

CASTLE ROCK RANCH ACQUISITION ACT OF 2000

JULY 17, 2000.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1705]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1705) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into land exchanges to acquire from the private owner and to convey to the State of Idaho approximately 1,240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 1705 is to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into land exchanges to acquire from the private owner and convey to the State of Idaho approximately 1,240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

S. 1705 directs the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land, known as the Castle Rock Ranch, outside the boundary of the City of Rocks National Reserve. The Secretary would then convey the acquired land (Castle Rocks Ranch) to the State of Idaho in exchange for State land located within the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. Upon completion of this land exchange, the State of Idaho may then exchange, with the consent of the private landowners, portions of the Castle Rock Ranch for private land within the boundaries of the City of Rocks National Reserve. As a condition of the exchange the State of Idaho shall administer the private land acquired in accordance with Title II of the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 460yy et seq.).

The Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument was created in 1988, and consists of approximately 4,280 acres. Hagerman contains the largest known concentration of Hagerman horse fossils in North America. These fossils have international significance because they are the largest deposits of fossils from the Pliocene time period, nearly 3.5 million years ago. The proposed land to be exchanged inside the Monument is the actual location of the Horse Fossil Quarry, which is the home of the Hagerman Horse Fossil. The exchange authorized by this bill would consolidate all of the inholdings in the Monument.

The City of Rocks National Reserve, also created in 1988, is made up of roughly 14,300 acres. Named for the rock pinnacles (60–70 stories high) which resemble a skyline, this national monument is now a favorite for rock climbers, and outdoor enthusiasts. Because it is a National Reserve, the land is jointly managed by the State of Idaho and the National Park Service. Nearly 7,300 acres are publicly owned, while the other 7,000 acres belong to private landowners.

The Castle Rock Ranch is comprised of approximately 1,240 acres. This unique piece of private land, now owned by the Conservation Fund, has been used for grazing and ranching, and also contains many of the same rock formations as the City of Rocks National Reserve, the largest being in the shape of a castle.

The House companion measure to S. 1705 is H.R. 3693, authored by Congressman Michael Simpson (R-ID).

For additional information on S. 1705, please see Senate Report 106–262.

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 1705 was introduced on October 7, 1999, by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID). In the House of Representatives, the bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. On June 28, 2000 the Resources Committee met to consider S. 1705. The Subcommittee was discharged from further consideration by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

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. Government Reform Oversight Findings. Under clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform on this bill.

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.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 6, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1705, the Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs) and Victoria Heid Hall (for the state and local impact).

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

S. 1705—Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 2000

S. 1705 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire by donation or purchase the Castle Rock Ranch in Idaho. Once acquired, the ranch would be conveyed to the state of Idaho in exchange for about 490 acres of land located within the boundary of the Hagerman National Monument.

Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that it would cost less than \$1 million to acquire Castle Rock Ranch. We further estimate that additional costs to execute the exchange of lands with Idaho and to manage the newly acquired acreage would not be significant. S. 1705 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 1705 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Acquiring the Castle Rock Ranch from the federal government and participating in subsequent exchanges with private owners of land

within the City of Rocks National Reserve would be voluntary on the part of the state of Idaho.

On April 11, 2000, CBO prepared a cost estimate for S. 1705, the Castle Rock Ranch Acquisition Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 5, 2000. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the cost estimates.

The CBO contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs) and Victoria Heid Hall (for the state and local impact). 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 State, local, or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

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

