

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7425

To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Ms. DEGETTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITION.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2026”.

6 (b) SECRETARY DEFINED.—As used in this Act, the
7 term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVA-**
2 **TION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.**

3 (a) ADDITIONS.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wil-
4 derness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–77; 107 Stat. 756;
5 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following paragraphs:

7 “(23) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
8 River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
9 Management, which comprise approximately 20,171
10 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Bull
11 Gulch & Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness’, dated
12 December 30, 2025, which shall be known as the
13 Bull Gulch Wilderness.

14 “(24) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
15 River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
16 Management, which comprise approximately 19,033
17 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Bull
18 Gulch & Castle Peak Proposed Wilderness’, dated
19 December 30, 2025, which shall be known as the
20 Castle Peak Wilderness.

21 “(25) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
22 River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
23 Management, which comprise approximately 312
24 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Maroon
25 Bells Addition Proposed Wilderness’, dated Novem-
26 ber 22, 2023, which is hereby incorporated in and

1 shall be deemed to be a part of the Maroon Bells-
2 Snowmass Wilderness Area designated by Public
3 Law 88–577.

4 “(26) Certain lands managed by the Gunnison
5 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management,
6 which comprise approximately 38,176 acres, as gen-
7 erally depicted on a map titled ‘Redcloud & Handies
8 Peak Proposed Wilderness’, dated November 22,
9 2023, which shall be known as the Redcloud Peak
10 Wilderness.

11 “(27) Certain lands managed by the Gunnison
12 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
13 located in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gun-
14 nison National Forests, which comprise approxi-
15 mately 26,557 acres, as generally depicted on a map
16 titled ‘Redcloud & Handies Peak Proposed Wilder-
17 ness’, dated November 22, 2023, which shall be
18 known as the Handies Peak Wilderness.

19 “(28) Certain lands managed by the Royal
20 Gorge Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
21 ment, which comprise approximately 17,213 acres,
22 as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Table Moun-
23 tain & McIntyre Hills Proposed Wilderness’, dated
24 November 22, 2023, which shall be known as the
25 McIntyre Hills Wilderness.

1 “(29) Certain lands managed by the Glenwood
2 Springs Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
3 ment, which comprise approximately 11,291 acres,
4 as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Grand Hog-
5 back Proposed Wilderness’, dated November 22,
6 2023, which shall be known as the Grand Hogback
7 Wilderness.

8 “(30) Certain lands managed by the Glenwood
9 Springs Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
10 ment or located in the White River National Forest,
11 which comprise approximately 16,305 acres, as gen-
12 erally depicted on a map titled ‘Flat Tops Addition
13 Proposed Wilderness’, dated November 22, 2023,
14 and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be
15 deemed to be a part of the Flat Tops Wilderness
16 designated by Public Law 94–146.

17 “(31) Certain lands managed by the Grand
18 Junction Field Office, which comprise approximately
19 25,897 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled
20 ‘Demaree Canyon Proposed Wilderness’, dated No-
21 vember 22, 2023, which shall be known as the
22 Demaree Canyon Wilderness.

23 “(32) Certain lands managed by the Grand
24 Junction Field Office, which comprise approximately
25 29,045 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled

1 ‘Little Books Cliff Proposed Wilderness’, dated No-
2 vember 22, 2023, which shall be known as the Little
3 Book Cliffs Wilderness.

4 “(33) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios
5 Field Office, which comprise approximately 24,475
6 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Bug
7 Canyon & Cross Canyon Proposed Wilderness’,
8 dated September 28, 2023, which shall be known as
9 the Cross Canyon Wilderness.

10 “(34) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios
11 Field Office, which comprise approximately 4,782
12 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ‘Bug
13 Canyon & Cross Canyon Proposed Wilderness’,
14 dated September 28, 2023, which shall be known as
15 the Bug Canyon Wilderness.

