

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4023

To provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service property in Kern County, California, in exchange for county lands suitable for inclusion in Sequoia National Forest.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1998

Mr. THOMAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, and Transportaton and Infrastructure, 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

A BILL

To provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service property in Kern County, California, in exchange for county lands suitable for inclusion in Sequoia National Forest.

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. LAND EXCHANGE, CAMP OWEN AND RELATED**
4 **PARCELS, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

5 (a) EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—If the non-Federal lands
6 described in subsection (b) are conveyed to the United
7 States in accordance with this section, the Secretary of
8 Agriculture shall convey to Kern County, California, all

1 right, title, and interest of the United States in and to
2 three parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the Forest
3 Service in Kern County, as follows

4 (1) Approximately 140 acres known as Camp
5 Owen.

6 (2) Approximately 4 acres known as Wofford
7 Heights Park.

8 (3) Approximately 3.4 acres known as the
9 French Gulch maintenance yard.

10 (b) DESCRIPTION OF NON-FEDERAL LANDS.—The
11 non-Federal lands referred to in subsection (a) consist of
12 Greenhorn Mountain Park, in Kern County, California,
13 which is a 160 acre, forested park owned by the County
14 within Sequoia National Forest. The park consists of
15 camp sites (including outdoor grills, picnic tables, and
16 parking spurs), cabins, dining facilities, a recreational
17 hall, paved roads and parking lot, restroom and shower
18 facilities, storage buildings, and an outdoor amphitheater.

19 (c) CONDITIONS ON ACCEPTANCE.—Title to the non-
20 Federal lands to be conveyed under this section must be
21 acceptable to the Secretary, and the conveyance shall be
22 subject to such valid existing rights of record as may be
23 acceptable to the Secretary. The non-Federal lands shall
24 conform with the title approval standards applicable to
25 Federal land acquisitions.

1 (d) TIME FOR CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary shall
2 complete the conveyance of the Federal lands under sub-
3 section (a) within three months after Kern County tenders
4 Greenhorn Mountain Park to the Secretary under sub-
5 section (b).

6 (e) APPROXIMATELY EQUAL IN VALUE.—The values
7 of both the Federal and non-Federal lands to be ex-
8 changed under this section are deemed to be approxi-
9 mately equal in value, and no additional valuation deter-
10 minations or cash equalization payments shall be required.

11 (f) STATUS OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—Upon approval
12 and acceptance of title by the Secretary, the non-Federal
13 lands conveyed to the United States under this section
14 shall become part of Sequoia National Forest, and the
15 boundaries of the national forest shall be adjusted to in-
16 clude the acquired lands. The Secretary shall manage the
17 acquired lands for recreational purposes in accordance
18 with the laws and regulations pertaining to the National
19 Forest System. For purposes of section 7 of the Land and
20 Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–
21 9), the boundaries of the national forest, as adjusted pur-
22 suant to this section, shall be considered to be the bound-
23 aries of the national forest as of January 1, 1965.

24 (g) PROTECTION AGAINST LIABILITY FOR ENVIRON-
25 MENTAL REMEDIATION.—The United States (including

1 the departments, agencies, and employees of the United
2 States) and Kern County (including the departments,
3 agencies, and employees of the county) shall not be liable
4 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Com-
5 pensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et
6 seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
7 1251 et seq.), or any other Federal, State, or local law
8 solely as a result of the acquisition of an interest in land
9 under this section or because of circumstances or events
10 occurring before the acquisition of the land, including any
11 release or threat of release of a hazardous substance.

12 (h) LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—The exact acreage and
13 legal description of the real property to be exchanged
14 under this section shall be determined by a survey satis-
15 factory to the Secretary.

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