

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