

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2806

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 27, 2009

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) In 1988, 93 percent of the North Cascades
6 National Park Complex was designated the Stephen
7 Mather Wilderness.

8 (2) A road corridor was deliberately excluded
9 from the wilderness designation to provide for the
10 continued use and maintenance of the upper
11 Stehekin Valley Road.

12 (3) The upper Stehekin Valley Road provides
13 access to Stephen Mather Wilderness trailheads and
14 North Cascades National Park from the Lake Che-
15 lan National Recreation Area.

16 (4) Record flooding in 1995 and again in 2003
17 caused severe damage to the upper Stehekin Valley
18 Road and led to the closure of a 9.9-mile section of
19 the road between Car Wash Falls and Cottonwood
20 Camp.

21 (5) The National Park Service currently does
22 not have the flexibility to rebuild the upper Stehekin
23 Valley Road away from the Stehekin River due to
24 the current location of the non-wilderness road cor-
25 ridor provided by Congress in 1988.

1 (6) It is a high priority that the people of the
2 United States, including families, the disabled, and
3 the elderly, have reasonable access to the National
4 Parks system and their public lands.

5 (7) The 1995 Lake Chelan National Recreation
6 Area General Management Plan calls for retaining
7 vehicle access to Cottonwood Camp.

8 (8) Tourism associated with the North Cas-
9 cades National Park Complex is an important part
10 of the economy for rural communities in the area.

11 (9) Additional management flexibility would
12 allow the National Park Service to consider reten-
13 tion of the upper Stehekin Valley Road in a manner
14 that provides for no net loss of wilderness.

15 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.**

16 The Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988 (Pub-
17 lic Law 100–668) is amended by inserting after section
18 206 the following:

19 **“SEC. 207. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR ROAD.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may adjust the
21 boundaries of the North Cascades National Park and the
22 Stephen Mather Wilderness in order to provide a corridor
23 of not more than 100 feet in width along which the
24 Stehekin Valley Road may be rebuilt—

1 “(1) outside of the floodplain between milepost
2 12.9 and milepost 22.8;

3 “(2) within one mile of the route, on the date
4 of the enactment of this section, of the Stehekin Val-
5 ley Road;

6 “(3) within the boundaries of the North Cas-
7 cades National Park; and

8 “(4) outside of the boundaries of the Stephen
9 Mather Wilderness.

10 “(b) NO NET LOSS OF LANDS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary adjustments
12 made under this section shall be such that equal
13 amounts of federally owned acreage are exchanged
14 between the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the
15 North Cascades National Park, resulting in no net
16 loss of acreage to either the Stephen Mather Wilder-
17 ness or the North Cascades National Park.

18 “(2) STEHEKIN VALLEY ROAD LANDS.—The
19 newly designated wilderness shall include the lands
20 along the route of the Stehekin Valley Road that are
21 replaced by the reconstruction.

22 “(3) EQUALIZATION OF LAND.—If the lands de-
23 scribed in paragraph (2) contain fewer acres than
24 the corridor described in subsection (a), the Sec-
25 retary may designate additional Federal lands in the

1 North Cascades National Park as wilderness, but
2 such designation may not exceed the amount needed
3 to equalize the exchange and these additional lands
4 must be selected from lands that qualify as wilder-
5 ness under section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act (16
6 U.S.C. 1131(c)).

7 “(c) NO SALE OR ACQUISITION AUTHORIZED.—
8 Nothing in this Act authorizes the sale or acquisition of
9 any land or interest in land.

10 “(d) NO PRIORITY REQUIRED.—Nothing in this Act
11 shall be construed as requiring the Secretary to give this
12 project precedence over the construction or repair of other
13 similarly damaged roads in units of the National Park
14 System.”.

Passed the House of Representatives October 26,
2009.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.