

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 903

To provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, 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; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop  
6 Protection Study Act”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Rising dramatically from the Great Plains,  
2           the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides  
3           a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in  
4           the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colo-  
5           rado. The portion of the range within and adjacent  
6           to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests also  
7           includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and pro-  
8           vides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

9           (2) The open space character of this mountain  
10          backdrop is an important esthetic and economic  
11          asset for adjoining communities, making them at-  
12          tractive locations for homes and businesses.

13          (3) Rapid population growth in the northern  
14          Front Range area of Colorado is increasing rec-  
15          reational use of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National  
16          Forests and is also placing increased pressure for  
17          development of other lands within and adjacent to  
18          that national forest.

19          (4) Efforts by local governments and other enti-  
20          ties have provided important protection for portions  
21          of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern  
22          Denver metropolitan area. However, some portions  
23          of the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado  
24          remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their  
25          open space qualities.

1           (5) It is in the national interest for the Federal  
2           Government, in collaboration with local communities,  
3           to assist in identifying options for increasing the  
4           protection of the mountain backdrop in the northern  
5           Front Range area of Colorado.

6           (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to identify  
7           options that may be available to assist in maintaining the  
8           open space characteristics of lands that are part of the  
9           mountain backdrop of communities in the northern section  
10          of the Front Range area of Colorado.

11   **SEC. 2. COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN**  
12                                   **BACKDROP STUDY.**

13          (a) STUDY AND REPORT.—The Secretary of Agri-  
14          culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and  
15          in consultation with the State and local officials and agen-  
16          cies specified in subsection (c), shall review the lands with-  
17          in the study area and, not later than one year after the  
18          date of the enactment of this Act, shall report to such  
19          officials and to Congress regarding the following:

20                   (1) The present ownership of such lands.

21                   (2) Which undeveloped land may be at risk of  
22          development.

23                   (3) Actions that could be taken by the United  
24          States, the State of Colorado or a political subdivi-

1 sion of such State, or any other parties to preserve  
2 the open and undeveloped character of such lands.

3 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section,  
4 the following definitions apply:

5 (1) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”  
6 means those lands in southern Boulder, northern  
7 Jefferson, and northern Gilpin Counties, Colorado,  
8 that are situated west of Colorado State Highway  
9 93, south and east of Colorado State Highway 119,  
10 and north of Colorado State Highway 46, excluding  
11 lands within the city limits of the cities of Boulder  
12 or Golden, Colorado, as generally depicted on the  
13 map entitled “Northern Front Range Mountain  
14 Backdrop Study Area” dated April, 2006.

15 (2) UNDEVELOPED LAND.—The term “undevel-  
16 oped land” means land that—

17 (A) is located within the study area;

18 (B) is free or primarily free of structures;

19 and

20 (C) the development of which is likely to  
21 adversely affect the scenic, wildlife, or rec-  
22 reational value of the study area.

23 (c) CONSULTATIONS.—In implementing this Act, the  
24 Secretary shall consult with the following:

1           (1) The Colorado Department of Natural Re-  
2 sources.

3           (2) Colorado State Forest Service.

4           (3) Colorado State Conservation Board.

5           (4) Great Outdoors Colorado.

6           (5) The Boards of County Commissioners of  
7 Boulder, Jefferson, and Gilpin Counties, Colorado.

8           (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
9 shall be construed as authorizing the Secretary of Agri-  
10 culture to take any action that would affect the use of  
11 any lands not owned by the United States.

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