S. 759

To provide to the Secretary of Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 7 (legislative day, APRIL 5), 2011

Mrs. Boxer introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide to the Secretary of Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA-20139 and CA-22901, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Soledad Canyon High
- 5 Desert, California Public Lands Conservation and Man-
- 6 agement Act of 2011".
- 7 SEC. 2. FINDING AND PURPOSES.
- 8 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:
- 9 (1) Soledad canyon area.—

- 1 (A) Two valid Federal contracts, privately
 2 held, numbered CA-20139 and CA-22901, and
 3 issued under the Materials Act of 1947, author4 ize extraction of approximately 56,000,000 tons
 5 of sand and gravel from the Federal mineral es6 tate in lands located in Soledad Canyon adja7 cent to the City of Santa Clarita, California.
 - (B) It is in the best interest of the citizens of California and the Federal Government to cancel the Contracts and prohibit future mining in the area that was subject to the two Federal Contracts in the Soledad Canyon area of California.
 - (C) The holder of the Contracts should receive, as compensation for such cancellation, the fair market value of the Contracts and all costs, fees, and covered liabilities incurred by the Contract Holder in good faith in its efforts to develop the Contracts.
 - (D) A site-specific solution that is fair to the Contract Holder and that seeks to protect the environment and minimize impacts on local transportation systems is in the best interest of the Nation.

- 1 (E) Considerable sums of money have been 2 expended by the Contract Holder and the City 3 of Santa Clarita on legal and other services in 4 trying to ensure their interests are protected 5 with respect to the Contracts CA-20139 and 6 CA-22901.
 - (F) Facilitation of an open-space corridor between the two arms of the Angeles National Forest that enhances environmental and wildlife values is in the national interest.

(2) Victorville area.—

- (A) The Bureau of Land Management has extensive land ownership in small and large parcels interspersed with or adjacent to private land in and around Victorville, California, making many of these parcels difficult to manage and appropriate for disposal.
- (B) Certain public lands near Victorville, California, have been previously identified for disposal as a result of the Bureau of Land Management's West Mojave Land Management Plan which was approved in 2006 with public involvement and participation.
- (C) In order to promote responsible and orderly economic development, certain public

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1	lands should be sold at fair market value to the
2	City of Victorville or the County of San
3	Bernardino; both located in California.
4	(b) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
5	lowing:
6	(1) To provide to the Bureau of Land Manage-
7	ment the authority to cancel Contracts CA-20139
8	and CA-22901 and prohibit future mining in the
9	area that was subject to the two Federal Contracts
10	in the Soledad Canyon area of California.
11	(2) To provide a means for the Contract Holder
12	to recover for the cancellation of the Contracts, the
13	fair market value of the Contracts and the Contract
14	Holder's expenditures and covered liabilities incurred
15	pursuing the development of the Contracts.
16	(3) To provide the Bureau of Land Manage-
17	ment tools to verify expenses incurred by the Con-
18	tract Holder and provide relief.
19	(4) To provide timelines for the verification of
20	costs incurred by the Contract Holder and the deter-
21	mination of compensation and to provide a dispute
22	resolution process.
23	(5) To provide for the orderly disposal of cer-

tain Federal lands in San Bernardino County, Cali-

1	fornia, and to provide for the acquisition of environ-
2	mentally sensitive lands in the State of California.
3	SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.
4	In this Act:
5	(1) CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.—The term "City
6	of Santa Clarita" means the City of Santa Clarita,
7	California.
8	(2) CITY OF VICTORVILLE.—The term "City of
9	Victorville" means the City of Victorville, California.
10	(3) County of san Bernardino.—The term
11	"County of San Bernardino" means the County of
12	San Bernardino, California.
13	(4) Contracts.—The term "Contracts" means
14	the Bureau of Land Management mineral contracts
15	numbered CA-20139 and CA-22901.
16	(5) Contract Holder.—The term "Contract
17	Holder" means the private party to the Contracts
18	CA-20139 and CA-22901, and its successors that
19	hold legal interests in such Contracts.
20	(6) COVERED LIABILITIES.—The term "covered
21	liabilities" includes any court-ordered or court-ap-
22	proved payment, settlement, or other liability on the
23	part of the Contract Holder for damages, costs,
24	compensation, or reimbursement to any third party

