

SECTION 1. LANDS TO BE HELD IN TRUST.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands, including improvements and appurtenances, described in subsection (b) are hereby declared to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe, Benton Paiute Reservation.

(b) *LAND DESCRIPTION.*—The lands to be held in trust pursuant to subsection (a) are the approximately 240 acres described as follows: Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, Township 2 South, Range 31 East Section 11: SE ¼ and E ½ of SW ¼.

(c) *GAMING RESTRICTION.*—Lands taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be considered to have been taken into trust for, and shall not be eligible for, class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are used in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 854 is a bill to provide for certain lands to be held in trust for the Benton Paiute Reservation in Northern California, home of Utu Utu Gwaitu Indian Tribe.

H.R. 854 would transfer 240 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management and place that land into trust for the benefit of the tribe. The 240 acres are contiguous to the existing reservation and have been classified as suitable for disposal through the BLM land use planning process.

This acreage is of vital importance to the tribe in its quest for self-sufficiency and to enhance its potential for economic development. Additionally, because of the tribe's strong commitment to a solid economic future based on growth and hard work, the tribal council passed a resolution to prohibit gaming on the 240-acre parcel.

This resolution makes it clear that the tribe will not carry out gaming activities on the land proposed for transfer. I commend the efforts of Congressman MCKEON of California, the sponsor of H.R. 854, who has worked diligently since the 104th Congress to see this legislation enacted into law.

I look forward to the support of this House on H.R. 854.

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

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

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, the majority has adequately explained this legislation, H.R. 854, and we have no objections to it.

MR. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 854 and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its adoption. I introduced H.R. 854 on February 16, 2005, to transfer 240 acres of excess Bureau of Land Management, BLM, lands into trust for the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of the Benton Paiute Reservation, Tribe.

The Benton Paiute Reservation is located in Mono County, approximately 40 miles northeast of Bishop, CA, in one of the most remote and isolated areas of my congressional district. The 240 acres proposed for transfer under H.R. 854 are immediately adjacent to the existing 160-acre Benton Paiute reservation and have been classified by the BLM as "suitable for disposal" for more than a decade.

In fact, legislation facilitating this transfer goes as far back as the 104th Congress. We have come a long way to get to this day and I'd like to thank Chairman POMBO for his help in making it possible. I would also like to praise the committee staff, particularly Tom Brierton, Chris Fluhr and Jim Hall.

Mr. Speaker, the lands taken into trust under H.R. 854 are of vital importance to the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe in its quest for self-sufficiency and to enhance its potential for economic development. The land in question will be put to good use, including the construction of much needed tribal housing units, a health station, wellness center, fire station, police station and an industrial park for manufacturing businesses.

Additionally, because of the Utu Utu Gwaitu's strong commitment to a solid economic future based on growth and hard work, the tribe has passed a tribal government resolution to prohibit gaming on the 240-acre parcel. This makes it clear that the tribe will not carry out gaming activities on the lands proposed for transfer. To reflect this, H.R. 854 includes a specific prohibition on gaming.

Because of this, I am pleased to say that H.R. 854 has strong support in my district, with backing from the Mono County government and local community, as well as from numerous California Indian tribal governments and organizations.

Finally, I am pleased to be able to say that no Federal funds will be necessary to accomplish the proposed land transfer in this legislation. In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill is an example of that bird we see too rarely around here these days: A "win-win" proposition.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend the efforts of all the members of the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe, and in particular, I'd like to praise Chairman Joseph Saulque.

Chairman Saulque has been an advocate for Indian people for more than three decades and is one of the most long-serving tribal leaders in California. His outstanding work, particularly in the fields of Indian health and education, has made a tremendous difference in improving the lives of generations of California Indians.

It has been my pleasure to work with Chairman Saulque and the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe over the last 4 years and I want to thank them for their part in helping to make this bill possible.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 854.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of the legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 854, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1430

MUSCONETCONG WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1307) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate portions of the Musconetcong River in the State of New Jersey as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1307

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 "Musconetcong Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation and consultation with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, is conducting a study of the eligibility and suitability of the Musconetcong River in the State of New Jersey for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(2) The Musconetcong Wild and Scenic River Study Task Force has prepared, with assistance from the National Park Service, a river management plan for the study area entitled "Musconetcong River Management Plan" and dated April 2003, which establishes goals and actions that will ensure long-term protection of the outstanding values of the river and compatible management of land and water resources associated with the river.

(3) Thirteen municipalities and three counties along segments of the Musconetcong River eligible for designation have passed resolutions supporting the Musconetcong River Management Plan, agreeing to take action to implement the goals of the plan, and endorsing designation of the river.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF PORTIONS OF MUSCONETCONG RIVER, NEW JERSEY, AS SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS.

(a) *DESIGNATION.*—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(167) MUSCONETCONG RIVER, NEW JERSEY.—(A) The 24.2 miles of river segments in New Jersey, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, consisting of—

"(i) the segment from Saxton Falls to the Route 46 bridge (approximately 3.5 miles), as a scenic river; and

"(ii) the segment from the Kings Highway bridge to the railroad tunnels at

Musconetcong Gorge (approximately 20.7 miles), as a recreational river.

