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STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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SPEAKER: Mr. BINGAMAN; Mr. REID; Mrs. FEINSTEIN; Mr. ALLARD; Mr. AKAKA; Mr. NELSON of Florida; Mr. REED; Ms. SNOWE; Ms. COLLINS; Mr. OBAMA

TEXT: [*6057]

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. Allard):

[S. 1380](#). A bill to designate as **wilderness** certain land within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to adjust the boundaries of the Indian Peaks **Wilderness** and the Arapaho National Recreation Area of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I am proud to co-sponsor legislation that [*6062]

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will designate Rocky Mountain National Park as "**wilderness.**"

This legislation will protect an area that was formed millions of years ago when massive glaciers carved an impressive landscape. The Rocky Mountain National Park **Wilderness** Act will ensure that it remains unchanged in years to come.

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the long history of the Park. As a fifth generation Coloradan and someone who grew up in the shadow of Rocky Mountain National Park, it is an honor to have worked on this bill. With the introduction of this legislation we continue to follow an important **wilderness** tradition in Colorado.

Colorado and its representatives have long played an important role in the development of **Wilderness** in our Nation. This dates back to the original **Wilderness** Act. Congressman Wayne Aspinall, who represented Colorado's 4th Congressional District and chaired the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, played a pivotal role in creating the Nation's **wilderness** system with the 1964 **Wilderness** Act. From the inception of the original **Wilderness** Act through the continued development of **wilderness** in Colorado one thing has remained the same: a commitment to working together to find compromise and solutions that work for everyone.

The principle of compromise has held true from the Colorado National Forest **Wilderness** Act of 1980 to the Spanish Peaks **Wilderness** Act in 2000, and it is now true with the Rocky Mountain National Park **Wilderness** Act. I am especially proud of the legislation that my colleagues and I have introduced because it will preserve the natural elements of the Park while protecting water, the West's most valuable resource.

In a time when wells are being shut down just east of the park, the protection of water is more important than ever, and it is vital to preserving the agricultural heritage of this area. I am extremely pleased that we have been able to protect both **wilderness** and water.

I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in the development of this bill, my colleagues in the United States Congress, the local officials that communicated with our offices, and the private citizens that shared their thoughts with us on the creation of this bill. I would specifically like to recognize former Senators Bill Armstrong and Hank Brown, and former Representatives Joe Johnson and David Skaggs. We would not be introducing this legislation today without these efforts.

The Rocky Mountain National Park **Wilderness** Act will ensure that Americans, now and in the future, have the ability to enjoy the Park.