

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4312 introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) directs the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing an Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Housatonic River and associated valley lie in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts and the northwestern corner of Connecticut. The river flows approximately 148 miles eventually emptying into Long Island Sound. The proposed study area would consist of a 60-mile segment of the Housatonic River's watershed extending from Lanesboro, Massachusetts south to Kent, Connecticut.

H.R. 4312 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine whether the area has an assemblage of resources that represent distinctive assets of American heritage, reflects traditions and customs that are valuable national history, provides conservation and recreational opportunities, and contains important resources important to the identity of the area.

The study would include demonstrated local support for the heritage area, identifies a lead management entity and has a conceptual boundary map supported by the public. This is a bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4312.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4312 sponsored by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of creating the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area. The study would cover a 60-mile stretch of the Upper Housatonic River's watershed, including 9 towns in Connecticut and 18 towns in Massachusetts, as the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) has laid out.

While no statutory standards exist for national heritage areas, the National Park Service has developed a list of resources all NHAs should exhibit, and H.R. 4312 includes each of the MPS requirements as a component of the study. As one who has canoed portions of the Housatonic, I personally support this legislation and we in the minority also urge passage of this study legislation.

It should be noted that the companion legislation, S. 2421 sponsored by Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut passed the Senate in July and is currently pending in the House. Had we approved that bill today, we could be

sending completed legislation to the President rather than sending this House companion over to the Senate so late in the session, but I will accept the assurances of my colleagues on the majority side that politics played no part in setting aside Senator LIEBERMAN's bill and advancing this particular bill.

We regret the decision, but we certainly support H.R. 4312 on its merits.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman JAMES HANSEN and Chairman DON YOUNG for their support of my proposal and for bringing it before the House for consideration. H.R. 4312 will authorize a feasibility study to determine if part of my district, and our colleague JOHN OLVER's district, qualify for designation as a National Heritage Area.

The Park Service defines a National Heritage Area as an area in which natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a distinctive, national landscape and reflect patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These areas present our national experience through physical features and the traditions they birthed, demonstrating the deep tie between natural history and cultural history.

The people of my district believe this small section of New England is more than qualified to be a National Heritage Area. It is an area rich in history and environmental significance consisting largely of the watershed of the Housatonic. From the 1730s to the 1920s, it was home to many of the nation's earliest iron industries. The first blast furnace was built in 1862 by Ethan Allen and supplied the iron for the cannons that helped George Washington's army to win the American Revolutionary War. The Beckley Furnace in Canaan, Connecticut has been designated an official project by the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures.

Among the other historic sites in the area is the Sloane-Stanley Museum of Early American Tools. As you may know, Stanley Tools is one of the few remaining manufacturers in Connecticut and is one of the nation's oldest tool makers. Further, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Mount (home of Edith Wharton) and Arrowhead (the home of Herman Melville) are all in what would be the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. It is also home to over 30 sites on the National Register of Historic Places. The iron furnaces, pre-revolution farms and its many historic structures reflect the deep historical tie between natural resources, culture and American's history, epitomizing some of our earliest and most enduring accomplishments.

The Housatonic Valley is also rich with environmental and recreational treasures. The Housatonic River, just below Falls Village, Connecticut, is one of the prized fly-fishing centers in the Northeast and is enjoyed by fishermen from not only Connecticut and Massachusetts but the entire eastern seaboard. Olympic rowers have trained in this river as children have learned to swim, boat and fish and value its ecosystem.

New England often brings to mind grand colonial farmhouses scattered between small towns which still revolve around the local town hall and the annual town meeting on the budget. While much of the farmland and open

space are now lost to development, elected and volunteer land trusts are working hard to preserve the scenic and historic resources that are so much a part of Connecticut's and our country's heritage.

However, a coordinated and strong investment is essential to enable this preservation effort to succeed. A National Heritage Designation will enable us to save remaining farmhouses, furnaces and historic and natural wonders and advance the states' aggressive new initiative to preserve these historic open spaces. I believe the Park Service will find this area to be the embodiment of what Congress intended when it created the National Heritage Area. This small region of New England is deserving of at least a feasibility study.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4312.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BEND PINE NURSERY LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1936) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other National Forest System land in the State of Oregon and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1936

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 "Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Oregon.

SEC. 3. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following National Forest System land and improvements:

(1) Tract A, Bend Pine Nursery, comprising approximately 210 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site, May 13, 1999".

