

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY
ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

JUNE 8, 2005.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 774]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 774) to adjust the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 774 is to adjust the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 774 authorizes a land exchange between the National Park Service (NPS) and a private landowner. The exchange is necessary so the NPS can relocate a road and parking area for a popular visitor use area in the Rocky Mountain National Park. The current road crosses a portion of the MacGregor Ranch and was originally designed to serve a single residence and is inadequate for the increasingly popular area. The federal land to be exchanged is suitable for grazing and is needed by MacGregor Ranch.

The MacGregor Ranch will receive 70 acres in return for its 5.9 acres because its land is suitable for residential use and therefore of higher per acre value than the NPS land. The NPS will retain a conservation easement on the land transferred to the Ranch which allows grazing, but prohibits construction of buildings.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 774 was introduced on February 10, 2005, by Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks. On May 12, 2005, the Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 774. On May 18, 2005, the Full Committee on Resources met to consider the bill, at which time the Subcommittee was discharged from further consideration by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and H.R. 774 was ordered favorably reported to the House by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8, and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. This bill does not authorize funding and therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 774—Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005

H.R. 774 would direct the National Park Service (NPS) to convey to a private landowner about 70 acres of federal land within the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain National Park in exchange for about 6 acres of property adjacent to the park. Once acquired by the NPS, the new property would be added to the national park and developed as an access site.

Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 774 would cost about \$1 million over the next year or two, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This amount would be used to complete the required land exchange and construct facilities such as a parking lot, access road, and a rest area on the newly acquired property. Enacting H.R. 774 would not affect revenues or direct spending. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the properties to be exchanged would be determined by NPS to be roughly equal in value.

H.R. 774 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

