

Mr. Speaker, this is an important conservation bill and will do a great deal to conserve salmon and restore salmon habitat in the Northwest, and I urge an aye vote on the legislation.

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

□ 1415

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2798, the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON). I know that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) gladly would have been here to offer his statement of support, but those of us from the most western part of the United States find it very difficult to make our flights on time on a day like Monday, but I am sure that he would have been happy to be here to present his statement in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as many Members of the House are aware, salmon are an important part of the economy of the West Coast of the United States and are fished both commercially and recreationally. They are also very important to tribal custom and tradition, and their decline in the past decade has been widely felt throughout the region.

Already 25 varieties of salmon in the Pacific Northwest in California have been listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, and more listings are very likely to occur. The causes of this decline are many, but can be predominantly attributed to habitat loss, water diversions, and river alteration.

Mr. Speaker, restoration of salmon stocks will be difficult and the work to restore habitats and modify water uses can only be successful with the full participation of State and local governments. For that reason, the States and the administration support a coast-wide salmon recovery effort to be implemented by the States and the coastal tribes. Approximately \$58 million was appropriated in this effort last year and the House Committee on Appropriations has allocated additional funding this year contingent upon an authorization.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2798 would provide that authorization. It has broad bipartisan support of the States, the administration, and fishing and conservation groups, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this legislation, and I appreciate the gentleman from American Samoa for helping out with this legislation.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the H.R. 2798, the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act.

My northern California district comprises several hundred miles of coastline and a large proportion of our State's salmon fisheries. However, decades of water diversions, dam building, poor industrial practices, and urban development have had a terrible impact on the rivers and streams of the Pacific Northwest.

While salmon are still an integral part of the culture of my district, the fish stocks themselves are in a state of collapse.

Twenty-six distinct population segments of Pacific salmon and sea-run trout are listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Trinity River system alone has lost more than 80 percent of its King Salmon and more than 60 percent of its Steelhead Trout over the past 50 years.

As recently as 1988, sport and commercial salmon fishing in the Pacific region generated more than \$1.25 billion for the regional economy.

Since then, salmon fishing closures have contributed to the loss of nearly 80 percent of this region's job base, with a total salmon industry loss over the past 30 years of approximately 72,000 family wage jobs.

Today, at least 80 percent of the salmon caught commercially in the Pacific Northwest and northern California each year come, not from wild populations, but from hatchery stocks.

With commercial harvest of coho salmon completely illegal and other species not far behind, hundreds of our fishing men and women have been forced out of business and our local economies have suffered.

Early efforts at the state level have begun the process of reversing the decline of our salmon economy.

But even this effort will not be sufficient. The Pacific Salmon Recovery Act will provide a much-needed boost to our stream restoration efforts, as it will for the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

H.R. 2798 authorizes up to \$200 million for salmon habitat restoration activities by the five Pacific states and the tribal governments over three years.

Administrative expenses are capped at 1 percent for the Secretary of Commerce and 3 percent for the states and tribal governments to ensure that funds are spent where they are most desperately needed.

Financial assistance to the states is contingent on a Memorandum of Understanding. At a minimum, the MOU will prioritize salmon recovery, provide measurable criteria for measuring success, and promote projects that are scientifically based and cost-effective.

Eligible uses of the money include watershed planning, single, and multi-year project grants, watershed organi-

zation support and assistance, and project maintenance and monitoring.

Decline of the salmon stocks and the resulting land use restrictions have impact every economic sector in the Pacific Northwest, from fishing to farming to manufacturing to recreation.

We will never be able to return to what was once "business as usual," but this measure would provide a significant step toward restoring our salmon habitat and repairing our local economies.

Private landowners, conservation groups, and industry already have committed to the lengthy process of repairing the damage done.

I urge my colleagues to support state, local, and private efforts to restore the Pacific Salmon runs by supporting the Pacific Salmon Recovery Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2798, 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 authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4226) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Black Hills National Forest and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire replacement sites and to acquire or construct administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4226

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 "Black Hills National Forest and Rocky Mountain Research Station Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF LAND, BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH DAKOTA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary")

may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 362 acres contained in the following parcels of land in the State of South Dakota:

(1) Tract BLKH-1 "Spearfish Dwelling" (approximately 0.24 acres); N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 8 and Lot 9 of Block 16, Section 10, T6N, R2E, Black Hills Meridian.

(2) Tract BLKH-2 "Deadwood Garage" (approximately 0.12 acres); Lots 9 and 11 of Block 34, Section 23, T5N, R3E, Black Hills Meridian.

(3) Tract BLKH-3 "Deadwood Dwellings" (approximately 0.32 acres); Lots 12-16, inclusive, of Block 44, Section 23, T5N, R3E, Black Hill Meridian.

(4) Tract BLKH-4 "Hardy Work Center" (approximately 150 acres); E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 19; NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, T3N, R1E, Black Hills Meridian.

