

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3786 would authorize the exchange of land within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area for a private parcel adjacent to the park.

Mr. Speaker, a land exchange issue is very complex, and I want to take this opportunity to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), for his work in ushering this bill to the subcommittee and committee and getting it to the floor today.

As all of my colleagues are aware, there continues to be great concern regarding exchanges in general. In many instances, it is not at all clear that the taxpayers are receiving full value for the lands being traded away in their names. In fact, in many instances, it is clear they are not. We remain committed to developing a comprehensive approach that might address the failures in the current exchange process.

In the meantime, it is our hope that we would only approve specific exchanges that truly serve the best interests of the taxpayers, and it appears we have such an exchange in this instance.

The basic concept of the exchange contained in H.R. 3786 appears to serve both the interests of the private landowner as well as the park. In addition, once authorized, this exchange will go through a full NEPA process, including appraisals, which should identify and address any remaining issues.

We support passage of H.R. 3786.

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her support and kind words; and, having no more speakers, 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. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3786, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1415

NEW RIVER GORGE BOUNDARY  
ACT OF 2002

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3858) to modify the boundaries of

the New River Gorge National River, West Virginia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3858

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "New River Gorge Boundary Act of 2002".

**SEC. 2. NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS.**

(a) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—Section 1101 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460m-15) is amended by striking "NERI-80,028A, dated March 1996" and inserting "NERI 80,034, dated May 2001".

(b) LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a fee simple land exchange in the vicinity of Beauty Mountain, Fayette County, West Virginia, to acquire a tract of land identified as NERI Tract Number 150-07 that lies adjacent to the boundary of the New River Gorge National River in exchange for a tract of land identified as NERI Tract Number 150-08 located within such boundary.

(2) TREATMENT OF EXCHANGED LANDS.—Upon the completion of such land exchange—

(A) the land acquired by the United States in the exchange shall be included in the boundaries, and administered as part, of the New River Gorge National River; and

(B) the land conveyed by the United States in the exchange shall be excluded from the boundaries, and shall not be administered as part, of the New River Gorge National River.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

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

H.R. 3858, introduced by the ranking member of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), would authorize the expansion of the boundary of the New River Gorge National River in West Virginia.

The New River Gorge National River was established in 1978 to preserve and protect approximately 53 miles of the free-flowing New River. It was also designated an American heritage river in July of 1998. The rugged New River flows northward through deep canyons and is considered to be among the oldest rivers on the continent. The National River Park unit presently encompasses approximately 70,000 acres. The park contains miles of hiking trails and even some mountain biking and horseback trails.

This bill would modify the boundaries of the park unit to take in six tracts of land, totaling 1,962 acres, from five different owners, all of whom are willing sellers. The modification to the boundary would allow for the preservation of scenic viewsheds within the park as well as accommodating certain recreational activities within the park. The bill would also address an encroachment issue in which a property owner unknowingly built his private

home within the boundaries of the park. This encompasses approximately only a third of an acre.

The bill is supported by both the majority and the minority, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3858, introduced by my colleague and the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), would modify the boundary of the New River Gorge National River in West Virginia to add approximately 1,962 acres to the park and correct a minor boundary encroachment.

The proposed boundary modifications would enhance the management and use of the resource values of the New River. These additions consist of six tracts of land held by five owners, all of whom are willing sellers. The legislation would also correct the very minor boundary encroachment with a private landowner who has inadvertently constructed a portion of a home on Federal land.

The Committee on Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3858, and the bill was favorably reported by the committee last month. I would note that the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) worked closely with the National Park Service on the development of this legislation, and I want to commend him for his long-standing efforts to provide for the protection and the use of the New River Gorge National River.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the favorable consideration of H.R. 3858 by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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. CANNON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3858.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members