for agreements entered into by the Contract Holder

1	in good faith prior to January 1, 2008, in order to
2	exercise rights under the Contracts.
3	(7) Environmentally sensitive land.—The
4	term "environmentally sensitive land" means land or
5	an interest in land, the acquisition of which by the
6	United States would, in the judgment of the Sec-
7	retary or the Secretary of Agriculture—
8	(A) promote the preservation of natural
9	scientific, aesthetic, historical, cultural, water-
10	shed, wildlife, and other values contributing to
11	public enjoyment and biological diversity;
12	(B) enhance recreational opportunities and
13	public access;
14	(C) provide the opportunity to achieve bet-
15	ter management of public land through consoli-
16	dation of Federal ownership; or
17	(D) otherwise serve the public interest.
18	(8) Materials act of 1947.—The term "Ma-
19	terials Act of 1947" means the Act of July 31, 1947
20	(chapter 406; 61 Stat. 681; 30 U.S.C. 601–604).
21	(9) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means
22	the Secretary of the Interior.
23	(10) Special account.—The term "special ac-
24	count" means the account in the Treasury of the
25	United States established under section 5(h)

1	SEC. 4. CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACTS; COMPENSA-
2	TION TO CONTRACT HOLDER.
3	(a) Contract Cancellations.—The Secretary
4	shall cancel Bureau of Land Management mineral Con-
5	tracts CA-20139 and CA-22901 and withdraw those
6	areas that were subject to the Contracts from further min-
7	eral entry under all mineral leasing and sales authorities
8	available to the Secretary, effective on the date of the en-
9	actment of this Act.
10	(b) Compensation.—As compensation for the can-
11	cellation of the Contracts, the Contract Holder shall re-
12	ceive the following amounts, whether determined by
13	agreed negotiated value or awarded by judgment of the
14	United States Court of Federal Claims in accordance with
15	the referral provisions of subsection (g)—
16	(1) the fair market value of the cancelled Con-
17	tracts, determined in accordance with subsection (e);
18	(2) the Contract Holder's expenditures in trying
19	to bring the Contracts into commercial production,
20	as described in subsection (f);
21	(3) interest on the compensation provided for in
22	paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) from the date of the en-
23	actment of this Act until the last day of the month
24	preceding the date on which payment is made, com-
25	pounded quarterly and computed at the rate applica-

- ble to marketable obligations of the United States of
 three year maturity for the period involved; and
- 4 (4) covered liabilities incurred in trying to bring 4 the Contracts into commercial production, as de-5 scribed in subsection (f); provided, however, that 6 compensation for covered liabilities may be paid to 7 Contract Holder under this section for up to 15 8 years following the effective date of this Act.
- 9 (c) Means of Payment; Assurances of Pay-10 ment.—
 - (1) Full faith and credit.—The full faith and credit of the United States is hereby pledged to the payment of the compensation provided for in subsection (b).
 - (2) MEANS OF PAYMENT.—Compensation paid to Contract Holder under this Act shall be paid by means of disbursement of funds from the special account created in the Treasury of the United States pursuant to section 5(h) except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3).
 - (3) PAYMENT BY DEADLINE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2) or any other provision of this Act, in the event that the Contract Holder has not received all of the compensation provided for in this section on or before the third anniversary of the enactment

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of this Act, all compensation then remaining to be paid to Contract Holder shall be paid from the permanent judgment appropriation established pursuant to section 1304 of title 31, United States Code.