“(B) Notwithstanding section 10(c), the river segments referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not be administered as part of the National Park System.”

(b) MANAGEMENT OF SEGMENTS.—

(1) COMPLIANCE WITH MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the segments of the Musconetcong River, New Jersey, designated as a scenic river or recreational river by the amendment made by subsection (a) in accordance with the river management plan entitled “Musconetcong River Management Plan” and dated April 2002, prepared by the Musconetcong River Management Committee, the National Park Service, the Heritage Conservancy, and the Musconetcong Watershed Association, which establishes goals and actions that will ensure long-term protection of the outstanding values of the river segments and compatible management of land and water resources associated with the river segments.

(2) COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall manage the river segments in cooperation with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, including—

(A) the Musconetcong River Management Committee;

(B) the Musconetcong Watershed Association;

(C) the Heritage Conservancy;

(D) the National Park Service; and

(E) the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

(c) SATISFACTION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAN.—The management plan shall be considered to satisfy the requirements for a comprehensive management plan for the river segments under subsection 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

(d) FEDERAL ROLE.—

(1) RESTRICTIONS ON WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS.—In determining under section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1278(a)) whether a proposed water resources project would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which a river segment is designated as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Secretary shall consider the extent to which the project is consistent with the management plan.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Any cooperative agreements entered into under section 10(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e)) relating to a river segment—

(A) shall be consistent with the management plan; and

(B) may include provisions for financial or other assistance from the United States to facilitate the long-term protection, conservation, and enhancement of the river segment.

(3) SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, staff support, and funding to assist in the implementation of the management plan.

(e) LAND MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide planning, financial, and technical assistance to local municipalities and non-profit organizations to assist in the implementation of actions to protect the natural and historic resources of the river segments.

(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—After adoption of recommendations made in section IV of the management plan, the zoning ordinances of the municipalities bordering the segments shall be considered to satisfy the standards and requirements under section 6(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277(c)).

(f) DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL RIVER SEGMENT.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Musconetcong River segment “C”, as described in the management plan, is suitable for designation as a recreational river pursuant to this subsection if the Secretary determines that there is adequate local support for the designation.

(2) DESIGNATION AND ADMINISTRATION.—If the Secretary determines that there is adequate local support for designating the additional river segment as a recreational river—

(A) the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the designation of the segment;

(B) the segment shall thereby be designated as a recreational river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.); and

(C) the Secretary shall administer the additional river segment as a recreational river.

(3) CRITERIA FOR LOCAL SUPPORT.—In determining whether there is adequate local support for the designation of the additional river segment, the Secretary shall consider, among other things, the preferences of local governments expressed in resolutions concerning designation of the segment.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such funds as are necessary to carry out this section, including the amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act made by this section.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADDITIONAL RIVER SEGMENT.—The term “additional river segment” means Musconetcong River segment “C”, as described in the management plan, from Hughesville Mill to the Delaware River Confluence (approximately 4.3 miles).

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the river management plan entitled “Musconetcong River Management Plan” and dated April 2002.

(3) RIVER SEGMENTS.—The term “river segments” means the segments of the Musconetcong River, New Jersey, designated as a scenic river or recreational river by the amendment made by subsection (a) in accordance with the management plan.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1307 introduced by Congressman SCOTT GARRETT of New Jersey designates two segments of the Musconetcong River, totaling 24.2 miles, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In 1992, residents of the Lower Musconetcong River Valley formed a not-for-profit organization committed to protecting the river. In 1995, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recommended to the National Park Service that the river be included in the nationwide rivers inventory of candidate rivers for wild and scenic designation. Two years later, 18 river municipalities requested that the Park Service study the river for its suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In June of 2004, the Park Service found portions of the river suitable, and these

sections have been included in H.R. 1307. I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1307.

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

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

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, the majority has already explained the purpose of H.R. 1307, which was introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey, Representative SCOTT GARRETT. We support H.R. 1307, and have no objection to the adoption of the legislation by the House today.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), who has put an incredible amount of work into this legislation to bring it forward and has been a dutiful and diligent lawmaker in that respect.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to come to the floor today in support of our legislation, H.R. 1307, the Musconetcong Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. And I also commend the gentleman for his pronunciation of the Musconetcong River as well. It is not an easy river to designate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the chairman, Chairman POMBO, and all of his staff from the Resources Committee for their help in bringing this bill forward. I appreciate all of their hard work and working along with our offices to that end. I would also like to extend my thanks as well to Majority Whip ROY BLUNT and the majority staff, and also the majority leader's office and his staff as well for helping us move things along and getting this legislation to the floor today.

