

[S. 1624, 90th Cong., first sess.]

A BILL To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands to the Pueblo de Taos Indians, New Mexico, and for other purposes

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That (a) for the purpose of safeguarding the interests and welfare of the tribe of Indians known as the Pueblo de Taos of New Mexico, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to convey all the right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following described lands within the Carson National Forest, upon which said Indians depend and have depended since time immemorial as the site of certain of their religious ceremonials:

Beginning at the summit of Lew Wallace Peak, on the divide between the Rio Lucero and the Rio Pueblo de Taos;

thence northwesterly along such divide 1 mile;

thence northeasterly on a line to a point on a National Forest trail where such trail turns sharply to the southeast toward Blue Lake;

thence easterly with the National Forest trail to the intersection of said trail with the ridge which is the easterly boundary of the watershed of the Rio Pueblo de Taos and also the boundary of the Carson National Forest and the west boundary of the Maxwell Grant;

thence southeasterly along such ridge approximately 1½ miles to the intersection of such ridge with the summit of the southwesterly trending ridge forming the northwesterly boundary of the Bonito Park drainage;

thence southwesterly along the crest of this ridge and a spur thereof to a junction with the Rio Pueblo de Taos at a point in the southwest quarter of projected section 5, township 26 north, range 15 east;

thence with the Rio Pueblo de Taos to a point where the east-west trending ridge that defines the south boundary of the drainage that flows easterly from Waterbird Lake meets the Rio Pueblo de Taos;

thence westerly on the summit of such ridge to the divide between the watershed of the Rio Lucero and the Rio Pueblo de Taos;

thence northerly on such divide to Lew Wallace Peak, the point of beginning, containing approximately 3,150 acres, more or less.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to continue to protect the lands conveyed to the Pueblo de Taos Indians pursuant to this Act from fire, insects, and disease, to maintain favorable conditions of waterflow, to maintain sanitary conditions, otherwise to conserve and protect the natural resources of the area, and to take such steps as are necessary to protect adjacent national forest lands. The instrument of conveyance to the Pueblo de Taos Indians shall recite the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to this subsection to continue to conserve and protect the lands conveyed.

(c) Funds available to the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection and administration of the national forests shall be available for the conservation and protection of the lands conveyed to the Pueblo de Taos Indians pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is hereby directed to amend the permit granted to the Pueblo de Taos Indians pursuant to section 4 of the Act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108) to provide that the description of the area under permit to the Pueblo de Taos shall be amended to exclude that part of the area conveyed to the Pueblo de Taos Indians pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Secretary, in administering the remainder of the existing permit area as a part of the Carson National Forest, (1) shall make the total grazing capacity thereof, as determined by him after consultation with the Pueblo de Taos officials, available to the members of the Pueblo de Taos free of charge under such conditions as he finds necessary to protect and preserve the soil and watershed; (2) shall make timber and wood from the area available without charge for the personal or Tribal community needs of the members of the Pueblo or the Pueblo community; (3) may sell timber and wood from the area to the Pueblo or its members for commercial use at its appraised value; (4) may, with the concurrence of the Pueblo de Taos officials, sell timber and other forest products from the area to non-Indians under national forest sales procedures; (5) may cause timber to be removed from the area when damaged by fire, insects, or disease, or when determined by him to be necessary to prevent the spread of insect infestations or diseases; (6) may take such other steps he determines to be