(4) Negotiated agreement.—Any negotiated agreement between the Secretary and the Contract Holder as to the amount of compensation described in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a compromise settlement of imminent litigation within the meaning of section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, and section 2414 of title 28, United States Code, and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other provision of law, including section 2517 of title 28, United States Code, any final judgment by the United States Court of Federal Claims determining the fair market value of Contracts CA-20139 and CA-22901 in accordance with the referral provisions of subsection (g) shall be deemed to be a final judgment and award within the meaning of section 1304 of title 31, United States Code.

22 (d) Increase in Adjusted Basis of Contract 23 Upon Cancellation.—For purposes of the Internal 24 Revenue Code of 1986, the adjusted basis of any Contract 25 to which subsection (a) applies shall be increased (imme-

1	diately before the cancellation of such Contract under such
2	section) by the excess (if any) of—
3	(1) the fair market value of such Contract (de-
4	termined immediately before such cancellation), over
5	(2) the adjusted basis of such Contract (as de-
6	termined immediately before the application of this
7	section).
8	(e) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The
9	Secretary shall, within six months after the date of enact-
10	ment of this Act, determine by mineral appraisal, utilizing
11	the discounted cash flow method of appraisal (in accord-
12	ance with the appraisal guidelines for appraisals of large
13	quantities of mineral materials contained in section $\mathrm{IV}(\mathrm{E})$
14	of BLM Mineral Material Appraisal Handbook H–3630),
15	the fair market value of the Contracts and notify the Con-
16	tract Holder of those determinations. In determining the
17	fair market value of the Contracts, the Secretary shall as-
18	sume that—
19	(1) the Contract Holder has obtained all the
20	permits and entitlements necessary to mine,
21	produce, and sell sand and gravel under the Con-
22	tract; and
23	(2) mining operations under the Contract have
24	commenced at the time of the determination, with
25	maximum annual production volumes that

1	(A) are based on the projected supply and
2	demand outlook at the time of determination;
3	and
4	(B) reflect depletion of the reserves that
5	are subject to the Contract within the effective
6	periods of the Contract.
7	(f) Expenditures and Covered Liabilities De-
8	SCRIBED.—The compensation provided for in subsection
9	(b)(2) is equal to the sum of the following:
10	(1) All amounts paid to the United States by
11	Contract Holder with respect to the cancelled Con-
12	tract as bonus bids or other prepayments.
13	(2) Interest on amounts referred to in para-
14	graph (1), from the date of payment of such
15	amounts to the United States, at a rate determined
16	by the Secretary.
17	(3) Amounts expended by the Contract Holder
18	in securing the Contract and trying to bring it into
19	production, including—
20	(A) all actual costs, including fees, associ-
21	ated with the engineering and environmental
22	studies and permitting proceedings that were
23	incurred in good faith in the Contract Holder's
24	efforts to exercise rights granted under the
25	Contract terms: and

(B) all actual legal costs, including fees and covered liabilities, incurred in good faith in the Contract Holder's efforts to exercise rights granted in the Contract including all fees and costs associated with securing permits and enti-tlements, litigation to compel, secure, or defend permits or entitlements, and litigation in con-nection with disputes relating to mineral and surface estate rights to the property that is the subject of the Contract.

- 11 (g) Referral to the United States Court of 12 Federal Claims.—
 - (1) Referral.—If within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Contract Holder do not reach agreed negotiated value under subsection (b) regarding the fair market value of Contracts CA-20139 and CA-22901, the Contract Holder shall have 3 months thereafter to notify the Secretary that it disagrees with the Secretary's determination of such value. In the event of such notification, the Secretary shall refer the issue of fair market value to the United States Court of Federal Claims for determination.
 - (2) RESOLUTION BY COURT.—In any referral under this subsection, the court shall determine de

- novo the fair market value of Contracts CA-20139 and CA-22901.
- 3 (h) Submission of Expenses Incurred.—

