

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 363, introduced by Senator WICKER from Mississippi, would authorize the Secretary of Commerce to convey less than 1 acre of property owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association to the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi.

□ 1750

This would improve the operations of the NOAA science center and give the city river access and space for a park.

The bill specifies that a land conveyance could occur provided that the United States receives at least the fair market value for the property or in-kind exchange. The city and the agency have identified properties to exchange, and therefore, both parties are in agreement. S. 363 would simply allow them to go forward with this land exchange, so I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Many years ago, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fenced off two small parcels of land plus a portion of a street outside of their Pascagoula, Mississippi, facility for security purposes. Recently, NOAA has been using this property for storage and parking. NOAA would like to secure this land, which is now back under the ownership of the City of Pascagoula, to accommodate the storage and future expansion of their facility.

In exchange for these two parcels of land, NOAA proposes to transfer real estate to the City of Pascagoula to develop waterfront property for the purposes of creating a public green space as part of the overall redevelopment plan in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. NOAA and the city have both identified the parcels of land to be considered for this transaction, and NOAA is prepared to contract for the land surveys and appraisals necessary to prepare the acquisition and disposal documents. They have both expressed written support for this land exchange.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 363.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENTS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1740) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1740

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENTS.

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:

“() ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON.—

“(A) The 14.3-mile segment from the headwaters of Illabot Creek to the northern terminus as generally depicted on the map titled ‘Illabot Creek Proposed WSR—Northern Terminus’, dated September 15, 2009, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as follows:

“(i) The 4.3-mile segment from the headwaters of Illabot Creek to the boundary of Glacier Peak Wilderness Area as a wild river.

“(ii) The 10-mile segment from the boundary of Glacier Peak Wilderness to the northern terminus as generally depicted on the map titled ‘Illabot Creek Proposed WSR—Northern Terminus’, dated September 15, 2009, as a recreational river.

“(B) Action required to be taken under subsection (d)(1) for the river segments designated under this paragraph shall be completed through revision of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River comprehensive management plan.

“(C) The Secretary of Agriculture may not acquire by condemnation any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic River described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) Nothing in this paragraph creates or authorizes the creation of a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the boundaries of the Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic River described in subparagraph (A). The fact that an activity or use can be seen or heard from within such boundaries shall not preclude the conduct of that activity or use outside such boundaries.

“(E) No private property or non-Federal public property shall be included within the boundaries of the Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic River described in subparagraph (A) without the written consent of the owner of such property.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1740 will designate segments of the Illabot Creek in Skagit, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The designated area is located within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and it totals 14.3 miles in two separate segments. The U.S. Forest Service studied this creek and found that it possesses the requisite characteristics consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this bill was amended with some provisions that the subcommittee and the full committee thought were very important on these designations, but I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1740. This legislation seeks to add these river segments to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The legislation passed the House by voice vote last year. Congressman LARSEN has been a consistent advocate for this legislation. On behalf of the river and his constituents, we applaud his hard work.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the passage of my bill, H.R. 1740, and to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this measure.

I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman BISHOP of the subcommittee, as well as Ranking Members MARKEY and GRIJALVA, for their help in getting this bill to the floor.

I have the honor of representing one of the most scenic parts of the country, Washington's Second District. The Second District is home to the North Cascades and to the beautiful San Juan Islands. It's also home to some of the best fishing in the country, both commercially and recreationally. Salmon and groundfish stocks are beginning to recover all over the Northwest. Part of the reason is that we've begun to protect places that are important for fish habitat. When we protect these places, we protect the jobs that come from the fishing industry. This preservation is a catalyst to introducing the legislation before us.

Illabot Creek travels from the Glacier Park Wilderness Area to the upper Skagit River, falling about 7,000 feet during its journey. The water of Illabot provides the optimal conditions for wild Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout—all species listed as threatened. This legislation will designate 14.3 miles of the Illabot Creek as wild

and scenic, protecting these species while ensuring that hunting and fishing and other recreational activities continue. Protecting this area has the support of local hunters, farmers, environmentalists, anglers, the local government, and the State government, which are all in my district.