16 “(35) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios
17 Field Office, which comprise approximately 21,220
18 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled ‘McKen-
19 na Peak Proposed Wilderness’, dated October 16,
20 2019, which shall be known as the McKenna Peak
21 Wilderness.

22 “(36) Certain lands managed by the Tres Rios
23 Field Office and Uncompahgre Field Office, which
24 comprise approximately 56,206 acres, as generally
25 depicted on a map titled ‘Dolores River Canyon Pro-

1 posed Wilderness’, dated November 14, 2023, which
2 shall be known as the Dolores River Canyon Wilder-
3 ness.

4 “(37) Certain lands managed by the
5 Uncompahgre Field Office and Grand Junction
6 Field Office, which comprise approximately 39,919
7 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled
8 ‘Sewemup Mesa Proposed Wilderness’, dated No-
9 vember 14, 2023, which shall be known as the
10 Sewemup Mesa Wilderness.”.

11 (b) FURTHER ADDITIONS.—The following lands in
12 the State of Colorado administered by the Bureau of Land
13 Management or the United States Forest Service are here-
14 by designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components
15 of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

16 (1) Certain lands managed by the Colorado
17 River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land
18 Management or located in the White River National
19 Forest, which comprise approximately 25,232 acres,
20 as generally depicted on a map titled “Assignment
21 Ridge Proposed Wilderness”, dated November 22,
22 2023, which shall be known as the Assignment
23 Ridge Wilderness.

24 (2) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
25 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or

1 located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests,
2 which comprise approximately 25,192 acres, as gen-
3 erally depicted on a map titled “Badger Creek Pro-
4 posed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023, which
5 shall be known as the Badger Creek Wilderness.

6 (3) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
7 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
8 located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests,
9 which comprise approximately 38,253 acres, as gen-
10 erally depicted on a map titled “Beaver Creek Pro-
11 posed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023, which
12 shall be known as the Beaver Creek Wilderness.

13 (4) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
14 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
15 the Bureau of Reclamation or located in the Pike
16 and San Isabel National Forest, which comprise ap-
17 proximately 35,535 acres, as generally depicted on a
18 map titled “Grape Creek Proposed Wilderness”,
19 dated November 22, 2023, which shall be known as
20 the Grape Creek Wilderness.

21 (5) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junc-
22 tion Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
23 ment, which comprise approximately 13,351 acres,
24 as generally depicted on a map titled “North &
25 South Bangs Canyon Proposed Wilderness”, dated

1 November 22, 2023, which shall be known as the
2 North Bangs Canyon Wilderness.

3 (6) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junc-
4 tion Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
5 ment, which comprise approximately 5,144 acres, as
6 generally depicted on a map titled “North & South
7 Bangs Canyon Proposed Wilderness”, dated Novem-
8 ber 22, 2023, which shall be known as the South
9 Bangs Canyon Wilderness.

10 (7) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junc-
11 tion Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
12 ment, which comprise approximately 27,150 acres,
13 as generally depicted on a map titled “Unaweep &
14 Palisade Proposed Wilderness”, dated November 22,
15 2023, which shall be known as the Palisade Wilder-
16 ness.

17 (8) Certain lands managed by the Grand Junc-
18 tion Field Office of the Bureau of Land Manage-
19 ment or located in the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre,
20 and Gunnison National Forest, which comprise ap-
21 proximately 20,420 acres, as generally depicted on a
22 map titled “Unaweep & Palisade Proposed Wilder-
23 ness”, dated November 22, 2023, which shall be
24 known as the Unaweep Wilderness.

1 (9) Certain lands managed by the Kremmling
2 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management,
3 which comprise approximately 31 acres, as generally
4 depicted on a map titled “Platte River Addition Pro-
5 posed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023, and
6 which are hereby incorporated in and shall be
7 deemed to be part of the Platte River Wilderness
8 designated by Public Law 98–550.

9 (10) Certain lands managed by the
10 Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land
11 Management, which comprise approximately 17,660
12 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled
13 “Roubideau Proposed Wilderness”, dated November
14 22, 2023, which shall be known as the Roubideau
15 Wilderness.

