

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1500

To designate certain Federal lands in the State of Utah as wilderness,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BROWN of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CAPPS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COYNE, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. FAWELL, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. FURSE, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. KLUG, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHALE, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MILLER of California, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PORTER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SKAGGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STARK, Mr. STOKES, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TORRES, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VENTO, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. YATES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To designate certain Federal lands in the State of Utah
as wilderness, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “America’s Red Rock
5 Wilderness Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

7 (a) NAME.—Each wilderness area named in a table
8 contained in title I shall be—

9 (1) the area referenced in the table, as gen-
10 erally depicted on the map entitled “Utah BLM Wil-
11 derness Proposed by H.R. 1500, 102d Congress”;
12 and

13 (2) known by the name given to it in that table.

14 (b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable
15 after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map
16 and a legal description of each wilderness area designated
17 under this Act with the Committee on Natural Resources
18 of the House of Representatives and with the Committee
19 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. Each
20 such map and description shall have the same force and
21 effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of
22 clerical and typographical errors in such legal description

1 and map may be made. Each such map and legal descrip-
2 tion shall be on file and available for public inspection in
3 the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Manage-
4 ment, Department of the Interior.

5 (c) SECRETARY.—For the purposes of this Act, the
6 term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

7 **TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF** 8 **WILDERNESS**

9 **SEC. 101. GREAT BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.**

10 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the Great
11 Basin region of western Utah is comprised of starkly beau-
12 tiful mountain ranges which rise as islands from the desert
13 floor. Some, like Wah Wah Mountains, are arid and aus-
14 tere, with massive cliff faces and leathery slopes speckled
15 with pinyon and juniper. Others, like the Deep Creek and
16 Stansbury Mountains, are high enough to draw moisture
17 from passing clouds and support ecosystems found no-
18 where else on earth. From bristlecone pine, the world’s
19 oldest living thing, to newly flowered mountain meadows,
20 these islands of nature support remarkable biological di-
21 versity and provide opportunities to experience the colossal
22 silence of the Great Basin.

23 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
24 so as to preserve the natural conditions of the Great Basin
25 wilderness areas in western Utah and in furtherance of

1 the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
 2 seq.), the following lands in the State of Utah are hereby
 3 designated as wilderness and therefore as components of
 4 the National Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area	Approximate Acreage
Cedar Mountains Wilderness	62,100
Conger Mountain Wilderness	20,400
Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness	90,200
Dugway Mountains Wilderness	23,100
Fish Springs Range Wilderness	55,200
Granite Peak Wilderness	16,000
House Range Wilderness	139,400
King Top Wilderness	78,800
Little Goose Creek Wilderness	1,300
Newfoundland Mountains Wilderness	23,300
Rockwell Wilderness	13,400
Silver Island Mountains Wilderness	27,200
Stansbury Mountains Wilderness	22,500
Wah Wah Mountains Wilderness	109,700
White Rock Range Wilderness	3,900

5 **SEC. 102. ZION AND MOJAVE DESERT WILDERNESS AREAS.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that Zion Na-
 7 tional Park’s renowned landscape of soaring cliff walls,
 8 forested plateaus, and deep narrow gorges extends beyond
 9 the boundaries of the park onto surrounding public lands
 10 managed by the Secretary through the Bureau of Land
 11 Management. From the pink sand dunes of Moquith
 12 Mountain to the golden pools of Beaver Dam Wash, the
 13 Zion and Mojave Desert wilderness areas encompass three
 14 major provinces of the Southwest: the sculpted canyon
 15 country of the Colorado Plateau, the Mojave Desert, and
 16 portions of the Great Basin—a rich mosaic of biological,
 17 archeological, and scenic diversity. One of the last remain-

1 ing populations of endangered desert tortoise is found
2 within this wilderness.

3 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
4 so as to preserve the natural conditions of the Zion and
5 Mojave Desert wilderness areas of Utah and in further-
6 ance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
7 1131 et seq.), the following lands in the State of Utah
8 are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore as com-
9 ponents of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Beaver Dam Slopes Wilderness:	
Beaver Dam Wash	24,900
Joshua Tree	13,500
Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness	11,500
Cougar Creek-Does Pass Wilderness	29,400
Upper Kanab Creek Wilderness	42,200
Moquith Mountain Wilderness	26,500
Red Mountain Wilderness	18,500
Zion Wilderness:	
Beartrap Canyon	40
Black Ridge	21,800
Canaan Mountain	52,100
Deep Creek	7,100
Goose Creek	89
LaVerkin Creek	567
Orderville Canyon	6,500
North Fork Virgin River	1,040
Parunuweap Canyon	37,700
Red Butte	804
Spring Canyon	4,400
Taylor Creek Canyon	35
The Watchman	600