(5) Tract BLKH-6 "Pactola Work Center" (approximately 100 acres); W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 25; E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T2N, R5E, Black Hills Meridian.

(6) Tract BLKH-7 "Pactola Ranger District Office" (approximately 8.25 acres); Lot 1 of Ranger Station Subdivision, Section 4, T1N, R7E, Black Hills Meridian.

(7) Tract BLKH-8 "Reder Administrative Site" (approximately 82 acres); Lots 6 and 7, Section 29; Lot A of Reder Placer, Lot 19, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, T1S, R5E, Black Hills Meridian.

(8) Tract BLKH-9 "Allen Gulch Properties" (approximately 21 acres); Lot 14 less and except Tract STA #0029, Section 25, and Lot 1, Section 36, T1S, R4E, Black Hills Meridian.

(9) Tract BLKH-10 "Custer Ranger District Office" (approximately 0.39 acres); Lots 4 and 9 of Block 125 and the East 15 feet of the vacated north/south alley adjacent to Lot 4, City of Custer, Section 26, T3S, R4E, Black Hills Meridian.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary may make technical corrections to the legal descriptions in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a).

(c) APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, any sale or exchange of land described in subsection (a) shall be subject to laws (including regulations) applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for National Forest System purposes.

(d) CASH EQUALIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept cash equalization payments in excess of 25 percent of the total value of the land described in subsection (a) from any exchange under subsection (a).

(e) SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may use solicitations of offers for sale or exchange under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

(2) REJECTION OF OFFERS.—The Secretary may reject any offer under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

(f) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any funds received by the Secretary from a sale under this section or as cash equalization payments from an exchange under this section—

(1) shall be deposited into the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") (16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(2) shall be available for expenditure, on appropriation, for—

(A) the acquisition from willing sellers of land and interests in land in the State of South Dakota; and

(B) the acquisition or construction of administrative improvements in connection with the Black Hills National Forest.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. REPLACEMENT LABORATORY, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION, RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture \$2,100,000 for a laboratory facility for the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Rapid City, South Dakota, to replace the obsolete laboratory capability at the research station. The replacement facility shall be collocated with at least one of the administrative improvements for the Black Hills National Forest acquired or constructed under the authority of section 2(f)(2)(B).

(b) CONDITIONS ON ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—No funds available to carry out this section may be used to purchase or otherwise acquire property unless—

(1) the acquisition is from willing sellers; and

(2) the property is located within the boundaries of the State of South Dakota.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill now being considered.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4226 was introduced by our esteemed colleague, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE). This legislation would allow the Forest Service to consolidate and upgrade several administrative sites in the Black Hills National Forest as well as provide authorization of \$2.1 million for the construction of a replacement lab for a branch of the Rocky Mountain Research Center currently located in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a hearing on May 3, 2000 where the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Forest Service testified in support of the legislation. However, the Forest Service requested the bill to be amended to formally identify the sites to be relocated, and requested that the Rapid City branch of the Rocky Mountain Research Station not be required to collocate a new administrative site in the Black Hills National Forest. Negotiations continued on this bill throughout the entire committee process and the bill that is satisfactory to all of those involved was ordered reported by the full committee, as amended, on July 26, 2000, by unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote for this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4226 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange nine administrative sites on approximately 367 acres of land in the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota. Funds from the sale or exchange of the lands which are valued at around \$2.4 million will be used to relocate, consolidate and upgrade administrative offices through land acquisition and construction of facilities. Construction costs to combine four district ranger offices into two new buildings are estimated to be around \$4 million.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also authorizes \$2.1 million to be appropriated for the construction of a laboratory facility in the Rocky Mountain Research Center in Rapid City, South Dakota. This facility is to be allocated with one of the administrative sites acquired or constructed through the sale of the lands. The existing research station center is in need of significant repair and does not meet OSHA and the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act requirements.

The administration supports this legislation, it has bipartisan support from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), and I commend him for coming from one of the more beautiful States in this country and representing the heritage of the Black Hills.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding me this time. As always, I welcome him to come to South Dakota to enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4226, the Black Hills National Forest and Rocky Mountain Research Center improvement act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, early this spring, I held a land use summit in Rapid City, South Dakota. At that event, Members, departments, and multiple-use groups voiced their frustration about the possible closing of the Rocky Mountain Research Center for Great Plains Ecosystem Research located in Rapid City.

In response to the concerns raised at the land use summit, I introduced H.R. 4226. The funds authorized by this bill would help preserve important research positions and allow the Rocky Mountain Research Center to continue studying and addressing a range of wildlife issues on the region's grasslands and woodlands. The research station plays an important role in helping

manage the Black Hills National Forest and grasslands. The station, which focuses on managing prairies to sustain livestock and wildlife, has been instrumental in decisions affecting wood production and stream flows, and in providing forage for livestock and wildlife species.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, in light of the devastating fires that raged in the Black Hills region this summer, the research station provides vital fire ecology research.

