

E-mail and Fax Deadline Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Congressional Testimony Questionnaire

Testimony For The Record -- HR 3287 -- Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Area

Honorable _____
US House of Representatives

HR 3287, the proposed Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Area, is a proposed new Forest Service Wilderness Area in Arizona that would open wide an existing clear path through the Coronado National Forest for illegals and drug running while limiting the ability of law enforcement to intercede.

The other bill you should consider is not part of the official hearing list but you really cannot consider HR 3287, the new Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Bill, without considering HR 2593 the "The Borderlands Conservation and Security Act of 2007." HR 2593 would greatly handicap law enforcement and the Border Patrol in the proposed Wilderness Area and all Federal lands along the border. It does not allow the Border Patrol to operate on Federal lands that cover 150-mile stretch of border in just Arizona. HR 2593 is full of misleading words to throw the reader off as to its true intent.

The HR 3287 Wilderness border bill is a fast track for illegal immigration. Combined with the proposed HR 2593, these bills could be used to create a virtual freeway for illegals and drug smugglers as a fast track into the United States in an area exactly where a major illegal immigration traffic area and drug smuggling pathway already exists.

Technically the proposed Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Area is not "on the border with Mexico." It is contiguous with the small, old, Pajarito Wilderness Area that is directly on the border and links the Pajarito Wilderness Area with Interstate 19 and the Interior of the country.

Below are my concerns and testimony regarding the proposed HR 3287, the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Area. **Please include it in the official record of the upcoming hearing on HR 3287.** Please also consider my concerns about HR 2593. Please consider a photocopy as valid as the original.

Signature _____ Print Your Name _____

Dear Private Property and Multiple-Use Advocate:

You must send your testimony in immediately. HR 3287, the proposed Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Area in Arizona, came up for a hearing in the House National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee on Tuesday, November 13th. You now have two weeks until Tues., November 27th to get your testimony in.

This bill proposes a new wilderness area in National Forest administered land in the Tumacacori and Atascosa Mountains in Southern Arizona. The primary qualifications for Wilderness classification in the original legislation creating Wilderness Areas in the U.S. in 1964 was that the area be a "roadless area". The Tumacacori area is crisscrossed by roads and the previous attempt to have it classified as "Wilderness" in about 1984 was rejected on the basis that it was not a roadless area.

While HR 2593, the Borderlands Conservation and Security Act of 2007," is not on the official subject list for the hearing on November 13th, it is impossible to consider HR 3287 without also considering HR 2593. You should include comments about it in your testimony on HR 2593.

HR 2593 would shackle the hands of law enforcement and the Border Patrol on Federal lands. But you might as well just handcuff the Border Patrol on all Federal lands all along the Mexican Border if HR 2593 passes Congress. This bill will have a huge impact on the traffic of illegals and drugs. It even blocks the building of a fence along the border.

A vast historic network of roads still exist and with a huge increase in population of Arizona. The roads receive much greater use now than when the previous effort was made to classify the area as "wilderness". The current effort to create a Wilderness Area endeavors to circumvent the "roadless" requirement by "cherry stemming" the Wilderness Area into multiple strips of Wilderness between existing roads. The resulting map of the "Wilderness Area" is ridiculous: a large number of fingers of Wilderness between roads.

Officials of the Forest Service have said that if the Wilderness Area is approved by Congress, they will have to convert it into a "roadless area" by closing all the roads. This will make it impractical for the large number of hunters with limited means to hike many miles into the places where they previously hunted. The off-highway vehicle group who previously drove on the roads will be kept out. The bird watchers and nature lovers will also be excluded unless they pack in. The elderly and handicapped will be eliminated from enjoying the area. The new Wilderness Area would have much increased administrative costs with no additional funds and a very negative effect on the local economy by keeping people out.

Local ranchers have worked hard to protect the area for many years. For example the Atascosa Ranch, most of which is in the proposed Wilderness Area, has now voluntarily reduced stocking to only 16% of the permitted cattle stocking 25 years ago and to only 25% of the current permitted stocking. This ranch, and the other eight ranches affected by the Proposed Wilderness look very much as Coronado may have seen them 300 years ago.

Law enforcement will be affected severely. The Border Patrol will be excluded from the existing roads, but the aliens who are breaking Federal and State laws will continue to use the roads and be protected in their criminal activity. The small existing Pajarito Wilderness Area on the Mexican border will become contiguous with the large proposed Tumacacori Wilderness area that in turn connects with the I-19 and Arivaca highways past the existing Border Patrol checkpoint on I-19. This is in the currently most active route of ingress of illegal immigrants in the Country.