10 **SEC. 103. GRAND STAIRCASE AND KAIPAROWITS PLATEAU**

11 **WILDERNESS AREAS.**

12 (a) GRAND STAIRCASE.—

13 (1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the
14 area known as the Grand Staircase rises more than

1 6,000 feet in a series of great cliffs and plateaus
 2 from the depths of the Grand Canyon to the forested
 3 rim of Bryce Canyon. It spans six major life zones,
 4 from the lower Sonoran Desert to alpine forest, and
 5 encompasses geologic formations which display
 6 3,000,000,000 years of earth history. Wildlands,
 7 managed by the Secretary through the Bureau of
 8 Land Management, line the intricate canyon system
 9 of the Paria River and form a vital wilderness cor-
 10 ridor connection to the deserts and forests of these
 11 national parks. Each of the units specified in para-
 12 graph (2) is located within the Grand Staircase-
 13 Escalante National Monument.

14 (2) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and
 15 manage so as to preserve the natural conditions of
 16 the wilderness area known as the Great Staircase
 17 and in furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness
 18 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following lands in
 19 the State of Utah are hereby designated as wilder-
 20 ness and therefore as components of the National
 21 Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Grand Staircase Wilderness:	
Box Canyon	2,300
Cockseomb	10,300
East of Bryce	900
Mud Spring Canyon	55,100
Paria-Hackberry	158,700
Squaw and Willis Creek	22,300
The Blues-Table Cliff	18,700

1 (b) KAIPAROWITS PLATEAU.—

2 (1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that east
3 of the Paria River lies the Kaiparowits Plateau, one
4 of the most rugged and isolated wilderness regions
5 in the United States, a lonely, windswept land of
6 harsh beauty, distant vistas, and a remarkable vari-
7 ety of plant and animal species. Ancient forests,
8 abundant big game animals, and 22 species of
9 raptors thrive undisturbed on its grassland mesa
10 tops. Each of the units specified in paragraph (2) is
11 located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante Na-
12 tional Monument.

13 (2) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and
14 manage so as to preserve the Kaiparowits Plateau
15 and in furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness
16 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following lands in
17 the State of Utah are hereby designated as wilder-
18 ness and therefore as components of the National
19 Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Kaiparowits Wilderness:	
Burning Hills	68,400
Carcass Canyon	72,600
Cave Point	4,800
Fiftymile Bench	11,100
Fiftymile Mountain	173,900
Horse Spring Canyon	27,900
Nipple Bench	31,600
Squaw Canyon	11,200
Wahweap-Paradise Canyon	228,000
Warm Creek	21,000

1 **SEC. 104. ESCALANTE CANYONS WILDERNESS AREAS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that enchanting
 3 glens and coves carved in massive sandstone cliffs, spring-
 4 watered hanging gardens, and the silence of ancient
 5 Anasazi ruins are exemplary of the unique features that
 6 entice hikers, campers, and sightseers from around the
 7 world to Escalante Canyon. This wilderness links the
 8 spruce fir forests of the 11,000 foot Aquarius Plateau with
 9 winding slickrock canyons that flow into Lake Powell. It
 10 protects critical habitat for deer, elk, and wild bighorn
 11 sheep, as well as the scenic integrity of one of Utah’s most
 12 popular natural areas. Each of the units specified in sub-
 13 section (b) (other than Dogwater Creek, Long Canyon,
 14 and Notom Bench) is located within the Grand Staircase-
 15 Escalante National Monument.

16 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
 17 so as to preserve Escalante Canyon wilderness areas and
 18 in furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16
 19 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following lands in the State of
 20 Utah are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore
 21 as components of the National Wilderness Preservation
 22 System:

Name of Wilderness Area	Approximate Acreage
Colt Mesa	23,500
Dogwater Creek	3,500
Fortymile Gulch	640
Fremont Gorge	19,400
Hurricane Wash	4,300
Long Canyon	16,400

North Escalante Canyons	144,000
Notom Bench	8,400
Phipps-Death Hollow	43,500
Scorpion	38,100
Steep Creek	34,400
Studhorse Peaks	9,500

1 **SEC. 105. HENRY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREAS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the last
 3 mountain range to be discovered and named by early ex-
 4 plorers in the contiguous United States, the Henry Moun-
 5 tains, still retains its wild and mysterious character.
 6 Fluted badlands adorn the flanks of 11,000 foot Mount
 7 Ellen and Mount Pennell, containing islands of critical
 8 habitat for mule deer and the largest herd of free-roaming
 9 buffalo in the Nation. Despite their relative accessibility,
 10 the Henry Mountains remain one of the wildest, least-
 11 known ranges in the United States.

