A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH MONDAY IN MARCH AS A STATE HOLIDAY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING THE FOURTH MONDAY IN MARCH AS "PUBLIC LANDS DAY".

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.)

The bill designates the fourth Monday in March as "Public Lands Day" to recognize the significant contributions that national public lands within Colorado make to wildlife, recreation, the economy, and to
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Colorado contains a variety of national public lands, including national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, wilderness areas, and other public lands;

(b) Colorado's public lands reflect many of our most noble democratic ideals, because they are open and accessible to everyone, no matter how rich or poor;

(c) Colorado's public lands are defining features of the state and are the foundation for our quality of life by supporting the vitality of our communities, as well as representing Colorado's common heritage, fossils marking where dinosaurs roamed, ancient ruins and petroglyphs dotting the canyons, and historic mining towns nestled in steep-sided valleys;

(d) Colorado's public lands feature an amazingly diverse range of landscapes, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains down to rushing rivers, red rock canyons to grassy plains, grasslands, and tree-lined mountain valleys;

(e) Colorado's public lands provide many benefits to our residents and support a wide variety of activities, from recreational pursuits to natural resource development;

(f) Colorado's public lands have a substantial impact on economic development and jobs through mineral extraction, timber sales, ranching, tourism, and the outdoor recreation industry;

(g) Colorado's public lands contribute to Colorado's clean air and
clean water; and

(h) It is appropriate for the state to publicly observe and pay
tribute to the importance of Colorado's public lands by observing Public
Lands Day on the fourth Monday in March in each year.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-11-113 as
follows:

24-11-113. Public lands day. (1) The fourth Monday in
March in each year is known as "Public Lands Day", and
appropriate observance may be held by the public and in all
public schools of the state in tribute to the importance of public
lands in the state.

(2) Each state agency must remain open and conduct the
operations of the agency on Public Lands Day.

(3) Annually the governor shall issue a proclamation
calling for the celebration of Public Lands Day.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.