I want to thank Senator MURRAY for introducing the bill's companion over in the Senate. I hope that that body will take up the bill as well.

I appreciate the support of Minority Whip HOYER, of the chairmen, and of the ranking members for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage and to protect this important body of water.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend from Arizona that I have no further requests for time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I urge the passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1740, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

YORK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT OF 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2336) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2336

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 "York River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"() YORK RIVER, MAINE.—(A) The York River that flows 11.25 miles from its headwaters at York Pond to the mouth of the river at York Harbor, and all associated tributaries.

"(B) The study conducted under this paragraph shall—

"(i) determine the effect of the designation on—

"(I) existing commercial and recreational activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational shooting, motor boat use, bridge construction;

"(II) the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

"(III) the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities; and

"(ii) identify—

"(I) all authorities that will authorize or require the Secretary to influence local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal land if designated under this Act;

"(II) all authorities that the Secretary may use to condemn property; and

"(III) all private property located in the area studied under this paragraph.".

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT.

Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"() YORK RIVER, MAINE.—The study of the York River, Maine, named in paragraph () of subsection (a) shall be completed by the Secretary of the Interior and the report thereon submitted to Congress not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph.".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2336 authorizes the National Park Service to study 11.25 miles of the York River, in the State of Maine, for the possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 was intended to put a development freeze on rivers to preserve their "free-flowing" characteristics. Although no risks to the river necessitating Federal designation were identified, proponents of the study explained that they would benefit from the expertise of the National Park Service and its interaction with the community.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, this legislation was amended. The subcommittee felt that there should be some conditions even though this is only a study, and those conditions were inserted into this bill. I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the legislation, and I commend Congresswoman PINGREE for her hard work.

H.R. 2336 moves forward a study of 11 miles of the York River to determine if it is qualified to be protected as a Wild and Scenic River. This is a good piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of the legislation, the gentlelady from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

□ 1800

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I thank both Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. HASTINGS for their support.

I'm very happy to stand in support of my bill, H.R. 2336, the York River Wild and Scenic River Study Act. It is my pleasure to see this piece of legislation, which was proposed by the people living in my district, who care deeply about the York River, come to the floor of the House today. This bill would allow organizations working around the York River to partner with the National Park Service to conduct a study that would provide additional information that is vital to making informed decisions about the future of the York River and its communities.

I have heard from small business owners, community groups, State and local government representatives, local and national land trusts, fishermen, hunters, school representatives, and historical and environmental conservationists; and all agree that continuing to benefit from the river depends on recognizing and protecting its important and unique qualities.

When I last visited the York River, I spoke with members of local communities about the importance of the river to the people, the economy, and the wildlife of the York River watershed. I learned that the river is home to important and rare species, including the Maine-endangered box turtle and the threatened harlequin duck. The salt marshes of York River watershed serve as a nursery ground for nearly 30 species of fish that are vital to the Gulf of Maine ecosystem.

I also learned that the York River is a key waterway to the history of our Nation. The first English settlers arrived there in 1630, and European settlements of archeological importance have been identified along the banks of the river. The York River is a place where children are learning in an outdoor classroom, as well. Students from nearby school districts gather data from the river for class and to inform community decisions about the environment and the economy. Perhaps the most important factor is that many of the hardworking people in this part of the State depend on the York River to support their jobs. The York River is a place where people go to work.

Commercial and recreational fishing operations depend on excellent water quality and reliable access to the waterfront. Farmers in the York River watershed grow pumpkin, potatoes, and other produce that help keep Maine communities healthy. People travel to the York River to explore and appreciate its natural character and incredible history. And while doing so, they invest in the surrounding communities.

The work of community groups has already resulted in considerable