

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 851

To enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. INSLEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, 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 “Wild Sky Wilderness
5 Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRES-**
2 **ERVATION SYSTEM.**

3 (a) ADDITIONS.—The following Federal lands in the
4 State of Washington are hereby designated as wilderness
5 and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness
6 Preservation System: certain lands which comprise ap-
7 proximately 106,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map
8 entitled “Wild Sky Wilderness Proposal”, “Map #1”, and
9 dated January 7, 2003, which shall be known as the Wild
10 Sky Wilderness.

11 (b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as
12 practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the
13 Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal de-
14 scription for the wilderness area designated under this Act
15 with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
16 the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources
17 of the United States House of Representatives. The map
18 and description shall have the same force and effect as
19 if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agri-
20 culture may correct clerical and typographical errors in
21 the legal description and map. The map and legal descrip-
22 tion shall be on file and available for public inspection in
23 the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department
24 of Agriculture.

25 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS.**

26 (a) IN GENERAL.—

1 (1) Subject to valid existing rights, lands des-
2 ignated as wilderness by this Act shall be managed
3 by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with
4 the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and
5 this Act, except that, with respect to any wilderness
6 areas designated by this Act, any reference in the
7 Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilder-
8 ness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the
9 date of enactment of this Act.

10 (2) To fulfill the purposes of this Act and the
11 Wilderness Act and to achieve administrative effi-
12 ciencies, the Secretary of Agriculture may manage
13 the area designated by this Act as a comprehensive
14 part of the larger complex of adjacent and nearby
15 wilderness areas.

16 (b) NEW TRAILS.—

17 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult
18 with interested parties and shall establish a trail
19 plan for Forest Service lands in order to develop:

20 (A) a system of hiking and equestrian
21 trails within the wilderness designated by this
22 Act in a manner consistent with the Wilderness
23 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

1 (B) a system of trails adjacent to or to
2 provide access to the wilderness designated by
3 this Act.

4 (2) Within two years after the date of enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
6 complete a report on the implementation of the trail
7 plan required under this Act. This report shall in-
8 clude the identification of priority trails for develop-
9 ment.

10 (c) REPEATER SITE.—Within the Wild Sky Wilder-
11 ness, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use heli-
12 copter access to construct and maintain a joint Forest
13 Service and Snohomish County telecommunications re-
14 peater site, in compliance with a Forest Service approved
15 communications site plan, for the purposes of improving
16 communications for safety, health, and emergency serv-
17 ices.

18 (d) FLOAT PLANE ACCESS.—As provided by section
19 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the
20 use of floatplanes on Lake Isabel, where such use has al-
21 ready become established, shall be permitted to continue
22 subject to such reasonable restrictions as the Secretary of
23 Agriculture determines to be desirable.

24 (e) EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.—The des-
25 ignation under this Act shall not preclude the operation

1 and maintenance of the existing Evergreen Mountain
2 Lookout in the same manner and degree in which the op-
3 eration and maintenance of such lookout was occurring
4 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR LAND ACQUISITION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture is
7 authorized to acquire lands and interests therein, by pur-
8 chase, donation, or exchange, and shall give priority con-
9 sideration to those lands identified as “Priority Acquisi-
10 tion Lands” on the map described in section 2(a). The
11 boundaries of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
12 and the Wild Sky Wilderness shall be adjusted to encom-
13 pass any lands acquired pursuant to this section.

14 (b) ACCESS.—Consistent with section 5(a) of the Wil-
15 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary of Agri-
16 culture shall ensure adequate access to private inholdings
17 within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

18 (c) APPRAISAL.—Valuation of private lands shall be
19 determined without reference to any restrictions on access
20 or use which arise out of designation as a wilderness area
21 as a result of this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. LAND EXCHANGES.**

23 The Secretary of Agriculture shall exchange lands
24 and interests in lands, as generally depicted on a map enti-
25 tled Chelan County Public Utility District Exchange and

1 dated May 22, 2002, with the Chelan County Public Util-
2 ity District in accordance with the following provisions:

3 (1) If the Chelan County Public Utility District,
4 within ninety days after the date of enactment of
5 this Act, offers to the Secretary of Agriculture ap-
6 proximately 371.8 acres within the Mt. Baker-
7 Snoqualmie National Forest in the State of Wash-
8 ington, the Secretary shall accept such lands.

9 (2) Upon acceptance of title by the Secretary of
10 Agriculture to such lands and interests therein, the
11 Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Chelan
12 County Public Utility District a permanent ease-
13 ment, including helicopter access, consistent with
14 such levels as used as of date of enactment, to main-
15 tain an existing telemetry site to monitor snow pack
16 on 1.82 acres on the Wenatchee National Forest in
17 the State of Washington.

18 (3) The exchange directed by this Act shall be
19 consummated if Chelan County Public Utility Dis-
20 trict conveys title acceptable to the Secretary and
21 provided there is no hazardous material on the site,
22 which is objectionable to the Secretary.

23 (4) In the event Chelan County Public Utility
24 District determines there is no longer a need to
25 maintain a telemetry site to monitor the snow pack

1 for calculating expected runoff into the Lake Chelan
2 hydroelectric project and the hydroelectric projects
3 in the Columbia River Basin, the Secretary shall be
4 notified in writing and the easement shall be extin-
5 guished and all rights conveyed by this exchange
6 shall revert to the United States.

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