

HOPEWELL CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2197) to modify the boundary of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in the State of Ohio, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2197

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 "Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act".

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY EXPANSION.

Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to rename and expand the boundaries of the Mound City Group National Monument in Ohio", approved May 27, 1992 (106 Stat. 185), is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subsection (a)(3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subsection (a)(4) and inserting "; and";

(3) by adding after subsection (a)(4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) the map entitled 'Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Ohio Proposed Boundary Adjustment' numbered 353/80,049 and dated June, 2006."; and

(4) by adding after subsection (d)(2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) The Secretary may acquire lands added by subsection (a)(5) only from willing sellers."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2197 was introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE). The legislation would modify the boundaries of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in south central Ohio to add two tracts, totaling almost 360 acres.

The Hopewell Culture was a pre-European civilization best known for the numerous mounds and earthworks found throughout the Ohio Valley. The current park boundary encompasses five sites totaling 1,174 acres. H.R. 2197 would add two tracts, the 177-acre Spruce Hill Works unit and the 180-acre addition to the existing Seip Earthworks unit.

Mr. Speaker, the National Park Service has testified in support of the legislation, and it was approved by the Resources Committee by unanimous consent. This addition to our National

Park System will preserve important sites from our Nation's past.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE) for his diligence in bringing this bill to the House. Representative SPACE is on his way back from his district this afternoon, but will submit a statement for the RECORD.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I believe the National Parks Subcommittee chairman has adequately explained this bill, and we have no objection.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great excitement that I share my support for H.R. 2197, the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act, with the House today. Passage of this legislation will help to ensure the protection of a national archaeological treasure in Ohio's 18th Congressional District.

I would like to begin by offering my thanks to Chairmen RAHALL and GRIJALVA for their gracious assistance in assuring this legislation was heard both by the Committee and the House of Representatives. The House is fortunate to have the service of both of these Members.

H.R. 2197 permits the expansion of the boundaries of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in two areas. Hopewell Culture National Historical Park is home to historical remains of the Hopewell Culture, a culture of Native Americans that thrived between the years of 200 BC and 500 AD. This culture was known for the creation of large enclosures characterized by earthen walls, many of which still stand today.

The proposed border expansion is not an arbitrary one. Earlier this year, a parcel of land known as Spruce Hill became available for sale. Spruce Hill is home to many archaeological remains of interest to historians and archaeologists, and significant natural phenomena that piqued the interest of the environmental community. In fact, legislation passed by Congress in 1980 ordered the Department of the Interior to perform a study on the relevance of Spruce Hill to the Hopewell culture for the purposes of a possible expansion. The report, released in 1998, found that Spruce Hill is an "outstanding example of a particular class of Hopewellian monumental architecture," confirming the importance of adding this land to the Park.

Spruce Hill was scheduled for public auction by the owner last June. I, like many of the residents of Ross County, were concerned that this land might be transferred to an owner uninterested in preserving its historical treasures. Fortunately, a land trust created by a group of concerned citizens and other interested parties were successful in raising enough funds to purchase the land before it was put up for auction. I am pleased to say that the land is currently in safe hands.

H.R. 2197 will allow the federal government to expand the borders of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park to include Spruce Hill, ensuring it takes its proper place within the boundaries of a park meant to commemorate an important chapter in the history of America.

Historians will tell you that the Hopewell culture is a chapter of American history in need of further exploration. Dr. Brad Lepper of the Ohio Historical Society testified before the Subcommittee on National Parks in June that Spruce Hill was an untapped resource that could offer answers to many historical questions about this culture, and even raise new questions of interest.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passage of H.R. 2197 today. Its passage is both timely and critical to the protection of our culture.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2197.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY EXPANSION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 783) to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 783

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 "Mesa Verde National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on June 29, 1906, Mesa Verde National Park was established as the first national park in the United States to preserve the works of humanity;

(2) on September 6, 1978, Mesa Verde National Park became the first World Heritage Site designated in the United States; and

(3) Mesa Verde National Park protects some of the best preserved and notable archeological sites of the ancient Puebloan culture that flourished in the southwestern United States from approximately 600–1300, including the elaborate stone villages in the sheltered alcoves of the canyon walls referred to as "cliff dwellings".

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park—

(A) to protect the archeological sites located on property adjacent to the Park boundary;

(B) to extend and expand the knowledge and understanding of the ancient Puebloan culture, a major influence in the development of the southwestern United States;

(C) to protect from potential development the scenic and biological value of the pinyon-juniper covered hills that—

(i) border the Park; and

(ii) are in full view of the Park entrance road; and

(D) to protect the largest recorded colony of the globally imperiled Gray's Townsend Daisy, to ensure continuation of a major wildlife corridor, and to protect important habitat for wildlife; and