

is authorized to provide technical assistance in the development of interpretive devices and materials pursuant to cooperative agreements with such entities. The Secretary, in cooperation with Federal, State, tribal, or local governments or nonprofit or private entities, shall prepare and distribute information for the public appreciation of sites along the Route.

(c) **MARKERS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the Route is marked with appropriate markers to guide the public. With the concurrence and assistance of the State, tribal, or local entity having jurisdiction over the roads designated as part of the Route, the Secretary may erect thereon signs and other informational devices displaying the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route marker. The Secretary is authorized to accept the donation of suitable signs and other informational devices for placement at appropriate locations.

(d) **PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State or local government access) to such private property or to modify any provision of Federal, State or local law with regard to public access to or use of private lands.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$250,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

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

H.R. 383, introduced by Congressman DOC HASTINGS, would designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route from Missoula, Montana, to the Pacific Ocean. The National Park Service will be charged with administering a program of education and interpretation along the route. In 2001, the National Park Service completed a special resource study which proposed that the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail be established.

I urge support of H.R. 383.

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, with the changes made to the bill by the Resources Committee, we support H.R. 383 and have no objection to the adoption of the legislation by the House today.

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

Mr. RENZI. Mr. 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 Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 383, 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 of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1515) to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows

H.R. 1515

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 "Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Boundary Adjustment Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 901 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 230) is amended in the second sentence by striking "twenty thousand acres generally depicted on the map entitled 'Barataria Marsh Unit—Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve' numbered 90,000B and dated April 1978," and inserting "23,000 acres generally depicted on the map titled 'Boundary Map, Barataria Preserve Unit, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve', numbered 467/80100, and dated August 2002."

(b) **ACQUISITION OF LAND.**—Section 902 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 230a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(a) Within the" and all that follows through the first sentence and inserting the following:

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

"(1) **BARATARIA PRESERVE UNIT.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may acquire any land, water, and interests in land and water within the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit, as depicted on the map described in section 901, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, but only with the consent of the owner, transfer from any other Federal agency, or exchange.

"(B) **LIMITATIONS.**—

"(I) **FEDERAL LAND.**—Any Federal land acquired in the areas identified on the map as the 'Bayou aux Carpes Addition' and 'CIT Tract Addition' (the 'Areas') shall be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

"(ii) **EASEMENTS.**—Any Federal land in the Areas that is transferred under clause (I) shall be subject to any easements that have been agreed to by the Secretary and the Secretary of the Army.

"(iii) **PRIVATE INTERESTS.**—Any private land, water, or interests in land and water in the Barataria Preserve Unit may be acquired by the Secretary only with the consent of the owner."

(B) in the second sentence, by striking "The Secretary may also" and inserting the following:

"(2) **FRENCH QUARTER.**—The Secretary may";

(C) in the third sentence, by striking "Lands, waters, and interests therein" and inserting the following:

"(3) **ACQUISITION OF STATE LAND.**—Land, water, and interests in land and water"; and (D) in the fourth sentence, by striking "In acquiring" and inserting the following:

"(4) **ACQUISITION OF OIL AND GAS RIGHTS.**—In acquiring";

(2) by striking subsections (b) through (f) and inserting the following:

"(b) **RESOURCE PROTECTION.**—With respect to the land, water, and interests in land and water of the Barataria Preserve Unit, the Secretary shall preserve and protect—

"(1) fresh water drainage patterns;

"(2) vegetative cover;

"(3) the integrity of ecological and biological systems; and

"(4) water and air quality."; and

(3) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (c).

(c) **HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.**—Section 905 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 230d) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by inserting after "Barataria Marsh Unit" ", but only as to land, water, or interests in land and water managed by the Secretary"; and

(2) by striking "within the core area" and all that follows through "he may" and inserting "the Secretary may".

(d) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 906 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 230e) is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking "Pending such establishment and thereafter the" and inserting "The".

