



H.R. 783 – Mesa Verde National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 783 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 John Salazar (D-CO) on January 31, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources whereupon it was ordered to be reported out by unanimous consent.

H.R. 783 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on October 22, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 783 allows the Secretary of the Interior to purchase approximately 360 acres of land adjacent to the Mesa Verde National Park, located in Southwestern Colorado.

BACKGROUND

On June 29, 1906, Mesa Verde National Park was established as the first national park in the United States to preserve the works of humanity. The Park protects some of the best preserved and notable archeological sites of the ancient Puebloan culture. This culture flourished in the southwestern United States from approximately 600-1300. Included in the park are the elaborate stone villages in the sheltered alcoves of the canyon walls referred to as “cliff dwellings”.

The expansion is necessary to block any potential development of the scenic and biological value of the pinyon-juniper-covered hills that border the Park. It will allow researchers to expand their findings of the Puebloan culture. Lastly, some of the land will be used to construct a contemporary museum collections storage facility and visitor orientation center.

STAFF CONTACT

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