- (1) In General.—To assist in the verification of the amounts expended referred to in subsection (f)(3), the Contract Holder shall submit to the Secretary within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act an itemized list of such amounts, with enough detail and supporting documentation so the Secretary can determine that the expenses are associated with the Contracts.
 - (2) Arbitration.—The Secretary shall issue the determination of the amounts expended referred to in paragraph (f)(3) within 60 days after receipt of the itemized list required under paragraph (1). If the Secretary disapproves such list, the Secretary shall, upon the request of the Contract Holder, determine such amounts through arbitration in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code.
- 21 (i) Assignment.—The Contract Holder may at any 22 time assign its rights or entitlement under this Act to all 23 or any part of the compensation provided for in para-24 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b).

1 SEC. 5. SALE OF LAND NEAR VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA.

2	(a) In General.—Notwithstanding sections 202 and
3	203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of

- 4 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713) and subject to subsections
- 5 (c), (d), and (e), the Secretary shall offer for sale by com-
- 6 petitive bidding and for a minimum price of not less than
- 7 fair market value, as determined by an appraisal con-
- 8 ducted under subsection (g), all right, title, and interest
- 9 of the United States in and to the land identified for dis-
- 10 position on the map entitled "Victorville disposal area,
- 11 California" and dated March 2011.
- 12 (b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary shall
- 13 keep the map described in subsection (a) on file and avail-
- 14 able for public inspection in—
- 15 (1) the office of the Director of the Bureau of
- 16 Land Management; and
- 17 (2) the district office of the Bureau of Land
- 18 Management located in Barstow, California.
- 19 (c) Right of Local Land Use Authority To
- 20 Purchase Certain Land.—
- 21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Before a sale of land under
- subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide the appli-
- cable local land use authority an exclusive preemp-
- 24 tive right, as determined under State law, to pur-
- chase any right, title, or interest of the United
- 26 States in and to any portion of the parcels of land

- identified as "Area A" and "Area B" on the map described in subsection (a) that is located within the jurisdiction of the local land use authority.
 - (2) TIMING.—A preemptive right under paragraph (1) shall be in effect for a period of 30 days before any phased sale of the land described in paragraph (1) is to be conducted under subsection (f).
 - (3) AUTHORITY.—During the period described in paragraph (2), the local land use authority may purchase some or all of the right, title, and interest of the United States, as provided in subsection (a), in and to the land to be offered for sale at fair market value, as determined by an appraisal conducted by the Secretary.
 - (4) EXERCISING RIGHT.—The preemptive right under paragraph (1) shall be exercised on the immediate payment by the local land use authority of the entire purchase price of the applicable parcel of land.
 - (5) Failure to pay.—Failure by the local land use authority to purchase and pay for the right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (1) within the time period described in paragraph (2) and to comply with

1	any other terms and conditions as the Secretary may
2	require—
3	(A) shall terminate the preemptive right of
4	the local land use authority with respect to the
5	right, title, and interest offered for sale during
6	that phase; but
7	(B) shall not terminate the preemptive
8	right of the local land use authority with re-
9	spect to subsequent phased offers of the re-
10	maining right, title, and interest in and to the
11	land described in paragraph (1).
12	(d) WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION.—
13	(1) Withdrawal.—Subject to valid existing
14	rights, the land described in subsection (a) is with-
15	drawn from—
16	(A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under
17	the public land laws;
18	(B) location, entry, and patent under the
19	mining laws; and
20	(C) operation of the mineral leasing, min-
21	eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.
22	(2) Reservation.—In any sale or other dis-
23	posal of land under this section, there shall be re-
24	served by the United States the right of the United

- 1 States to prospect for, mine, and remove minerals
- 2 from the conveyed land.
- 3 (e) Consultation.—In addition to any consultation
- 4 otherwise required by law, before initiating efforts to dis-
- 5 pose of land under this section, the Secretary shall consult
- 6 with the City of Victorville, the County of San Bernardino,
- 7 and surface owners in the jurisdiction in which the land
- 8 is located regarding the potential impact of the disposal
- 9 and other appropriate aspects of the disposal.

