

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Crystal Reservoir Con-
5 veyance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO OURAY, COLO-**
7 **RADO.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

3 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
4 means—

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

7 (i) the lake associated with that res-
8 ervoir;

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

11 (iii) Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir
12 Number 10; and

13 (iv) all infrastructure associated with
14 the reservoir; and

15 (B) the parcel comprising approximately
16 45 acres of land underlying and surrounding
17 Crystal Reservoir, as depicted on the Map,
18 managed by the Forest Service as necessary for
19 access for repair, operation, and maintenance of
20 Crystal Reservoir and the features described in
21 clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

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

1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
3 Chief of the Forest Service.

4 (b) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey
6 to the City—

7 (1) all right, title, and interest of the United
8 States in and to the Federal land; and

9 (2) all water rights associated with the Federal
10 land, including the Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir
11 Number 10 water rights described in the decree of
12 the State of Colorado in Civil Action No. 1959,
13 dated May 11, 1942.

14 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The conveyance under sub-
15 section (b) shall be—

16 (1) made by quitclaim deed;

17 (2) subject to—

18 (A) valid existing rights; and

19 (B) the reversionary interest described in
20 subsection (e)(3); and

21 (3) except as provided in subsection (d)(2),
22 completed at no cost to the City.

23 (d) COSTS.—

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

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

7 (e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

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

11 (A) to grant to the Secretary an easement
12 for each trail and road in existence on the date
13 of the conveyance that, as determined by the
14 Secretary, originates at, terminates at, or tra-
15 verses the Federal land;

16 (B) effective beginning on the date of the
17 conveyance, to assume responsibility for the
18 costs of all repairs, operations, and mainte-
19 nance of Full Moon Dam and related infra-
20 structure, including Full Moon Ditch and Res-
21 ervoir Number 10;

22 (C) to maintain the Federal land in per-
23 petuity as open space, to be held open—

24 (i) for full public access for rec-
25 reational activities, including fishing; and

1 (ii) not subject to any fee for rec-
2 reational access;

3 (D) not to conduct on the Federal land
4 any development, commercial operations, or
5 construction, other than as needed for the oper-
6 ation and maintenance of Full Moon Dam,
7 Crystal Reservoir, and related infrastructure,
8 including Full Moon Ditch and Reservoir Num-
9 ber 10; and

10 (E) not to expand the historical footprint
11 of Crystal Reservoir in a manner that would
12 flood, impair, or harm any wetlands located up-
13 stream of the Federal land, subject to the con-
14 dition that deepening Crystal Reservoir in a
15 manner consistent with the water rights of the
16 City shall be allowed.

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

21 (3) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If the Federal
22 land conveyed under subsection (b) ceases to be used
23 in accordance with the terms and conditions under
24 this subsection, the Federal land shall revert to the
25 United States, at the discretion of the Secretary, if

1 the Secretary determines that reversion is in the
2 best interest of the United States.

3 (f) USE OF RED MOUNTAIN DITCH.—After the con-
4 veyance under subsection (b), the Secretary shall allow the
5 structure located near the Federal land commonly known
6 as “Red Mountain Ditch”, located near Red Mountain
7 Pass, to continue to be used by the City for all decreed
8 purposes under Colorado water law, including the diver-
9 sion and delivery of water for storage in Crystal Reservoir.

10 (g) WATER RIGHTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
12 the City may use Crystal Reservoir for—

13 (A) storage of water and in-reservoir uses,
14 consistent with any water rights; or

15 (B) releases of water for augmentation and
16 other beneficial uses, consistent with any water
17 rights.

18 (2) STATE WATER LAW.—The City shall man-
19 age all water rights associated with the Federal land
20 in accordance with applicable water laws of the
21 State of Colorado.

22 (h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
23 tion prohibits the City from making any expenditure for
24 repair of Full Moon Dam or any other feature of the Fed-

1 eral land before the date of the conveyance under sub-
2 section (b), subject to the approval of the Secretary.

3 (i) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

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

8 (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the
9 City, by mutual agreement, may correct any minor
10 errors in the Map or legal description under para-
11 graph (1).

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