16 (11) Certain lands managed by the
17 Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land
18 Management or located in the Grand Mesa,
19 Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest, which
20 comprise approximately 12,986 acres, as generally
21 depicted on a map titled “Norwood Canyon Pro-
22 posed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023, which
23 shall be known as the Norwood Canyon Wilderness.

24 (12) Certain lands managed by the San Juan
25 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management

1 Certain lands, which comprise approximately 14,339
2 acres, as generally depicted on a map titled “Weber-
3 Menefee Mountain Proposed Wilderness”, dated No-
4 vember 22, 2023, which shall be known as the
5 Weber-Menefee Mountain Wilderness.

6 (13) Certain lands managed by the San Juan
7 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
8 located in the San Juan National Forest, which
9 comprise approximately 10,844 acres, as generally
10 depicted on a map titled “North & South Ponderosa
11 Gorge Proposed Wilderness”, dated November 22,
12 2023, which shall be known as the North Ponderosa
13 Gorge Wilderness.

14 (14) Certain lands managed by the San Juan
15 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
16 located in the San Juan National Forest, which
17 comprise approximately 12,393 acres, as generally
18 depicted on a map titled “North & South Ponderosa
19 Gorge Proposed Wilderness”, dated November 22,
20 2023, which shall be known as the South Ponderosa
21 Gorge Wilderness.

22 (15) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
23 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management or
24 located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests,
25 which comprise approximately 22,654 acres, as gen-

1 erally depicted on a map titled “Browns Canyon
2 Proposed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023,
3 which shall be known as the Browns Canyon Wilder-
4 ness.

5 (16) Certain lands managed by the San Luis
6 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management,
7 which comprise approximately 10,871 acres, as gen-
8 erally depicted on a map titled “San Luis Hills Pro-
9 posed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023, which
10 shall be known as the San Luis Hills Wilderness.

11 (17) Certain lands managed by the Royal Gorge
12 Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management,
13 which comprise approximately 27,719 acres, as gen-
14 erally depicted on a map titled “Table Mountain &
15 McIntyre Hills Proposed Wilderness”, dated Novem-
16 ber 22, 2023, which shall be known as the Table
17 Mountain Wilderness.

18 (c) WEST ELK ADDITION.—Certain lands in the
19 State of Colorado administered by the Gunnison Field Of-
20 fice of the Bureau of Land Management, the United
21 States National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclama-
22 tion, which comprise approximately 6,846 acres, as gen-
23 erally depicted on a map titled “West Elk Addition Pro-
24 posed Wilderness”, dated November 22, 2023, are hereby
25 designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of

1 the National Wilderness Preservation System and are
2 hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part
3 of the West Elk Wilderness designated by Public Law 88–
4 577. The boundary adjacent to Blue Mesa Reservoir shall
5 be 50 feet landward from the water’s edge, and shall
6 change according to the water level.

7 (d) BLUE MESA RESERVOIR.—If the Bureau of Rec-
8 lamation determines that lands within the West Elk Wil-
9 derness are necessary for future expansion of the Blue
10 Mesa Reservoir, the Secretary shall by publication of a re-
11 vised boundary description in the Federal Register revise
12 the boundary of the West Elk Wilderness.

13 (e) MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as prac-
14 ticable after the date of enactment of the Act, the Sec-
15 retary shall file a map and a boundary description of each
16 area designated as wilderness by this section with the
17 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
19 Resources of the Senate. Each map and boundary descrip-
20 tion shall have the same force and effect as if included
21 in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical
22 and typographical errors in the map or boundary descrip-
23 tion. The maps and boundary descriptions shall be on file
24 and available for public inspection in the Office of the Di-
25 rector of the Bureau of Land Management, Department

1 of the Interior, and in the Office of the Chief of the Forest
2 Service, Department of Agriculture, as appropriate.