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains two major provisions that address these important forest management and health needs for South Dakota.

First, H.R. 4226 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain lands owned by the Forest Service and to use the funds to acquire land in order to construct two administrative sites for the Black Hills National Forest. By allowing the Black Hills National Forest to construct two new administrative facilities, the Forest Service will be able to eliminate two leased offices which have an annual cost of \$150,000, thereby consolidating four administrative sites into two.

Additionally, by allowing the sale or exchange of these lands, the Black Hills National Forest can increase efficiency and communications, decrease public confusion over the location of administrative sites, and make the Black Hills more visible and available to the over four million people that visit the area each year. Furthermore, according to the Forest Service, this bill will save the taxpayers an additional \$109,000 in annual maintenance costs and \$880,000 in deferred maintenance costs.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4226 also contains a provision to protect private property owners from being forced to sell their land for the project. Second, this bill authorizes \$2.1 million to build a new research laboratory for the Rocky Mountain Research Center to be co-located with one of the new Forest Service administrative buildings.

Authorizing the funds to build the new research laboratory is essential, because the Forest Service has indicated it may close the research station if it does not have a new facility. Currently the station's laboratory needs major repairs, is not handicap accessible, does not meet OSHA regulations and is inadequate to support the unit's mission. In fact, it is my understanding that the current facility housing the Rocky Mountain Research Center in Rapid City was among the lowest ranked in a recent review of all USDA research facilities by the strategic planning task force on USDA research.

The Forest Service has estimated the construction of a new lab co-located with one of the new administrative sites would save the taxpayers \$10,200 in annual maintenance costs, and \$219,700 in deferred maintenance costs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Resources, and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), the ranking member. I would also like to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member, for their work on this bill. I would also like to thank their staff and, in particular, Veronica Rolocut and Erica Rosenberg.

Additionally, I want to thank Dan Uresk at the Rocky Mountain Research Center as well as Black Hills National Forest Supervisor John Twiss for their help on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will streamline administrative operations in the Black Hills National Forest as well as provide a future for the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the valuable information that it provides.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation by voting to pass H.R. 4226.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from South Dakota for an excellent presentation, especially as the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4226, 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

COLUSA BASIN WATERSHED INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1113) to assist in the development and implementation of projects to provide for the control of drainage, storm, flood and other waters as part of the water-related integrated resource management, environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects in the Colusa Basin Watershed, California, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1113

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 "Colusa Basin Watershed Integrated Resources Management Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.

The Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), acting with existing budgetary authority, may provide financial assistance to the Colusa Basin Drainage District, California (in this Act referred to as the "District"), for use by the District or by local agencies acting pursuant to section 413 of the State of California statute known as the Colusa Basin Drainage Act (California Stats. 1987, ch. 1399) as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act (in this Act referred to as the "State statute"), for planning, design, environmental compliance, and construction required in carrying out eligible projects in the Colusa Basin Watershed to—

(1)(A) reduce the risk of damage to urban and agricultural areas from flooding or the discharge of drainage water or tailwater;

(B) assist in groundwater recharge efforts to alleviate overdraft and land subsidence; or

(C) construct, restore, or preserve wetland and riparian habitat; and

(2) capture, as an incidental purpose of any of the purposes referred to in paragraph (1), surface or stormwater for conservation, conjunctive use, and increased water supplies.

SEC. 3. PROJECT SELECTION.

(a) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A project shall be an eligible project for purposes of section 2 only if it is—

(1) consistent with the plan for flood protection and integrated resources management described in the document entitled "Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report and Draft Program Financing Plan, Integrated Resources Management Program for Flood Control in the Colusa Basin", dated May 2000; and

(2) carried out in accordance with that document and all environmental documentation requirements that apply to the project under the laws of the United States and the State of California.

(b) COMPATIBILITY REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that projects for which assistance is provided under this Act are not inconsistent with watershed protection and environmental restoration efforts being carried out under the authority of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4706 et seq.) or the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

SEC. 4. COST SHARING.

(a) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary shall require that the District and cooperating non-Federal agencies or organizations pay—

(1) 25 percent of the costs associated with construction of any project carried out with assistance provided under this Act;

(2) 100 percent of any operation, maintenance, and replacement and rehabilitation costs with respect to such a project; and

(3) 35 percent of the costs associated with planning, design, and environmental compliance activities.

(b) PLANNING, DESIGN, AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE.—Funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be made available to fund 65 percent of costs incurred for planning, design, and environmental compliance activities by the District or by local agencies acting pursuant to the State statute, in accordance with agreements with the Secretary.

(c) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of this section, the Secretary shall treat the value of lands, interests in lands