

both ways. We must have sound forest management and we must have young trees growing today.

I remember when there was the old saying "plant a tree today for tomorrow," and we have forgotten that. Many people now want the old trees, the constant dying old trees, which contribute very little to mankind. They will either burn or they will die from beetle kill and they will stand and they do nothing to clean the air.

All this concurrent resolution says is we say it is time for us to have sound management, scientific management of our new forests; to plant those trees, to harvest the older trees and have these forests clean up our air.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Over the last several months the Committee on Agriculture has held a series of hearings on the management of our Nation's forest resources. The scientists who have appeared before the committee have taught us a great deal about the environmental benefits of proactive forest management. This resolution on the minimization of greenhouse gases addresses one of the foremost of these benefits.

Those who truly care for the environment should be quick to realize that wood is our most environmentally friendly building material. Processing construction grade wood releases a tiny fraction of the carbon dioxide produced by steel, concrete, brick, and other non-renewable construction materials that are processed using fossil fuels.

Wood also stores vast amounts of carbon for long periods of time. Wood extracted from the forest for construction purposes continues to store carbon. Furthermore, the resulting regeneration of trees in the forest sequesters carbon from the atmosphere. In other words, when we use wood for homes, furniture and pulp and paper products, we both minimize carbon releases into the atmosphere and provide an efficient means of removing carbon from the atmosphere. This is a win-win proposition for both the environment and our economy.

In contrast, failing to actively manage our forests to both provide useful wood products to society and to maximize the ability of our forests to store carbon can have devastating results. In 1996, six million acres of national forest burned in one of the worst fire seasons of the century. This tragedy came on the heels of the 1994 fire season during which over 4 million acres of national forest burned.

These fires, because of their size and intensity, released staggering amounts of particulate matter into the air. One study indicates that the fires of 1994 alone emitted as much as a ton of particulate matter into the atmosphere for each acre of forest burned and over 400 million tons of carbon in the aggregate.

Proactive forest management, that focuses on reducing fuel loading and tree density in overstocked timber stands, can significantly reduce carbon emissions caused by wildfire. It can also improve the ability of the forest to store carbon by replacing denser stands of sick, fire prone small diameter trees with more vigorous, fire resistant stands where tree growth and health are both maximized.

Scientifically managing our forests to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels is a policy that America should enthusiastically embrace,

particularly in preparation of the upcoming conference in Kyoto. Yet, surprisingly, the administration does not yet appear to have included a forest management component to its official policy position.

This resolution fills that void. It frames a policy that will enable the United States to lead the world in pursuit of scientific, proactive forest management practices that will both clean our air and improve our quality of life. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 151, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read:

Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should manage its forests to maximize the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere among many other objectives, and that the United States should serve as an example and as a world leader in managing its forests in a manner that substantially reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 151, the concurrent resolution just agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

GRAZING AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 708) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study concerning grazing use of certain land within and adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, WY, and to extend temporarily certain grazing privileges, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 708

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) open space near Grand Teton National Park continues to decline;
- (2) as the population continues to grow in Teton County, Wyoming, undeveloped land near the park becomes more scarce;

- (3) the loss of open space around Teton Park has negative impacts on wildlife migration routes in the area and on visitors to the Park, and its repercussions can be felt throughout the entire region;

- (4) a few ranches make up Teton Valley's remaining open space, and the ranches depend on grazing in Grand Teton National Park for summer range to maintain operations;

- (5) the Act that created Grand Teton National Park allowed several permittees to continue livestock grazing in the Park for the life of a designated heir in the family;

- (6) some of the last remaining heirs have died, and as a result the open space around the Park will most likely be subdivided and developed;

- (7) in order to develop the best solution to protect open space immediately adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, the Park Service should conduct a study of open space in the region; and

- (8) the study should develop workable solutions that are fiscally responsible and acceptable to the National Park Service, the public, local government, and landowners in the area.

SEC. 2. STUDY OF GRAZING USE AND OPEN SPACE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a study concerning grazing use and open space in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and associated use of certain agricultural and ranch lands within and adjacent to the Park, including—

- (1) base land having appurtenant grazing privileges within Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, remaining after January 1, 1990, under the Act entitled "An Act to establish a new Grand Teton National Park in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes", approved September 14, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 406d-1 et seq.); and

- (2) any ranch and agricultural land adjacent to the Park, the use and disposition of which may affect accomplishment of the purposes of the Act.

(b) PURPOSE.—The study shall—

- (1) assess the significance of the ranching use and pastoral character of the land (including open vistas, wildlife habitat, and other public benefits);

- (2) assess the significance of that use and character to the purposes for which the park was established and identify any need for preservation of, and practicable means of, preserving the land that is necessary to protect that use and character;

- (3) recommend a variety of economically feasible and viable tools and techniques to retain the pastoral qualities of the land; and

- (4) estimate the costs of implementing any recommendations made for the preservation of the land.

(c) PARTICIPATION.—In conducting the study, the Secretary of the Interior shall seek participation from the Governor of the State of Wyoming, the Teton County Commissioners, the Secretary of Agriculture, affected land owners, and other interested members of the public.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years from the date funding is available for the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to Congress that contains the findings of the study under subsection (a) and makes recommendations to Congress regarding action that may be taken with respect to the land described in subsection (a).