3 (f) STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS.—Lands within the
4 exterior boundaries of any wilderness area designated
5 under this section that are owned by a private entity or
6 by the State of Colorado, including lands administered by
7 the Colorado State Land Board, shall be included within
8 such wilderness area if such lands are acquired by the
9 United States. Such lands may be acquired by the United
10 States only as provided in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
11 1131 et seq.).

12 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
14 lands designated as wilderness by this Act shall be man-
15 aged by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness
16 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act, except that,
17 with respect to any wilderness areas designated by this
18 Act, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective
19 date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a ref-
20 erence to the date of enactment of this Act.

21 (b) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in wilderness
22 areas designated by this Act shall be administered in ac-
23 cordance with the provisions of section 4(d)(4) of the Wil-
24 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), as further inter-
25 preted by section 108 of Public Law 96–560, and the

1 guidelines set forth in appendix A of House Report 101–
2 405 of the 101st Congress.

3 (c) STATE JURISDICTION.—As provided in section
4 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)),
5 nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the ju-
6 risdiction or responsibilities of the State of Colorado with
7 respect to wildlife and fish in Colorado.

8 (d) BUFFER ZONES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act creates
10 a protective perimeter or buffer zone around any
11 area designated as wilderness by section 2.

12 (2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS.—The
13 fact that an activity or use on land outside the areas
14 designated as wilderness by section 2 can be seen or
15 heard within the wilderness shall not preclude the
16 activity or use outside the boundary of the wilder-
17 ness.

18 (e) MILITARY HELICOPTER OVERFLIGHTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act restricts
20 or precludes—

21 (A) low-level overflights of military heli-
22 copters over the areas designated as wilderness
23 by section 2, including military overflights that
24 can be seen or heard within any wilderness
25 area;

1 (B) military flight testing and evaluation;

2 or

3 (C) the designation or creation of new
4 units of special use airspace, or the establish-
5 ment of military flight training routes over any
6 wilderness area.

7 (2) AERIAL NAVIGATION TRAINING EXER-
8 CISES.—The Colorado Army National Guard,
9 through the High-Altitude Army National Guard
10 Aviation Training Site, may conduct aerial naviga-
11 tion training maneuver exercises over the wilderness
12 areas designated by this Act—

13 (A) in a manner consistent with the memo-
14 randum of understanding dated August 4,
15 1987, entered into among the Colorado Army
16 National Guard, the Bureau of Land Manage-
17 ment, and the Forest Service; or

18 (B) in a manner consistent with a subse-
19 quent memorandum of understanding entered
20 into among the Colorado Army National Guard,
21 the Bureau of Land Management, and the For-
22 est Service.

23 (f) RUNNING EVENTS.—The Secretary may continue
24 to authorize competitive running events currently per-
25 mitted in the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Area and

1 Handies Peak Wilderness Area in a manner compatible
2 with the preservation of such areas as wilderness.

3 (g) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The following lands are des-
5 ignated as potential wilderness areas:

6 (A) Certain lands managed by the Glen-
7 wood Springs Field Office or located in the
8 White River National Forest, which comprise
9 approximately 20,742 acres, as generally de-
10 picted on a map titled “Deep Creek Proposed
11 Wilderness” and dated is December 30, 2025,
12 which, upon designation as wilderness under
13 paragraph (2), shall be known as the Deep
14 Creek Wilderness.

15 (B) Certain lands managed by the Glen-
16 wood Springs Field Office, which comprise ap-
17 proximately 7,376 acres, as generally depicted
18 on a map titled “Pisgah East & West Proposed
19 Wilderness” and dated November 22, 2023,
20 which, upon designation as wilderness under
21 paragraph (2), shall be known as the Pisgah
22 East Wilderness.

23 (C) Certain lands managed by the Glen-
24 wood Springs Field Office, which comprise ap-
25 proximately 6,828 acres, as generally depicted

1 on a map titled “Pisgah East & West Proposed
2 Wilderness” and dated November 22, 2023,
3 which, upon designation as wilderness under
4 paragraph (2), shall be known as the Pisgah
5 West Wilderness.