The Musconetcong River is the largest New Jersey tributary to the Delaware River, which we are all familiar with. It is nestled in the heart of the New Jersey Highlands, and it contains a remarkably diverse array of natural and cultural resources. There are over 20 streams along the river, and they support wild trout populations and others. Residents can also enjoy the wonderful scenic views and plants and animal life that are now rare in other parts of New Jersey. The limestone geological features present in the Musconetcong River corridor are unique in the State of New Jersey. And the steep slopes and the forested regions in the upper segments of the river corridor contrast with the historic villages, the pastures, and the rolling agricultural lands that are in the middle and lower end of the valley.

Since the early 1990s, the residents of the river valley have been organizing, coming together to protect this cherished natural treasure, and so the bill before us today represents the works of many individuals over a 15-year period.

So I would like to take this moment to especially thank a couple of those individuals. I would like to thank Susan Dickey, who is chairwoman of the Musconetcong Advisory Committee; and also Beth Styler Barry, she is the executive director of the Musconetcong Watershed Association, for both of their tireless working in constructing this legislation and lobbying to help to get it along its way.

This bill does enjoy broad bipartisan support of all the entire New Jersey congressional delegation, 18 municipalities along the river, and also the National Park Service. Now, New Jersey already is the most densely populated State in the country, featuring growing exurbs which continue to put pressure on the remaining very small wild spaces in New Jersey. While this legislation will not freeze development in that area, it will work to preserve the existing character of the river, a character of true beauty and recreational enjoyment.

The Musconetcong River Management Plan called for in this legislation was developed cooperatively, and it calls for a management framework that acknowledges the importance and preferences for local leadership and the additional preferences and protections afforded by a national wild and scenic river designation. A key principle of the management framework as proposed in this plan is the existing institutions which will continue to play a primary role in the long-term protection of the Musconetcong River.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman; I would like to thank the chairman for his support and the Speaker for bringing this bill to a vote. H.R. 1307 will ensure that the residents of New Jersey can continue to enjoy the Musconetcong River for its hiking, its canoeing, and fishing along into the future. And I also would like to invite the chairman, for his next backpack trip that he makes, to come and join us along the Musconetcong River in New Jersey.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey. I would look forward to that opportunity to come see this river that you have spoken so highly of and have now sought to protect in this very special way. We appreciate again your diligence in this effort in bringing this bill forward.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, we support the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, indeed we have no further speakers, and I would yield back the balance of my time and encourage an "aye" vote on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1307, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAHABA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4947) to expand the boundaries of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4947

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) REFUGE.—*The term "Refuge" means the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge and the lands and waters in such refuge in Bibb County, Alabama, as established by the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act (Public Law 106-331).*

(2) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.*

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF BOUNDARIES.

(a) EXPANSION.—*The boundaries of the Refuge are expanded to include land and water in Bibb County, Alabama, depicted as "Proposed National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Boundary" on the map entitled "Cahaba River NWR Expansion" and dated March 14, 2006.*

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—*The Secretary shall make the map referred to in subsection (a) available for inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

SEC. 4. ACQUISITION OF LAND AND WATER IN EXPANDED BOUNDARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—*Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary may acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange the land and water, and interests in land and water (including conservation easements), within the boundaries of the Refuge as expanded by this Act.*

(b) MANNER OF ACQUISITION.—*All acquisitions of land or waters under this section shall be made in a voluntary manner and shall not be the result of forced takings.*

(c) INCLUSION IN REFUGE; ADMINISTRATION.—*Any land, water, or interest acquired by the Secretary under this section—*

(1) shall be part of the Refuge; and

(2) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(A) the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);

(B) the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act; and

(C) this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support H.R. 4947, introduced by our colleague, Congressman SPENCER BACHUS, to expand the boundaries of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama. This refuge was legislatively created in 2000, and it has done a remarkable job of conserving 64 rare and imperiled species and 131 species of fish. The Cahaba River is the longest free-flowing river in the State, and it may have the greatest fish biodiversity per mile of any river in the United States.

Under Congressman SPENCER BACHUS's legislation, an additional 3,600 acres would become eligible for acquisition. This would help to maximize the benefits of this refuge and ensure that unique plants like the beautiful Cahaba lily and the more than 60 other rare species survive in the future.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4947 proposes a modest increase in the size of the Cahaba River Refuge. It is enthusiastically supported by the local communities and the two major land owners. U.S. Steel and Forest Investment Associates have indicated that they are interested in being willing sellers in this expansion effort.

I want to compliment Congressman SPENCER BACHUS for his tireless effort and effective leadership on behalf of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, which is a very special place in rural Alabama; and I would urge an "aye" vote on this legislation.

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

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

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, we support this legislation that would authorize the 3,600-acre expansion of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge located in Alabama. Witness testimony received during the May 10, 2006, Fisheries Subcommittee hearing on the bill demonstrated that the expansion of this refuge is essential towards ensuring the long-term protection of threatened forested bottom-land habitat and preservation of the river's unrivaled aquatic biodiversity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this worthy bill.

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and encourage our Members to support this very important legislation brought to us by SPENCER BACHUS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4947, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)