

Numerous events will take place across the country in the next few years celebrating the exploration of the western United States by the Lewis and Clark expedition. This expedition effectively opened up new territories to be settled and used by the fledgling United States and led to the discoveries of many new peoples, plants and animals and resources.

H.R. 2737, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of land to the State of Illinois, who will showcase the beginning of the Lewis and Clark expedition from this spot which began in 1803. The land is currently owned by the National Park Service and the conveyance authorized by this legislation shall be made without consideration to the Federal Government. The parcel of land consists of approximately 39 acres on the banks of the Mississippi River in Madison County, Illinois. If the land conveyance to Illinois is not used for a historical and interpretive center, then the land shall be conveyed back to the Secretary without consideration.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has wide support, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2737, as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2737 directs the Secretary of the Interior to give a specific parcel of land to the State of Illinois to be used as a historic and interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark trail, the 39-acre parcel of land located at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers about 20 miles northeast of St. Louis. This area played a significant role in the story of Lewis and Clark, as it is the area where the explorers camped before beginning their journey.

In addition, many of the members of this historic corps were recruited from the surrounding area. As the 200th anniversary of the expedition approaches, a variety of activities commemorating this amazing achievement will take place across the country, and it is certainly fitting that Lewis and Clark's launching point will host a new historic and interpretive center.

Importantly, the legislation makes the conveyance conditional on the completion of a survey and requires that, should the State ever discontinue use of the site for historic and interpretive purposes, the land must be returned to the Federal Government. During committee consideration of this measure, our amendment requiring the governor of the State of Illinois to devise a specific plan for the development and operation of this interpretive center was adopted.

The legislation now specifies that both the Secretary of the Interior as

well as the general public shall have an opportunity to review and comment upon this plan. With this added level of oversight and public input, we urge our colleagues to support this bill, as amended; and we congratulate our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), on this important legislation for the history of the Nation.

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for H.R. 2737, a bill that authorizes the National Park Service to convey 39 acres of land to the State of Illinois for an interpretive center to be constructed along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives on other projects commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. However, I feel that I must, as I have done in the past, set the record straight on where the Lewis and Clark expedition began.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to some of the statements made by my colleagues on the floor this afternoon, the expedition of these historic partners began at the Falls of the Ohio, near Clarksville in southern Indiana.

On September 1, 1803, Meriwether Lewis began his journey down the Ohio River toward Clarksville, Indiana, where he eventually met his partner on the expedition, William Clark. By October 14, Lewis had reached the Falls of the Ohio, a series of dangerous rapids created by a drop in the river over a two-mile series of limestone ledges. The following day, Lewis and his crew safely crossed the falls on the north side of the river. They then set out to meet Clark, who was living in Clarksville with his brother, Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark.

The noted historian, Stephen Ambrose, writes of Lewis and Clark's meeting in Clarksville in his best-selling book, *Undaunted Courage*, "When they shook hands, the Lewis and Clark Expedition began." During the two weeks following the meeting, Lewis and Clark recruited the first official members of the expedition, a group often referred to as the "Corps of Discovery." Men from across the region traveled to Clarksville hoping to be selected to join the expedition. Lewis and Clark chose nine men in Clarksville to join them on the journey, and as Ambrose notes in *Undaunted Courage*, there "the Corps of Discovery was born."

The crew departed on October 26, 1803, thus marking Clarksville, Indiana as the actual point of origin for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. From there, the Explorers' remarkable adventures spanned over 8,000 miles of unknown land.

No bicentennial celebration would be complete without noting southern Indiana's part in the Lewis and Clark story. I encourage all Americans wishing to retrace the steps of the explorers or to learn more about the importance of the expedition to our nation, to visit the Falls of the Ohio and surrounding area.

I am pleased that Congress is taking the initiative to promote and support the commemoration of such a remarkable piece of our American history. That is why I support H.R. 2737.

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2737, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HANSEN. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the last two bills, H.R. 348 and H.R. 2737, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

DUGGER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2632) to designate certain Federal lands in the Talladega National Forest in the State of Alabama as the Dugger Mountain Wilderness.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2632

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 "Dugger Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DUGGER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, ALABAMA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal lands in the Talladega National Forest in the State of Alabama, which comprise approximately 9,200 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Proposed Dugger Mountain Wilderness" and dated July 2, 1999, are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and shall be known as the Dugger Mountain Wilderness.

(b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a map and a boundary description of the area designated as wilderness by this section. The map and 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 description. A copy of the map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service and in the office of the Supervisor of National Forest System lands in Alabama.