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF GRAZING PRIVILEGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall reinstate and extend for the duration of the study described in section 2(a) and until such time as the recommendations of the study are implemented, the grazing privileges described in

section 2(a)(1), under the same terms and conditions as were in effect prior to the expiration of the privileges.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGE IN LAND USE.—If, during the period of the study or until such time as the recommendations of the study are implemented, any portion of the land described in section 2(a)(1) is disposed of in a manner that would result in the land no longer being used for ranching or other agricultural purposes, the Secretary of the Interior shall cancel the extension described in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 708 and urge its adoption. Senator THOMAS of Wyoming introduced similar legislation in the form of S. 308 in the Senate. The Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held hearings on that legislation and it has been widely supported by the people of Jackson Hole, WY, the administration, conservation groups, and the ranching community.

I applaud the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN] for her hard work on this issue and I am pleased to be sending this message to the President for his signature after it is worked out with the Senate.

H.R. 708 recognizes the increasing demand on private lands within the Jackson Hole area of Wyoming and the benefits that open space and ranching provide Grand Teton National Park. This legislation would require the Secretary to conduct a study concerning grazing and open space in and around Grand Teton National Park. Moreover, the Secretary must analyze the benefits of existing ranching and grazing operations to wildlife, the national park, and other public benefits.

This legislation initiated by the gentlewoman from Wyoming recognizes the development pressures on resort lands in and around national parks. If the public policy is to drive these long-held ranching families out of business, we must be prepared to deal with the consequences of ranches being sold to pay the estate taxes and development into resort communities.

In some groups' zeal to drive livestock grazing off the public lands, we are leaving no alternative to these landowners but to sell out to developers. The gentlewoman from Wyoming has convinced the people of Jackson Hole to stand back and take another look at this situation and assess the benefits of these ranches on wildlife and the park itself. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 708.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, the gentleman from Utah, [Mr. HANSEN], for his management of this legislation, and also the chief sponsor of this legislation, the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. BARBARA CUBIN] for her leadership in providing this legislation for our consideration.

Madam Speaker, the goals of H.R. 708 are quite laudable. The National Park Service and the Jackson Hole community are concerned that the ranchlands and open space surrounding Grand Teton National Park may be developed, furthering the loss of wildlife habitat, migration routes, and scenic values.

Much of the land south of Grand Teton has already been developed or is under pressure of development. H.R. 708 provides for a study to determine if there are viable means to preserving open space and ranching operations for the benefit of both the park and the community.

When the Committee on Resources held a markup of H.R. 708, an amendment in the nature of a substitute was adopted that incorporated many of the suggested changes made by the National Park Service. The changes that were made improved the bill. This study has the potential to be a win-win situation for both the park and the local community. I hope that this is the case and look forward to seeing the final study.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 708, as amended, and urge my colleagues to approve this proposed bill.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, Jackson Hole, WY is one of the most beautiful and unique areas of our Nation. Over 3 million visitors per year come to hike, camp, ski, and sightsee amidst the grandeur of the Teton range and the winding Snake River in Grand Teton National Park and the Greater Yellowstone area beyond.

Many wildlife species such as moose, bear, eagles, and trumpeter swan make the valley their home, while the largest elk herd in the lower 48 states annually migrates through it to winter on the wildlife refuge at its southern end.

While much of the valley is protected in perpetuity by Federal ownership, some of the most valuable wildlife habitat, migration routes, and scenic vistas remain in private ownership as working ranch lands.

Conservation groups in Jackson Hole and around the country have worked for years to help protect these ranches from development through the use of scenic easements and other means and are to be commended for their good work.

The concept of preserving and protecting parts of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole date from the time settlers moved into the valley in the late 1800's. In January 1929 the U.S. Senate reported on a bill to establish Grand Teton National Park and stated:

The Teton range presents the most profoundly impressive view in America. It is a gift

to the Nation and posterity in which the people of Wyoming may be proud, and the wilderness surrounding them may be preserved in their natural state for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of these United States and future generations to come.

In 1950, the act establishing Grant Teton National Park allowed the continuation of grazing privileges within the boundaries of the new park for the life of the designated heirs of the current holders of grazing permits.

Early management of the park determined that managing cattle in a concentrated area with irrigated grass was less destructive to the resource and less intrusive to the visiting public than random grazing throughout the park.

The purpose of my legislation, H.R. 708, is not about granting special grazing rights; it is about doing the right thing to maintain the scenic wonderment that encompasses this magnificent area and keep the area open for wildlife, especially migratory elk.

This pristine land obviously comes with a price tag. Real estate prices have skyrocketed, and intense development pressure has occurred because of this fact.

Through this legislation I have worked in cooperation with officials from Grant Teton National Park to resolve many issues. I know that all parties involved in this matter are striving to reach the same goal: maintain the scenic beauty that those of us who have been fortunate enough to spend time in the Tetons will continue to enjoy the park for a long time to come.

I have incorporated some changes to the legislation proposed by the Park Service during the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee hearing this summer, and the bill reflects some, but not all, of those changes.

Mr. Speaker, I am dedicated to maintaining the highly valuable open space and ranching culture in this vicinity of the park. The authorization of a 3-year study will allow time to explore a network of relationships and avoid the indiscriminate development that will occur on these pastoral lands.

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 708, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study concerning grazing use and open space within and adjacent to Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, and to extend temporarily certain grazing privileges."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within