10 (f) Phasing of Sales.—

- 11 (1) Area a land.—Not later than 1 year after
- the date of enactment of this Act and subject to the
- preemptive right under subsection (c), the Secretary
- shall offer for sale under subsection (a) the land de-
- 15 picted as "Area A" on the map described in sub-
- section (a).
- 17 (2) Area b land.—Not later than 2 years
- after the date of enactment of this Act and subject
- to the preemptive right under subsection (c), the
- 20 Secretary shall offer for sale under subsection (a)
- 21 the land depicted as "Area B" on the map described
- in subsection (a).
- 23 (3) Remaining land.—After consulting with
- the City of Victorville and the County of San
- Bernardino, the Secretary may, not later than 20

- years after the date of enactment of this Act, offer for sale under subsection (a) the remaining land identified for disposal in the West Mojave Land Management Plan of 2006, except the land depicted as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" in
- 6 the map described in subsection (a).

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(4) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RE-QUIREMENTS.—Land disposal activities of the Secretary under this subsection shall be consistent with all applicable environmental laws (including regulations).

(g) Determination of Fair Market Value.—

- (1) AREA A LAND.—The fair market value of the land described in subsection (f)(1) shall be based on an appraisal of the fair market value of the land as of the date of enactment of this Act, to be completed not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
- (2) AREA B LAND.—The fair market value of the land described in subsection (f)(2) shall be based on an appraisal of the fair market value of the land as of the date that is approximately 180 days before the date on which the land is offered for sale in accordance with subsection (f)(2), to be completed not

1	later than 180 days before the date on which the
2	land is to be offered for sale.
3	(h) Special Account.—
4	(1) Establishment.—The gross proceeds of a
5	sale of land under subsection (a) shall be deposited
6	in a special account established in the Treasury, to
7	be used in accordance with paragraph (3).
8	(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the special ac-
9	count established under paragraph (1) shall be avail-
10	able, without appropriation and until expended—
11	(A) to the Secretary for purposes of sub-
12	paragraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (3);
13	and
14	(B) to the Secretary of Agriculture for
15	purposes of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of para-
16	graph (3).
17	(3) Disposition of Proceeds.—Proceeds
18	from a sale of land described in subsection (a) shall
19	be disbursed by the Secretary in the following order
20	of priority:
21	(A) As compensation to the Contract Hold-
22	er under section 4(b) for cancellation of the
23	Contracts by the Secretary.

1	(B) For the acquisition of private
2	inholdings and land interests in the Mojave Na-
3	tional Preserve.
4	(C) For the acquisition of holdings and
5	land interests from willing sellers contained
6	within the Conceptual Area Protection Plan as
7	identified in the East Santa Clarita Land Con-
8	servation Concept Plan and Implementation
9	Strategy.
10	(D) For the acquisition of environmentally
11	sensitive land in the State of California in ac-
12	cordance with section 6.
13	(E) For the reimbursement of costs in-
14	curred by the California State Office and the
15	Barstow Field Office of the Bureau of Land
16	Management for preparing for the conveyance
17	of land described in subsection (a), including
18	the costs of—
19	(i) surveys and appraisals;
20	(ii) complying with the National Envi-
21	ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
22	4321); and
23	(iii) except as otherwise provided in
24	subsection (a), complying with sections 202
25	and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and

Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712,
 1713).

- (4) LIMITATION ON USE OTHER THAN FOR COMPENSATION.—No funds may be expended under this subsection for purposes of subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (3) until the date on which the Secretary has paid to the Contract Holder all compensation provided for under section 4(b) for cancellation of the Contracts by the Secretary.
- (5) Special account reserve for contract holder.—
 - (A) Limitation on disbursements.— Notwithstanding paragraphs (3)and (4),amounts in the special account established under paragraph (1) may be expended for the described in subparagraphs purposes (B)through (E) of paragraph (3) after compensation has been paid by the Secretary to the Contract Holder as provided in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 4(b), but before the date on which the compensation required under section 4(b)(4) has been paid to the Contract Holder, if the amount agreed to under subparagraph (B) is held as a reserve for payment to the Contract Holder under section 4(b)(4).

