

# Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman  
Mark-Up Memorandum

March 12, 2018

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff — Steven Parr  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Mark-Up: **S. 466 (Sen. Jeff Flake)**, A bill to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest.  
**March 14, 2018, at 10:15 a.m.; 1324 Longworth House Office Building**

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## Summary of the Bill

S. 466, introduced by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), would clarify the description of certain federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and the Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest.

## Cosponsors

Senator John McCain [R-AZ]

## Background

The Northern Arizona Land Exchange and the Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-110) called for the conveyance of 237.5 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land to Young Life, a nonprofit and nondenominational Christian ministry focused on middle school, high school, and college aged students.<sup>1</sup> The organization planned to incorporate the conveyed land into their existing “Lost Canyon” camp in Williams, Arizona. However, the map referenced in the bill only depicted 212.5 acres of the 237.5 acres.<sup>2</sup> The Act added that “in the case of any discrepancy between a map and legal description, the map shall prevail unless the Secretary and Yavapai Ranch agree otherwise.”<sup>3</sup> Because of the error on the map and the fact that the map took precedence in resolving discrepancies, the law did not grant USFS the authority to convey the remaining 25 acres.

According to USFS, it lacks the legal authority to convey more than the 212.5 acres identified on the map without passage of this legislation.<sup>4</sup> S. 466 would amend Public Law 109-110 to clarify that USFS has legal authority to convey the full 237.5 acres of land that was intended in Public Law 109-110.

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<sup>1</sup> “About Young Life” [Younglife.org](http://Younglife.org)

<sup>2</sup> S.466 Senate Bill Report ([Report 115-41](#)).

<sup>3</sup> Public Law 109-110

<sup>4</sup> Ibid 2

S. 466 passed the Senate without amendment by voice vote on December 21, 2017.

### **Cost**

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

### **Administration Position**

The Administration's position of S. 466 is currently unknown. However, in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, USFS provided testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on similar legislation stating that the legislation would resolve the current disparity in acreage and allow the Secretary to complete the conveyance.

### **Anticipated Amendment**

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT-01) – The amendment makes technical corrections requested by USFS to clarify the legal description of the property to be transferred.

### **[Effect on Current Law \(Ramseyer\)](#)**