

Wayne Allard

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SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES ALLARD'S SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS BILL

Legislation Now Moves to Senate Floor for Final Approval

Washington, D.C. - The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday afternoon approved legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) to make the Spanish Peaks area located near Walsenburg, Colorado the state's first wilderness area since 1993.

"We have just cleared a major hurdle toward getting a Spanish Peaks Wilderness Bill passed by the Senate this year," Allard said following the committee's action.

Allard introduced his Spanish Peaks Wilderness Bill (S. 503) last year after spending more than a year working with environmental groups and local officials from Huerfano and Las Animas Counties to develop a compromise bill. The legislation would designate approximately 18,000 acres as wilderness in around the Spanish Peaks near La Veta, Colorado. A companion bill introduced by Colorado Third District Representative Scott McInnis and Fourth District Representative Bob Schaffer was approved by the House of Representatives last fall.

"This legislation represents a compromise between the environmental community and the people of Huerfano and Las Animas Counties," added Allard. "It is a model of how wilderness legislation should be put together. I am looking forward to gaining Senate passage of my legislation."

The bill now moves to the Senate for final approval.