12 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
 13 so as to preserve the Henry Mountains and in furtherance
 14 of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131
 15 et seq.), the following lands in the State of Utah are here-
 16 by designated as wilderness and therefore as components
 17 of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Henry Mountains Wilderness:	
Bull Mountain	12,400
Bullfrog Creek	36,900
Mount Ellen-Blue Hills	116,900
Mount Hillers	18,600
Mount Pennell	141,200
Ragged Mountain	23,300

1 **SEC. 106. DIRTY DEVIL RIVER WILDERNESS AREAS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the Dirty
 3 Devil River, once the fortress hideout of outlaw Butch
 4 Cassidy’s Wild Bunch, has sculpted a maze of slickrock
 5 canyons through an imposing landscape of monoliths and
 6 inaccessible mesas. This isolated and remote area, long a
 7 barrier to civilization and would-be colonists, now beckons
 8 a different type of explorer, the modern recreationist, who
 9 seeks to experience solitude and isolation amid spectacular
 10 beauty.

11 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
 12 so as to preserve the Dirty Devil River wilderness areas
 13 in southeast Utah and in furtherance of the purposes of
 14 the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following
 15 lands in the State of Utah are hereby designated as wilder-
 16 ness and therefore as components of the National Wilder-
 17 ness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Dirty Devil Wilderness:	
Dirty Devil-French Springs	175,300
Fiddler Butte	88,200

18 **SEC. 107. CEDAR MESA WILDERNESS AREAS.**

19 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that over a thou-
 20 sand years ago, the Anasazi Indian culture flourished in
 21 the slickrock canyons and on the pinyon-covered mesas of
 22 southeastern Utah. Evidence of their ancient presence per-
 23 vades the Cedar Mesa area where haunting cliff dwellings,

1 rock art, and ceremonial kivas embellish sandstone over-
 2 hangs and isolated benchlands. This area cries out for pro-
 3 tection from the vandalism and theft of these unique cul-
 4 tural resources. These wilderness areas are drawn to pro-
 5 tect both the Nation's archaeological heritage and extraor-
 6 dinary wilderness scenic and ecological values.

7 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
 8 so as to preserve the Cedar Mesa wilderness areas and
 9 in furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16
 10 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following lands in the State of
 11 Utah are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore
 12 as components of the National Wilderness Preservation
 13 System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
White Canyon Wilderness:	
Gravel and Long Canyon	35,000
Cheesebox Canyon	28,500
Harmony Flat	9,100
Fortknocker Canyon	12,400
San Juan-Anasazi Wilderness:	
Arch and Mule Canyon	15,300
Comb Ridge	15,000
Fish and Owl Creek	59,000
Grand Gulch	139,800
Nokai dome	93,400
Road Canyon	60,100
San Juan River	13,200
Squaw and Cross Canyons Wilderness:	
Squaw and Papoose Canyons	6,580
Cross Canyon	1,000
Dark Canyon Wilderness:	
Dark Canyon	126,500
Sheep Canyon	3,700
Glen Canyon Wilderness:	
Mancos Mesa	108,700
Little Rockies	60,000

1 **SEC. 108. CANYONLANDS WILDERNESS AREAS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that Arches and
 3 Canyonlands National Parks safeguard only a small por-
 4 tion of the extraordinary red-hued, cliff-walled canyonland
 5 region of the Colorado Plateau. Canyons with rushing pe-
 6 rennial streams, natural arches, bridges, and towers, and
 7 the gorges of the Green, Colorado, and Dolores Rivers lie
 8 on adjacent wildlands managed by the Secretary through
 9 the Bureau of Land Management. Designation of this wil-
 10 derness achieves a wholeness of protection for this
 11 erosional masterpiece of nature and the rich pockets of
 12 wildlife found within its expanded boundaries.

13 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
 14 so as to preserve the canyonland wilderness areas near
 15 Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and in further-
 16 ance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
 17 1131 et seq.), the following lands in the State of Utah
 18 are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore as com-
 19 ponents of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Canyonlands Basin Wilderness:	
Bridger Jack Mesa	32,700
Butler Wash	28,300
Goose Neck	8,300
Harts Point	62,800
Indian Creek	27,000
Shafer Canyon	3,000
Labyrinth Wilderness:	
Labyrinth Canyon	120,000
Horseshoe Canyon	51,700
Arches-Lost Spring Wilderness	16,900

La Sal Canyons Wilderness:	
Beaver Creek	28,200
Fisher Towers	15,100
Granite Creek	5,100
Mary Jane Canyon	24,200
Mill Creek	15,700
Negro Bill Canyon	20,600
Seweump Mesa	600
Behind-The-Rocks Wilderness:	
Hunter Canyon	4,000
Goldbar Canyon	12,500
Hatch Wash	14,300
Behind-The-Rocks	20,300
Westwater Wilderness:	
Black Ridge	5,100
Westwater Canyon	32,500