SEC. 3. REFERENCES IN LAW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any reference in a law (including regulations), map, document, paper, or other record of the United States—

(1) to the Barataria Marsh Unit shall be considered to be a reference to the Barataria Preserve Unit; or

(2) to the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park shall be considered to be a reference to the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Title IX of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 230 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking "Barataria Marsh Unit" each place it appears and inserting "Barataria Preserve Unit"; and

(2) by striking "Jean Lafitte National Historical Park" each place it appears and inserting "Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

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

H.R. 1515, introduced by Congressman JINDAL, adjusts the boundary of the Barataria Marsh Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve. The bill would expand the park boundary by 3,900 acres and increases the statutory acreage ceiling to 23,000 acres. Willing seller language has been extended to include all potential additions to the park. Most of the lands to be included in the park boundary are federally owned wetlands.

I urge the support of H.R. 1515.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. 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, I would note that we are taking up H.R. 1515 when a Senate-passed measure, S. 207, sponsored by Senator LANDRIEU and dealing with the same subject, was referred to the Resources Committee well over a year ago. However, we will not object to the adoption of H.R. 1515 by the House today.

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

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, Mr. JINDAL.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for yielding me this time and for their support of this important legislation.

The legislation in its amended form on the House floor is now supported by not only the entire Louisiana delegation but the Jefferson Parish Council, the Town of Jean Lafitte, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the League of Women Voters, Marrero Land, as well as the Louisiana Audubon Council.

Now, I will just very briefly state for my colleagues why this is such an important bill for the State of Louisiana. This bill not only expands the preserve by over 3,900 acres, but it does a lot to protect Louisiana's important wetlands. Studies by our scientists have shown, since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the importance of wetlands as natural hurricane buffers which protect our levees.

While these wetlands cannot prevent the devastating effects of major hurricanes like Katrina and Rita, they are known to significantly reduce the storm surges associated with the more frequent tropical storms and smaller hurricanes. They absorb the energy. They reduce the hurricane surges, and as a result, they reduce some of the loss from the open water. Some experts believe that for every linear mile of wetlands, 2 to 4 miles of coastal wetlands reduces storm surge by a foot. Anybody that saw the devastating flooding last year caused by Katrina and Rita certainly understands why this is so important.

The preserve is a natural hurricane buffer that provides significant protection for the greater New Orleans area, particularly for the 500,000 residents of the west bank of Jefferson Parish.

I will close by saying this preserve in particular lies outside of the levees and so serves as a critical estuary for our wildlife, but also is a significant protection against hurricane and tidal surges.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

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

Mr. RENZI. Mr. 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 Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1515, 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.

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5059) to designate the Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5059

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 Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILD RIVER WILDERNESS, WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain National Forest System land in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, comprising approximately 23,700 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Wild River Wilderness—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, which shall be known as the "Wild River Wilderness".

(b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), shall file a map and a legal description of the Wild River Wilderness with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description. The map and legal description shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the Wild River Wilderness in accordance with laws applicable to the White Mountain National Forest and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that, with respect to the Wild River Wilderness, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this section affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State of New Hampshire with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the Wild River Wilderness are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

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

I commend Congressman BASS for introducing this legislation to designate within his district 23,700 acres of new wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest. The Wild River Wilderness created in this bill was developed with the Forest Service through their forest planning process and with substantial input and involvement from the public and local interest groups. Since it has the strong support of New Hampshire's citizens, environmental groups, the forest products industry, elected officials, the Forest Service, and the administration, it deserves our support as well.

I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 5059.

I include an exchange of letters with Chairman GOODLATTE of the Agriculture Committee on this bill and related H.R. 5062 and thank the chairman for his cooperation in scheduling this bill and H.R. 5062 today.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, September 25, 2006.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I ask your help in scheduling H.R. 5059 and H.R. 5062, two bills which establish wilderness areas in the State of New Hampshire, for consideration by the House of Representatives as soon as possible. H.R. 5059, authored by Congressman Charles Bass, and H.R. 5062, authored by Congressman Jeb Bradley, were both referred primarily to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Agriculture. The bills implement two recent Forest Service recommendations for wilderness areas in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, H.R. 5059, the Wild River Wilderness, and H.R. 5062, the Sandwich Range Wilderness.

In hope that the Senate will be able to act on these bills this Congress, I ask that you allow the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bills. This action would not be considered as precedent for any future referrals of similar measures or seen as affecting your Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bills. Moreover, if the bills are conferenced with the Senate, I would support naming Agriculture Committee members to any conference committee.

I look forward to your response and would be pleased to include it and this letter in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of the bills by the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.