

Musgrave act improves access to national park

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President George W. Bush has signed into law legislation introduced by Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., to protect a historic ranch as well as improve public access to roads, parking areas and trails at Rocky Mountain National Park.

The law is called the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005 and is the companion version to a bill submitted in the Senate by Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo. This marks the third Musgrave bill to become a law this year.

“Rocky Mountain National Park is a crown jewel of the national park system. I am pleased the president signed this bill because it is a common-sense solution that respects both the property rights of the historic MacGregor Ranch, a historic Estes Park homestead, and improves access to the national park,” said Musgrave.

“The boundary adjustment negotiated by the National Park Service and the ranch is now a reality. Park managers want this, and the people at MacGregor Ranch want it because it is mutually beneficial to both parties.”

Rocky Mountain National Park ranks in the top five most-visited parks in America and received nearly 50,000 more visitors last year than did Yellowstone National Park.

One of the increasingly popular spots within the national park is the Twin Owls Trailhead, which is now only accessible by traversing a one-lane dirt access road across the MacGregor Ranch. This heavy traffic affects the pristine, historic nature of the homestead. Musgrave’s bill protects the historic, 132-year-old MacGregor Ranch homestead adjacent to the park and increases access to the Twin Owls Trailhead.