

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2630

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2017

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. BIGGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “La Paz County Land
5 Conveyance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means La
9 Paz County, Arizona.

1 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
2 means the approximately 8,000 acres of Federal
3 land managed by the Bureau of Land Management
4 and designated as “Federal land to be conveyed” on
5 the map.

6 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map
7 prepared by the Bureau of Land Management enti-
8 tled “Proposed La Paz County Land Conveyance”
9 and dated May 24, 2017.

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA.**

13 (a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to valid ex-
14 isting rights and notwithstanding the land use planning
15 requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land
16 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712,
17 1713), not later than 180 days after the date on which
18 the Secretary receives a request from the County for the
19 conveyance of the Federal land, the Secretary shall convey
20 to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and
21 interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

22 (b) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal land conveyed
24 under subsection (a)—

1 (A) may be used by the County for any
2 public purposes consistent with the Act of June
3 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recreation
4 and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et
5 seq.); and

6 (B) shall not be disposed of by the County.

7 (2) REVERSION.—If the County ceases to use a
8 parcel of the Federal land conveyed under subsection
9 (a) in accordance with paragraph (1)—

10 (A) title to the parcel shall revert to the
11 Secretary, at the option of the Secretary; and

12 (B) the County shall be responsible for any
13 reclamation necessary for the parcel to revert to
14 the United States.

15 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file
16 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
17 fices of the Bureau of Land Management.

18 (d) COSTS.—At the closing for the conveyance of
19 Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall pay
20 or reimburse the Secretary, as appropriate, for the reason-
21 able transaction and administrative personnel costs associ-
22 ated with the conveyance authorized under that sub-
23 section, including the costs of title searches, maps, and
24 boundary and cadastral surveys.

1 (e) RELEASE OF UNITED STATES.—On conveyance
2 of the Federal land under subsection (a), notwithstanding
3 any other provision of law, the United States is released
4 from any and all liabilities or claims of any kind or nature
5 arising from the presence, release, or threat of release of
6 any hazardous substance, pollutant, contaminant, petro-
7 leum product (or derivative of a petroleum product of any
8 kind), solid waste, mine materials, or mining-related fea-
9 tures (including tailings, overburden, waste rock, mill rem-
10 nants, pits, or other hazards resulting from the presence
11 of mining-related features) on the Federal land in exist-
12 ence before or on the date of the conveyance.

13 (f) ACQUISITION OF FEDERAL REVERSIONARY IN-
14 TEREST.—

15 (1) REQUEST.—After the date of conveyance of
16 the Federal land under subsection (a), the County
17 may submit to the Secretary a request to acquire the
18 Federal reversionary interest in all or any portion of
19 the Federal land.

20 (2) APPRAISAL.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
22 days after the date of receipt of a request under
23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall complete an
24 appraisal of the Federal reversionary interest in

1 the Federal land requested by the County under
2 that paragraph.

3 (B) REQUIREMENT.—The appraisal under
4 subparagraph (A) shall be completed in accord-
5 ance with—

6 (i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards
7 for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

8 (ii) the Uniform Standards of Profes-
9 sional Appraisal Practice.

10 (3) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—If, by the date
11 that is 1 year after the date of completion of the ap-
12 praisal under paragraph (2), the County submits to
13 the Secretary an offer to acquire the Federal rever-
14 sionary requested under paragraph (1), the Sec-
15 retary shall, not later than the date that is 30 days
16 after the date on which the offer is submitted, con-
17 vey to the County the reversionary interest covered
18 by the offer.

19 (4) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the
20 conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest
21 under paragraph (3), the County shall pay to the
22 Secretary an amount equal to the appraised value of
23 the Federal reversionary interest, as determined
24 under paragraph (2).

1 (5) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of
2 the conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest
3 under paragraph (3), all costs associated with the
4 conveyance (including the cost of the appraisal
5 under paragraph (2)), shall be paid by the County.

6 (6) RESTRICTIONS ON USE NOT APPLICABLE.—
7 On conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest
8 to the County under paragraph (3), the restrictions
9 on the use and disposal of the Federal land under
10 subsection (b) shall not apply to any portion of the
11 Federal land that was subject to the conveyed Fed-
12 eral reversionary interest.

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