

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD LAUDS BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today lauded an agreement resolving the federal reserved water rights dispute in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

“Colorado communities and property owners along the Gunnison River were directly threatened by the Clinton Administration’s filing for federal reserved water rights,” Allard said. “Today’s agreement protects Colorado water rights while addressing concerns of the National Park Service in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.”

The National Park Service was awarded federal reserved water rights in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison more than twenty years ago but the rights were never quantified.

Despite repeated attempts by Colorado to settle the issue without going into court, former U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland filed for a quantification of federal reserved water rights in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison during the final days of the Clinton Administration in January 2001.

Allard lauded Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Governor Bill Owens for their leadership in crafting the agreement between the federal government and the State of Colorado.

“Secretary Norton and Governor Owens injected some much needed common sense into the federal government’s approach on this controversial issue,” Allard said.