6 (2) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.—Lands
7 designated as a potential wilderness area by sub-
8 paragraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) shall be
9 designated as wilderness on the date on which the
10 Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a notice
11 that all nonconforming uses of those lands author-
12 ized by subsection (e) in the potential wilderness
13 area that would be in violation of the Wilderness Act
14 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have ceased. Such publica-
15 tion in the Federal Register and designation as wil-
16 derness shall occur for the potential wilderness area
17 as the nonconforming uses cease in that potential
18 wilderness area and designation as wilderness is not
19 dependent on cessation of nonconforming uses in the
20 other potential wilderness area.

21 (3) MANAGEMENT.—Except for activities pro-
22 vided for under subsection (e), lands designated as
23 a potential wilderness area by paragraph (1) shall be
24 managed by the Secretary in accordance with the
25 Wilderness Act as wilderness pending the designa-

1 tion of such lands as wilderness under this sub-
2 section.

3 **SEC. 4. WATER.**

4 (a) EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this
5 Act—

6 (1) affects the use or allocation, in existence on
7 the date of enactment of this Act, of any water,
8 water right, or interest in water;

9 (2) affects any vested absolute or decreed condi-
10 tional water right in existence on the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act, including any water right held by
12 the United States;

13 (3) affects any interstate water compact in ex-
14 istence on the date of enactment of this Act;

15 (4) authorizes or imposes any new reserved
16 Federal water rights; and

17 (5) shall be considered to be a relinquishment
18 or reduction of any water rights reserved or appro-
19 priated by the United States in the State on or be-
20 fore the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 (b) MIDSTREAM AREAS.—

22 (1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
23 is to protect for the benefit and enjoyment of
24 present and future generations—

1 (A) the unique and nationally important
2 values of areas designated as wilderness by sec-
3 tion 2(b) (including the geological, cultural, ar-
4 chaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific,
5 recreational, environmental, biological, wilder-
6 ness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational,
7 and scenic resources of the public land); and

8 (B) the water resources of area streams,
9 based on seasonally available flows, that are
10 necessary to support aquatic, riparian, and ter-
11 restrial species and communities.

12 (2) WILDERNESS WATER RIGHTS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall en-
14 sure that any water rights within the wilderness
15 designated by section 2(b) required to fulfill the
16 purposes of such wilderness are secured in ac-
17 cordance with subparagraphs (B) through (G).

18 (B) STATE LAW.—

19 (i) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—
20 Any water rights for which the Secretary
21 pursues adjudication shall be appropriated,
22 adjudicated, changed, and administered in
23 accordance with the procedural require-
24 ments and priority system of State law.

1 (ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER
2 RIGHTS.—

3 (I) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
4 vided in subclause (II), the purposes
5 and other substantive characteristics
6 of the water rights pursued under this
7 paragraph shall be established in ac-
8 cordance with State law.

9 (II) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstand-
10 ing subclause (I) and in accordance
11 with this Act, the Secretary may ap-
12 propriate and seek adjudication of
13 water rights to maintain surface water
14 levels and stream flows on and across
15 the wilderness designated by section
16 2(b) to fulfill the purposes of such
17 wilderness.

18 (C) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall
19 promptly, but not earlier than January 1, 2027,
20 appropriate the water rights required to fulfill
21 the purposes of the wilderness designated by
22 section 2(b).

23 (D) REQUIRED DETERMINATION.—The
24 Secretary shall not pursue adjudication for any
25 instream flow water rights unless the Secretary

1 makes a determination pursuant to subpara-
2 graph (E)(ii) or (F).

3 (E) COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
5 not pursue adjudication of any Federal
6 instream flow water rights established
7 under this paragraph if—

8 (I) the Secretary determines,
9 upon adjudication of the water rights
10 by the Colorado Water Conservation
11 Board, that the Board holds water
12 rights sufficient in priority, amount,
13 and timing to fulfill the purposes of
14 this subsection; and

15 (II) the Secretary has entered
16 into a perpetual agreement with the
17 Colorado Water Conservation Board
18 to ensure full exercise, protection, and
19 enforcement of the State water rights
20 within the Wilderness to reliably fulfill
21 the purposes of this subsection.

