

S 56

Rio Grande Natural Area Act

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jan 24, 2005

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 109-337.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 109-337. (Oct 12, 2006)

Law: 109-337 (Enacted Oct 12, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/56>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Allard, Wayne [R-CO]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Salazar, Ken [D-CO]	D · CO		Jan 24, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Reported By	Mar 30, 2005
Natural Resources Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Mar 9, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the Senate reported 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 nonfederal 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 nonfederal 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.

(Sec. 6) Directs the Secretary to prepare a management plan for Federal land in the Area. Requires the Commission to submit its management plan for the management of the nonfederal land in the Area to the Secretary for approval or disapproval.

(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 in a manner that provides for: (1) education, scientific study, and limited public recreation; (2) the protection of the wildlife habitat; (3) a prohibition on the construction of water storage facilities; and (4) the reduction in the use or removal of roads in the Area.

Encourages the Secretary to negotiate with the State, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and affected water users concerning changes in the streamflow.

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

Permits the Secretary to acquire land or an interest in land within the Area from willing sellers.

Makes inapplicable Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requirements that Federal agencies consider potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in water and land use planning.

(Sec. 8) Prohibits anything in this Act from: (1) modifying the Rio Grande Compact; (2) regulating private land; (3) imposing any mandatory streamflow requirements; (4) creating an express or implied Federal reserved water right; (5) imposing more restrictive Federal water quality standards; or (6) preventing State acquisition of an instream flow to assist in protecting the natural environment.

(Sec. 9) Authorizes appropriations.

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

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 12, 2006:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 12, 2006:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 12, 2006:** Became Public Law No: 109-337.
- **Oct 12, 2006:** Became Public Law No: 109-337.
- **Oct 2, 2006:** Presented to President.
- **Oct 2, 2006:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 27, 2006:** Mr. Gohmert moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Sep 27, 2006:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7657-7659)
- **Sep 27, 2006:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 56.
- **Sep 27, 2006:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H7657-7658)
- **Sep 27, 2006:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7657-7658)
- **Sep 27, 2006:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 9, 2006:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Aug 1, 2005:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health.
- **Aug 1, 2005:** Executive Comment Requested from Interior.
- **Jul 27, 2005:** Received in the House.
- **Jul 27, 2005:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 27, 2005:** Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S9018-9052; text as passed Senate: CR S9045-9046)
- **Jul 26, 2005:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S9018-9052; text as passed Senate: CR S9045-9046)
- **Mar 30, 2005:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici under authority of the order of the Senate of 3-17-2005 without amendment. With written report No. 109-45.
- **Mar 30, 2005:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Domenici under authority of the order of the Senate of 3-17-2005 without amendment. With written report No. 109-45.
- **Mar 30, 2005:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 64.
- **Feb 16, 2005:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jan 24, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 24, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.