

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5911

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the City of Ouray, Colorado, certain land managed by the Forest Service, together with a reservoir.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Crystal Reservoir Con-
3 veyance Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO OURAY, COLO-**
5 **RADO.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) CITY.—The term “City” means the City of
8 Ouray, Colorado.

9 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
10 means—

11 (A) the site known as “Crystal Reservoir”
12 in Ouray County, Colorado, including—

13 (i) the lake associated with that res-
14 ervoir;

15 (ii) Full Moon Dam and associated fa-
16 cilities, including the spillway and outlet;

17 (iii) Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir
18 Number 10; and

19 (iv) all infrastructure associated with
20 the reservoir; and

21 (B) the parcel comprising approximately
22 45 acres of land underlying and surrounding
23 Crystal Reservoir, as depicted on the Map,
24 managed by the Forest Service as necessary for
25 access for repair, operation, and maintenance of

1 Crystal Reservoir and the features described in
2 clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

3 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map
4 prepared by the Forest Service entitled “Crystal
5 Reservoir Conveyance” and dated June 23, 2025.

6 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
8 Chief of the Forest Service.

9 (b) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey
11 to the City—

12 (1) except as otherwise provided in this Act, all
13 right, title, and interest of the United States in and
14 to the Federal land; and

15 (2) all right, title and interest of the United
16 States in and to any water rights held for use on,
17 appurtenant to, or otherwise associated with the
18 Federal land, including the Full Moon Ditch and
19 Reservoir Number 10 water rights described in the
20 decree of the State of Colorado in Civil Action No.
21 1959, dated May 11, 1942.

22 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The conveyance under sub-
23 section (b) shall—

24 (1) convey fee simple title to the Federal land;

25 (2) be subject to—

1 (A) valid existing rights;

2 (B) the reservation to the United States,
3 in the deed conveying the Federal land, of ease-
4 ments for each road, trail, and trailhead in ex-
5 istence on the date of the conveyance, together
6 with such additional rights as are reasonably
7 necessary for access, administration, operation,
8 maintenance, repair, and replacement of those
9 improvements; and

10 (C) the reversionary interest described in
11 subsection (e)(3); and

12 (3) except as provided in subsection (d)(2), be
13 completed at no cost to the City.

14 (d) COSTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
16 graph (2), the Secretary shall pay all costs associ-
17 ated with the conveyance under subsection (b).

18 (2) SURVEY.—The City shall pay all costs asso-
19 ciated with any surveys conducted for the purpose of
20 accomplishing the conveyance under subsection (b).

21 (e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the con-
23 veyance of the Federal land under subsection (b),
24 the City shall agree—

1 (A) effective beginning on the date of the
2 conveyance, to assume responsibility for the
3 costs of all repairs, operations, maintenance, re-
4 placement, rehabilitation, and regulatory com-
5 pliance relating to Full Moon Dam and related
6 infrastructure, including Full Moon Ditch and
7 Reservoir Number 10;

8 (B) to maintain the Federal land in per-
9 petuity as open space, to be held open—

10 (i) for public access for recreational
11 activities, including fishing, except as rea-
12 sonably necessary for public safety, re-
13 source protection, emergency response, or
14 the operation, maintenance, repair, re-
15 placement, or rehabilitation of Full Moon
16 Dam, Crystal Reservoir, or related infra-
17 structure; and

18 (ii) not subject to any fee for rec-
19 reational access;

20 (C) not to conduct on the Federal land any
21 development, commercial operations, or con-
22 struction, other than as needed for the oper-
23 ation, maintenance, repair, replacement, reha-
24 bilitation, public safety, and regulatory compli-
25 ance for dam safety of Full Moon Dam, Crystal

1 Reservoir, and related infrastructure, including
2 Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir Number 10;
3 and

4 (D) not to expand the surface footprint of
5 Crystal Reservoir at normal operating levels (as
6 depicted on the Map) in a manner that would
7 flood, impair, or harm any wetlands located up-
8 stream of the Federal land, subject to the con-
9 dition that deepening Crystal Reservoir in a
10 manner consistent with the water rights of the
11 City shall otherwise be allowed.

12 (2) NECESSARY ACTION AGREEMENT.—The
13 conveyance under subsection (b) shall be made sub-
14 ject to terms agreed to by the Secretary and the
15 City that authorize the City to take such action on
16 the easements described in subsection (c)(2)(B) as
17 the City determines is reasonable and necessary
18 for—

19 (A) public safety;

20 (B) emergency response; or

21 (C) the operation, maintenance, repair, re-
22 placement, or rehabilitation by the City of Full
23 Moon Dam, Crystal Reservoir, or related infra-
24 structure.

1 (3) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The con-
2 veyance under subsection (b) shall be subject to such
3 other terms and conditions as the Secretary deter-
4 mines to be appropriate.

5 (4) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

6 (A) WRITTEN NOTICE.—If the Federal
7 land conveyed under subsection (b) ceases to be
8 used in accordance with the terms and condi-
9 tions under this subsection the Secretary shall
10 submit to the City written notice with respect
11 to such use.

12 (B) REVERSION.—After the 90-day period
13 beginning on the date written notice is sub-
14 mitted to the City under subparagraph (A), if
15 the Federal land conveyed under subsection (b)
16 continues to be used in a manner not in accord-
17 ance with the terms and conditions under this
18 subsection during such period, the Federal land
19 shall revert to the United States, at the discre-
20 tion of the Secretary, if the Secretary deter-
21 mines that reversion is in the best interest of
22 the United States.

23 (f) EASEMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the conveyance under
25 subsection (b), the Secretary—

1 (A) shall recognize a perpetual easement
2 for the Red Mountain Ditch for use by the
3 City—

4 (i) for the purposes relating to the
5 Ditch specified in the decrees entitled
6 “Case No. 1751-B” and “Case No.
7 2013CW3040” for the State of Colorado,
8 including the diversion and delivery of
9 water (not to exceed 6 cubic feet per sec-
10 ond) for storage in Crystal Reservoir and
11 subsequent beneficial use; and

12 (ii) to access, operate, maintain, re-
13 pair, replace, or improve the Ditch and its
14 appurtenances for such purposes; and

15 (B) may require special use authorizations
16 for non-routine maintenance and repairs of Red
17 Mountain Ditch or for the replacement or im-
18 provement of the Ditch.

19 (2) RED MOUNTAIN DITCH DEFINED.—In this
20 subsection, the term “Red Mountain Ditch” means
21 the Ditch known as Red Mountain Ditch constructed
22 in or about 1945 located, as of the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, on lands administered by the San
24 Juan National Forest and the Grand Mesa,
25 Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest, in

1 Section 14, Township 42 North, Range 8 West, New
2 Mexico Principal Meridian.

3 (g) WATER RIGHTS.—After the conveyance under
4 subsection (b), the City may use water in Crystal Res-
5 ervoir for any beneficial use, subject to applicable water
6 laws of the State of Colorado.

7 (h) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 shall finalize the Map and a legal description of the
11 Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (b).

12 (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the
13 City, by mutual agreement, may correct any clerical
14 or typographical errors in the Map or legal descrip-
15 tion under paragraph (1).

16 (3) MAP ON FILE.—The Map and legal descrip-
17 tion under paragraph (1) shall be on file and avail-
18 able for public inspection in each appropriate office
19 of the Forest Service.

Passed the House of Representatives June 2, 2026.

Attest:

Clerk.

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