

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1214

To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2015

Mr. AMODEI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Forest Small  
5 Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE**  
2 **OF SMALL PARCELS OF NATIONAL FOREST**  
3 **SYSTEM LAND.**

4 (a) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM VALUE OF SMALL PAR-  
5 CELS.—Section 3 of Public Law 97–465 (commonly  
6 known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521e) is  
7 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-  
8 ing “\$150,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

9 (b) ADDITIONAL CONVEYANCE PURPOSES.—Section  
10 3 of Public Law 97–465 (16 U.S.C. 521e) is further  
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking “; or” at the end of paragraph

13 (2) and inserting a semicolon;

14 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
15 graph (3) and inserting a semicolon; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
17 paragraphs:

18 “(4) parcels of 40 acres or less which are deter-  
19 mined by the Secretary to be physically isolated, to  
20 be inaccessible, or to have lost their National Forest  
21 character;

22 “(5) parcels of 10 acres or less which are not  
23 eligible for conveyance under paragraph (2), but  
24 which are encroached upon by permanent habitable  
25 improvements for which there is no evidence that the  
26 encroachment was intentional or negligent; or

1           “(6) parcels used as a cemetery, a landfill, or  
2           a sewage treatment plant under a special use au-  
3           thorization issued by the Secretary.”.

4           (c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Section 2 of Public  
5 Law 97–465 (16 U.S.C. 521d) is amended—

6           (1) by striking “The Secretary is authorized”  
7           and inserting the following:

8           “(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY; CONSIDERATION.—  
9 The Secretary is authorized”;

10           (2) by striking “The Secretary shall insert” and  
11           inserting the following:

12           “(b) INCLUSION OF TERMS, COVENANTS, CONDI-  
13 TIONS, AND RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary shall insert”;

14           (3) by striking “covenants” and inserting  
15           “covenants”; and

16           (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
17           section:

18           “(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

19           “(1) DEPOSIT IN SISK FUND.—The net pro-  
20           ceeds derived from any sale or exchange conducted  
21           under the authority of paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of  
22           section 3 shall be deposited in the fund established  
23           by Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the  
24           Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

1           “(2) USE.—Amounts deposited under para-  
2           graph (1) shall be available to the Secretary, without  
3           further appropriation and until expended, for—

4                   “(A) the acquisition of land or interests in  
5           land for administrative sites for the National  
6           Forest System in the State from which the  
7           amounts were derived;

8                   “(B) the acquisition of land or interests in  
9           land for inclusion in the National Forest Sys-  
10          tem in that State, including land or interests in  
11          land which enhance opportunities for rec-  
12          reational access; or

13                   “(C) the performance of deferred mainte-  
14          nance on administrative sites for the National  
15          Forest System in that State or other deferred  
16          maintenance activities in that State which en-  
17          hance opportunities for recreational access.”.

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