



Advancing Conservation and Education Act a win for kids and conservation

Western States Land Commissioners Association and The Wilderness Society praise win-win legislation

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Washington DC--(September 16, 2016) – Senators Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced legislation to improve land management and enhance education revenue in the western United States. S. 3316, the Advancing Conservation and Education (ACE) Act provides opportunities for states to swap state trust lands contained within parks, wilderness, and other conservation areas for other Federal lands with lower conservation values and greater development potential. This will protect the integrity of Federal conservation areas while providing states with new sources of revenue for education.

Supporters of the legislation offered the following statements.

Brent Goodrum, president of the Western States Land Commissioners Association:

“The ability of our state land commissioners to utilize state trust lands to raise revenue for education is practically impossible when these trust lands are surrounded by federal conservation areas. The ACE act is a win-win solution that will help our land commissioners better generate badly needed funds for schoolchildren while completing federal conservation areas so that they can be properly protected.”

Paul Spitler, Director of Wilderness Policy at The Wilderness Society:

“This legislation will protect America’s parks and wilderness while providing new sources of revenue for our schoolkids. It’s a great approach that will benefit land and people. We urge Congress to move this win-win solution as soon as possible.”

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