22 (ii) ADJUDICATION.—If the Secretary
23 determines that the provisions of clause (i)
24 have not been met, the Secretary shall ad-
25 judicate and exercise any Federal water

1 rights required to fulfill the purposes of
2 the Wilderness in accordance with this
3 paragraph.

4 (F) INSUFFICIENT WATER RIGHTS.—If the
5 Colorado Water Conservation Board modifies
6 the instream flow water rights obtained under
7 subparagraph (E) to such a degree that the
8 Secretary determines that water rights held by
9 the State are insufficient to fulfill the purposes
10 of this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate and
11 exercise Federal water rights required to fulfill
12 the purposes of this Act in accordance with sub-
13 paragraph (B).

14 (G) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The Secretary
15 shall promptly act to exercise and enforce the
16 water rights described in subparagraph (E) if
17 the Secretary determines that—

18 (i) the State is not exercising its
19 water rights consistent with subparagraph
20 (E)(i)(I); or

21 (ii) the agreement described in sub-
22 paragraph (E)(i)(II) is not fulfilled or com-
23 plied with sufficiently to fulfill the pur-
24 poses of this Act.

1 (3) WATER RESOURCE FACILITY.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law, beginning on
3 the date of enactment of this Act, neither the Presi-
4 dent nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the
5 United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue
6 a license or permit for development of any new irri-
7 gation and pumping facility, reservoir, water con-
8 servation work, aqueduct, canal, ditch, pipeline, well,
9 hydropower project, transmission, other ancillary fa-
10 cility, or other water, diversion, storage, or carriage
11 structure in the wilderness designated by section
12 2(b).

13 (c) ACCESS AND OPERATION.—

14 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection,
15 the term “water resource facility” means irrigation
16 and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conserva-
17 tion works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines,
18 wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and
19 other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion,
20 storage, and carriage structures.

21 (2) ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCE FACILI-
22 TIES.—Subject to the provisions of this subsection,
23 the Secretary shall allow reasonable access to water
24 resource facilities in existence on the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act within the areas described in sec-

1 tions 2(b) and 2(c), including motorized access
2 where necessary and customarily employed on routes
3 existing as of the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (3) ACCESS ROUTES.—Existing access routes
5 within such areas customarily employed as of the
6 date of enactment of this Act may be used, main-
7 tained, repaired, and replaced to the extent nec-
8 essary to maintain their present function, design,
9 and serviceable operation, so long as such activities
10 have no increased adverse impacts on the resources
11 and values of the areas described in sections 2(b)
12 and 2(c) than existed as of the date of enactment of
13 this Act.

14 (4) USE OF WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.—
15 Subject to the provisions of this subsection and sub-
16 section (a)(4), the Secretary shall allow water re-
17 source facilities existing on the date of enactment of
18 this Act within areas described in sections 2(b) and
19 2(c) to be used, operated, maintained, repaired, and
20 replaced to the extent necessary for the continued
21 exercise, in accordance with Colorado State law, of
22 vested water rights adjudicated for use in connection
23 with such facilities by a court of competent jurisdic-
24 tion prior to the date of enactment of this Act. The
25 impact of an existing facility on the water resources

1 and values of the area shall not be increased as a
2 result of changes in the adjudicated type of use of
3 such facility as of the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (5) REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.—Water re-
5 source facilities, and access routes serving such fa-
6 cilities, existing within the areas described in sec-
7 tions 2(b) and 2(c) on the date of enactment of this
8 Act shall be maintained and repaired when and to
9 the extent necessary to prevent increased adverse
10 impacts on the resources and values of the areas de-
11 scribed in sections 2(b) and 2(c).

○