



H.R. 3930 – Lesser Prairie Chicken National Habitat Preservation Area Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3930 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Stevan Pearce (R-NM) on August 3, 2007. The resolution was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee where it was ordered to be reported by voice vote.

H.R. 3930 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 13, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3930 allows the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to exchange land in New Mexico for the purpose of establishing a Lesser Prairie Chicken and Dune Lizard habitat area. The State of New Mexico will exchange 14,000 acres of land to the BLM and will be given 5,018 acres in exchange. The land given will be used to develop a train fueling station in Dona Ana County. The total acreage of the Habitat will be 39,462.

The legislation also instructs the BLM to prepare and implement a conservation plan for the habitat.

There will be no use of motorized vehicles within the habitat unless used on paved roads or in the case of an emergency.

BACKGROUND

The Lesser Prairie Chicken and the Dune Lizard are candidates for the endangered species act. Conversion of native rangelands to cropland, decline in habitat quality due to herbicide use, petroleum and mineral extraction activities, and excessive grazing of rangelands by livestock have contributed to this decline. Severe drought has also significantly impacted prairie-chicken populations.

The BLM would prepare a comprehensive plan for the new preservation area and would develop signs and other exhibits to help interpret the area's historical and natural resources.

The Dune Lizard possesses the second smallest range of any lizard species endemic to North America.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates, "that implementing H.R. 3930 would cost about \$800,000 over the next three years. We estimate that enacting the legislation would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues."

STAFF CONTACT

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