

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4131

To facilitate land acquisition for the consolidation of lands located within the boundaries of, or abutting the boundaries of, El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico, and to further the protection of the ecological integrity and biological diversity of the National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2012

Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. SABLÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To facilitate land acquisition for the consolidation of lands located within the boundaries of, or abutting the boundaries of, El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico, and to further the protection of the ecological integrity and biological diversity of the National Forest, 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 “El Yunque National Forest
5 Preservation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY, EL YUNQUE NA-**
2 **TIONAL FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE LANDS.**—The Secretary
4 of Agriculture is authorized to acquire, by donation or
5 purchase from willing sellers, tracts of land or interests
6 in land, not in Federal ownership as of the date of the
7 enactment of this Act, that—

8 (1) are located within the established bound-
9 aries of El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico;
10 or

11 (2) abut the boundaries of El Yunque National
12 Forest.

13 (b) **SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR LAND ACQUISITION.**—
14 To fund the land acquisition authorized by subsection (a),
15 the Secretary may use all amounts generated from El
16 Yunque National Forest that are deposited in the National
17 Forest Fund, except those amounts required by law to be
18 paid to Puerto Rico. Amounts made available to the Sec-
19 retary under this subsection shall remain available until
20 expended and without further appropriation.

21 (c) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—To the extent the
22 Secretary acquires land described in subsection (a)(2), the
23 Secretary shall adjust the boundaries of El Yunque Na-
24 tional Forest to include the acquired lands. For purposes
25 of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund
26 Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–9), the boundaries of El

1 Yunque National Forest, as adjusted pursuant to this sub-
2 section, shall be considered to be boundaries of the Na-
3 tional Forest as of January 1, 1965.

4 (d) RELATION TO OTHER LAND ACQUISITION AU-
5 THORITY.—The creation of a dedicated source of funds
6 under subsection (b) for the acquisition of land under sub-
7 section (a) within or abutting the boundaries of El Yunque
8 National Forest shall not be construed to prohibit or limit
9 the use of amounts in the Land and Water Conservation
10 Fund to finance land acquisition associated with El
11 Yunque National Forest. The land acquisition authority
12 provided by subsection (a), and funds provided under sub-
13 section (b), are intended to supplement, and not supplant,
14 other sources of funds for land acquisition associated with
15 El Yunque National Forest.

○