to give Clark County and the Fish and Wildlife Service the flexibility they need to amend the MSHCP as circumstances warrant, particularly as this legislation is implemented.

Senator Reid and I went through a spirited campaign for the U.S. Senate against each other in 1998. It was a very close race and I conceded it by 428 votes. Our friendship is now strong, and I believe that this bill is a testament to the fact that legislators from different political perspectives can come together for the good of their state. It is not easy work to bridge philosophical differences, but it can and must be done for the sake of the people we represent.

I would like to thank Congressman Jim Gibbons for his support of this measure in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Gibbons was an active participant in the development of this bill, and he offered several constructive and good changes to its content. I appreciate very much his guidance and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank members of my staff who worked hard on the development of this bill here in Washington and in Nevada: John Lopez, Margot Allen, Julene Haworth, and Mac Bybee are talented Nevadans who care very much about Clark County and our great state. I also appreciate the input and assistance of Clint Bentley, the tireless organizer of the Nevada Land Users Coalition. Clint was an articulate and reasoned advocate of multiple use principles and ensured that the Nevada Land Users Coalition spoke with one voice during these negotiations.

I look forward to quick passage of the Clark County Conservation of Public Lands and Natural Resources in the 107th Congress.