

S 1467

Rio Grande Natural Area Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jul 25, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. (Sep 20, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1467>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Campbell, Ben Nighthorse [R-CO]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Nov 18, 2003
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 20, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 2955	Identical bill	Jul 31, 2003: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the Senate on July 13, 2004. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Rio Grande Natural Area Act - (Sec. 3) Establishes the Rio Grande Natural Area in Colorado (which shall include the Rio Grande River from the southern boundary of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge to the New Mexico State border, extending 1/4 mile on either side of the bank of the River) to conserve, restore, and protect the natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of the Area.

(Sec. 4) Establishes the Rio Grande Natural Area Commission to: (1) advise the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Area; and (2) prepare a management plan relating to non-Federal land in the Area.

(Sec. 5) Sets forth provisions governing the powers of the Commission, including authorizing the Commission to enter into cooperative agreements for purposes of carrying out such management plan on non-Federal land in the Area. Prohibits the Commission from acquiring any real property or interest in real property.

Directs the Commission to assist the Secretary in implementing such management plan by carrying out authorized activities to preserve and interpret the Area's natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources which include allowing the Commission to: (1) assist the State of Colorado in preserving State land and wildlife within the Area; (2) encourage the political subdivisions of the State to adopt and implement land use policies that are consistent with the Area's management and such management plan; and (3) encourage and assist private landowners in the Area in the implementation of the management plan.

(Sec. 6) Directs the Secretary to prepare a management plan relating to the management of Federal land in the Area. Requires the Commission to submit its management plan for the management of the non-Federal land in the Area to the Secretary for approval or disapproval. Instructs the Secretary and the Commission to cooperate to ensure that the management plans are consistent.

Sets forth specified requirements regarding the preparation of the management plans. Requires the Secretary to publish notice of such plans in the Federal Register.

(Sec. 7) Requires the Secretary to administer the Federal land in the Area in accordance with the laws applicable to public land and the management plan for such land and in a manner that provides for: (1) the purposes described in this Act; (2) the continued use of the Area for education, scientific study, and limited public recreation purposes in a manner that does not substantially impair the purposes for which the Area was established; (3) the protection of the wildlife habitat of the Area; (4) a prohibition on the construction of water storage facilities in the Area; and (5) the reduction in the use or removal of roads in the Area and the reduction in or prohibition against the use of motorized vehicles in the Area, including the removal of roads and a prohibition against motorized use on Federal land in the area on the western side of the Rio Grande River from Lobatos Bridge south to the New Mexico State line.

Encourages the Secretary to negotiate with the State, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and affected water users in the State to determine if changes in the streamflow that are beneficial to the Area may be accommodated.

Applies the management plan for the non-Federal land to private land in the Area only if the private landowner agrees to be bound by such plan.

Withdraws all Federal land in the Area from: (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

Permits the Secretary to acquire land or an interest in land within the Area from willing sellers. Requires any acquired land or interest to be administered in accordance with the management plan for the Federal land and this Act.

Prohibits applying to the Area Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requirements that Federal agencies consider potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in planning for the use and development of water and related land resources.

(Sec. 8) States that nothing in this Act: (1) amends, modifies, or is in conflict with the Rio Grande Compact; (2) authorizes the regulation of private land in the Area; (3) authorizes the imposition of any mandatory streamflow requirements; (4) creates an express or implied Federal reserved water right; (5) imposes any Federal water quality standard within or upstream of the Area that is more restrictive than would be applicable had the Area not been established; or (6) prevents the State from acquiring an instream flow through the Area under the terms, conditions, and limitation of State law to assist in protecting the natural environment to the extent and for the purposes authorized by State law.

(Sec. 9) Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 10) Terminates the Commission ten years after the enactment of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 20, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands.
- **Sep 17, 2004:** Received in the House.
- **Sep 17, 2004:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 17, 2004:** Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- **Sep 15, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S9344-9347; text as passed Senate: CR S9344-9347)
- **Sep 15, 2004:** Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S9344-9347; text as passed Senate: CR S9344-9347)
- **Jul 13, 2004:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 108-303.
- **Jul 13, 2004:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. With written report No. 108-303.
- **Jul 13, 2004:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 627.
- **Jun 16, 2004:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Nov 18, 2003:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 108-321.
- **Jul 28, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S10055)
- **Jul 25, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 25, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR 7/28/2003 S10055-10057)