(2) Tract B, the Federal Government owned structures located at Shelter Cove Resort, Deschutes National Forest, buildings only, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Shelter Cove Resort, November 3, 1997".

(3) Tract C, portions of isolated parcels of National Forest Land located in Township 20 south, Range 10 East section 25 and Township 20 South, Range 11 East sections 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, and 21 consisting of approximately 1,260 acres, as depicted on map entitled "Deschutes National Forest Isolated Parcels, January 1, 2000".

(4) Tract D, Alsea Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 24 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Alsea Administrative Site, May 14, 1999".

(5) Tract F, Springdale Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 3.6 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Site Development Plan, Columbia Gorge Ranger Station, April 22, 1964".

(6) Tract G, Dale Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 37 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Dale Compound, February 1999".

(7) Tract H, Crescent Butte Site, consisting of approximately .8 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Crescent Butte Communication Site, January 1, 2000".

(b) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for a sale or exchange of land under subsection (a) may include the acquisition of land, existing improvements, or improvements constructed to the specifications of the Secretary.

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

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

(e) SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may solicit offers for sale or exchange of land under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

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

(3) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The Bend Metro Park and Recreation District in Deschutes County, Oregon, shall be given the right of first refusal to purchase the Bend Pine Nursery described in subsection (a)(1).

(f) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any public land order withdrawing land described in subsection (a) from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws is revoked with respect to any portion of the land conveyed by the Secretary under this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of any revocation under paragraph (1) shall be the date of the patent or deed conveying the land.

SEC. 4. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

(a) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of a sale or exchange under section 3(a) in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a) (commonly known as the "Sisk Act").

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Funds deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary, without further Act of appropriation, for—

(1) the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative and visitor facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest;

(2) the construction of a bunkhouse facility in the Umatilla National Forest; and

(3) to the extent the funds are not necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) and (2), the acquisition of land and interests in land in the State.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage any land ac-

quired by purchase or exchange under this Act in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.) (commonly known as the "Weeks Act") and other laws (including regulations) pertaining to the National Forest System.

SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.

The Secretary may acquire, construct, or improve administrative facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest System by using—

(1) funds made available under section 4(b); and

(2) to the extent the funds are insufficient to carry out the acquisition, construction, or improvement, funds subsequently made available for the acquisition, construction, or improvement.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, S. 1936 was introduced by Senator RON WYDEN. It would allow the Forest Service to sell the Bend Pine Nursery in the State of Oregon and use the proceeds to purchase other lands in that State. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) has introduced the House companion bill for this measure, H.R. 4774, and he should be commended for his work on behalf of the State of Oregon.

S. 1936 passed the full committee on September 20 of this year by a voice vote; and I would urge support for the passage of S. 1936, as amended, under suspension of the rules.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, S. 1936 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange seven administrative sites and facilities on approximately 1,325 acres on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon. The bill provides that the City of Bend, Oregon, will be given the right of first refusal to purchase one particular site, the 210-acre Bend Pine Nursery, for the potential use as a park. Funds from the sale of these Federal assets will be used to construct new Forest Service administrative facilities for the Deschutes and Umatilla National Forests. The estimated value of the land to be conveyed is between \$3 million and \$4 million. The administration supports this legislation, and we do not object to it.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for their help in this legislation. Certainly my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, who with Senator SMITH and I, have teamed up on this legislation to make it a bipartisan effort to transfer this land, allow it to be transferred, to surplus property over to the City of Bend who will have the first right of refusal on the Bend Pine Nursery.

The city in turn will turn this wonderful open space, an extraordinary piece of land, into something for all time for parks and ball fields for children and for families. So it is an excellent conveyance. It follows all the rules and all the laws of the Federal Government, and in addition it is a bonus for the taxpayers because the Deschutes National Forest now pays something on the order of \$750,000 a year in leases for their current buildings; and a new headquarters will be built out of the proceeds of these funds so the taxpayers will save this lease payment every year. So it is a win for the taxpayers. It is a win for the children and families of Bend, and it is certainly a win for the Federal Government.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1936, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOWER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1296) to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1296

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 "Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Public Law 102-460 directed the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation and consultation with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, to conduct a study of the eligibility and suitability of the lower Delaware River for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

(2) during the study, the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Study Task Force and