1 **SEC. 109. SAN RAFAEL SWELL WILDERNESS AREAS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the San
3 Rafael Swell towers above the desert like a wilderness cas-
4 tle, ringed by thousand-foot ramparts of Navajo Sand-
5 stone. Its highlands have been fractured by uplift and
6 scooped hollow by erosion over countless millennia, leaving
7 a tremendous basin punctuated by mesas, buttes, and can-
8 yons and traversed by sediment-laden desert streams.
9 Among other places, the San Rafael wilderness offers ex-
10 ceptional back country opportunities in the colorful Wild
11 Horse Badlands, the monoliths of North Caineville Mesa,
12 the rock towers of Cliff Wash, and the dark volcanic
13 mountains bordering Capitol Reef National Park. The
14 mountains within this wilderness are among Utah’s most
15 productive habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep.

16 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
17 so as to preserve the San Rafael Swell wilderness areas
18 and in furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act

1 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following lands in the State
 2 of Utah are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore
 3 as components of the National Wilderness Preservation
 4 System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
San Rafael Wilderness:	
Cedar Mountain	14,500
Devils Canyon	21,500
Hondu Country	18,900
Jones Bench	2,800
Limestone Cliffs	21,300
Mexican Mountain	102,600
Muddy Creek	246,300
Mussentuehit Badlands	23,000
Red Desert	36,800
San Rafael Reef	95,000
Sids Mountain	95,800
Upper Muddy Creek	17,000
Wild Horse Mesa	57,400

5 **SEC. 110. BOOK CLIFFS AND UINTA BASIN WILDERNESS**
 6 **AREAS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that the Book
 8 Cliffs and Uinta Basin wilderness areas offer a unique
 9 quality of wilderness big game hunting opportunities in
 10 verdant high-plateau forests, multiday float trips down the
 11 Green River in Desolation Canyon, and opportunity for
 12 calm water canoe weekends on the White River. The long
 13 rampart of the Book Cliffs bounds the area on the south,
 14 while seldom-visited uplands, dissected by the rivers and
 15 streams, slope away to the north into the Uinta Basin.
 16 Bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, bear, and cougar all flour-
 17 ish in the back country of the Book Cliffs.

1 (b) DESIGNATION.—In order to protect and manage
 2 so as to preserve the Book Cliffs area and in furtherance
 3 of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131
 4 et seq.), the following lands in the State of Utah are here-
 5 by designated as wilderness and therefore as components
 6 of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

Name of Wilderness Area and Unit	Approximate Acreage
Desolation Canyon Wilderness:	
Eastern Book Cliffs	154,600
Desolation Canyon	527,100
Turtle Canyon	36,900
White River Wilderness	9,700
Greater Dinosaur Wilderness:	
Bull Canyon	500
Diamond Breaks	7,800
Daniels Canyon	5,300
Moonshine Draw	3,500
Cold Springs Mountain	3,400
Wild Mountain	600

7 **TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE**
 8 **PROVISIONS**

9 **SEC. 201. ADMINISTRATION.**

10 Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas
 11 designated under this Act shall be administered by the
 12 Secretary in accordance with section 603 of the Federal
 13 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
 14 1782) and the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing
 15 areas designated by that Act as wilderness.

16 **SEC. 202. WATER.**

17 (a) RESERVATION.—(1) With respect to each wilder-
 18 ness area designated by this Act, Congress hereby reserves
 19 a quantity of water sufficient to fulfill the purposes of this

1 Act. The priority date of such reserved rights shall be the
2 date of enactment of this Act.

3 (2) The Secretary and all other officers of the United
4 States shall take all steps necessary to protect the rights
5 reserved by paragraph (1), including the filing by the Sec-
6 retary of a claim for the quantification of such rights in
7 any present or future appropriate stream adjudication in
8 the courts of the State of Utah in which the United States
9 is or may be joined and which is conducted in accordance
10 with section 208 of the Act of July 10, 1952 (66 Stat.
11 56; 44 U.S.C. 666, commonly referred to as the
12 “McCarran Act”).

13 (b) PRIOR RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this
14 Act shall be construed as a relinquishment or reduction
15 of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United
16 States in the State of Utah on or before the date of enact-
17 ment of this Act.

18 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The Federal water
19 rights reserved by this Act are specific to the wilderness
20 areas located in the State of Utah designated by this Act.
21 Nothing in this Act related to reserved Federal water shall
22 be construed as establishing a precedent with regard to
23 any future designations, nor shall it constitute an interpre-

- 1 tation of any other Act or any designation made pursuant
- 2 thereto.

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