Please act on this as soon as you get this message. Do not put it off until tomorrow. That may be too late. Supporters of this bill are trying to ram this bill through before people like you know how dangerous it is.

(Page one of three)

Below is a Testimony Questionnaire for you to fill out and send back to your Congressman and the Members of the Natural Resources Committee in the US House of Representatives.

In the next section you will see a series of statements about HR 3287 that American Land Rights agrees with, but you don't have to. Please mark them with your opinion. You may write in additional comments.

Simply save this file in your word processor, edit it as you see fit, and then e-mail it back to the House National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee and its various members. Be sure to delete the portions that are instructions from us or not appropriate for Congress.

This Testimony Questionnaire is about getting your testimony. Your Congressman and the Members of the Committee want to know what you think. It is critical that you write your responses to the statements with your opinion and not what you think we would want you to write. You are free to disagree with us.

1) It does not make sense to change the definition Wilderness Area from a "roadless area" to parallel strips of Wilderness between existing roads?

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

2) It is not fair or right for the Forest Service to in effect prohibit hunting in an area long popular for Arizona hunters and specified as hunting units and administered by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The ordinary hunter has difficulty hiking five miles over mountainous terrain, kill a deer and then carry it five miles back outside the Wilderness Area. Motorized transportation in this area is critical.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

3) The Federal Government should not be allowed to prohibit the use of existing roads by off-highway vehicle enthusiasts who are obeying State laws and have driven over these roads for 60 years?

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

4) Prohibiting ranchers from motorized access and the use of pumps for stock wells and the maintenance of ranch improvements is not fair and appears to constitute the Regulatory Takings of the ranchers' livelihood? Retroactively forcing ranchers to use nineteenth century tools is completely unreasonable.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

5) The Border Patrol should not be excluded and part of the National Security of the United States should not be sacrificed in order to create a Wilderness Area that is not even Roadless as required by law.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

6) It's not right that illegal immigrants and drug smugglers should take precedence over honest, hard working Americans whose recreation or livelihood is damaged?

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

7) The flood of illegal immigration through the proposed Wilderness Area has produced almost a state of war over drugs and immigration. The Forest Service has advised hiking clubs that the Proposed Wilderness Area is too dangerous to hike in. In Green Valley and vicinity there have been almost continuous home breakins, high speed chases, fatal and non-fatal shootings, and other atrocities. The proposed Wilderness Area would make these problems worse.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

8) The most pristine parts of the Proposed Wilderness Area have already been trashed by illegal immigrants who leave ribbons of garbage along their well defined trails. The Forest Service has already lost control of illegal immigration from Mexico, but it will worsen if the Wilderness bill is passed.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

9) The Federal Government should not usurp the rights of the State of Arizona in regulating hunting and recreation?

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

10) Wilderness is an important tool for protect of pristine areas. The proposed Tumacacori Wilderness does not qualify as a Wilderness because of far too many well traveled roads needed by local citizens.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

11) Law enforcement and the Border Patrol must not be handicapped by arbitrary placement of Wilderness Areas that prevent the authorities from protecting and enforcing our borders.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

12) Creation of the new Wilderness will lock people out of the area causing financial harm to local businesses and local communities.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

13) HR 2593 would shackle the hands of law enforcement and the Border Patrol on Federal lands. You might as well just handcuff law enforcement and the Border Patrol on all Federal lands all along the Mexican Border if HR 2593 passes Congress. This bill will have a huge impact on the traffic of illegals and drugs. It even blocks the building of a fence along the border.

Agree.....Disagree.....No Opinion

-----Alert -- Be aware of the legal concept called “laches” or “sleeping on your rights.” You may lose legal rights later if you fail to comment or testify on HR 3287. So at least send a letter opposing HR 3287. It can be as short as one page or longer.

(Your written comments here are essential if you want Members of Congress to really pay attention to this document. You may borrow or expand on the statements above and write them in below.)

(If needed, use additional sheets or attach a personal letter)

To validate your comments please fill in completely (PRINT or TYPE) and be sure to sign.

Signature _____

Name _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ State _____

Zip _____

Please do not fail to send this testimony questionnaire even if you receive it late. It will often be accepted.
E-mail and Fax Deadline Tuesday, November 27, 2007 (Original Hearing Date Tues. Nov 13, 2007)