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1	(B) Determination of Reserve.—
2	(i) In general.—For purposes of
3	calculating the reserve amount referred to
4	in subparagraph (A), the value of the com-
5	pensation provided for in section 4(b)(4) is
6	considered to be the amount agreed to by
7	the Secretary and the Contract Holder
8	subject to the conditions that—
9	(I) the amount shall not be less
10	than 15 percent of the sum of the
11	value of the elements of compensation
12	described in paragraphs (1) through
13	(3) of section 4(b); and
14	(II) an agreement as to the
15	amount of the reserve in subclause (I)
16	shall be made before the disbursement
17	of any funds from the special account
18	for any matter other than compensa-
19	tion to the Contract Holder.
20	(ii) Effect.—Nothing in this para-
21	graph reduces the amount of the com-
22	pensation payable to the Contract Holder
23	under section $4(b)(4)$.

1	(6) Investment of special account.—Any
2	amounts deposited in the special account established
3	under paragraph (1) shall—
4	(A) earn interest in an amount determined
5	by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis
6	of the current average market yield on out-
7	standing marketable obligations of the United
8	States with a maturity of 3 years; and
9	(B) be expended according to the provi-
10	sions of this section.
11	(7) Procedures.—Except with respect to the
12	disbursement of funds as compensation to the Con-
13	tract Holder for cancellation of the Contracts, the
14	Secretary shall coordinate the use of the special ac-
15	count with the Secretary of Agriculture, the State of
16	California, units of local government, and other in-
17	terested persons, to ensure accountability and dem-
18	onstrated results.
19	SEC. 6. ACQUISITIONS.
20	(a) In General.—After the consultation process has
21	been completed in accordance with subsection (b), the Sec-
22	retary may acquire with the proceeds of the special ac-
23	count referred to in section 5(h) environmentally sensitive
24	land and interests in environmentally sensitive land

25 Lands may not be acquired under this section without the

- 1 consent of the owner thereof. Funds made available from
- 2 the special account may be used for this purpose with any
- 3 other funds made available under any other provision of
- 4 law.
- 5 (b) Consultation.—Before initiating efforts to ac-
- 6 quire land under this section, the Secretary or the Sec-
- 7 retary of Agriculture shall consult with the State of Cali-
- 8 fornia and with counties and cities affected by such acqui-
- 9 sition, including appropriate planning and regulatory
- 10 agencies, and with other interested persons, concerning
- 11 the necessity of making the acquisition, the potential im-
- 12 pacts on State and local government, and other appro-
- 13 priate aspects of the acquisition. Consultation under this
- 14 subsection is in addition to any other consultation required
- 15 by law.
- 16 (c) Administration.—On acceptance of title by the
- 17 United States, land and interests in land acquired under
- 18 this section that is within the boundaries of a unit of the
- 19 National Forest System, National Park System, National
- 20 Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 21 System, National Trails System, National Wilderness
- 22 Preservation System, or any other system established by
- 23 Act of Congress, or any national conservation or national
- 24 recreation area established by Act of Congress—

1	(1) shall, notwithstanding any other provision
2	of law, become part of the unit or area without fur-
3	ther action by the Secretary or Secretary of Agri-
4	culture; and

- 5 (2) shall be managed in accordance with all 6 laws and regulations and land use plans applicable 7 to the unit or area.
- 8 (d) Determination of Fair Market Value.—
- 9 The fair market value of land or an interest in land to
- 10 be acquired by the Secretary or the Secretary of Agri-
- 11 culture under this section shall be determined under sec-
- 12 tion 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- 13 of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1716) and shall be consistent with
- 14 other applicable requirements and standards.

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