

There was no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 701, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

#### MODIFYING BOUNDARIES OF TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to call up the bill, H.R. 1874, to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. STENHOLM. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I shall not object, but I yield to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding under his reservation of objection.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would transfer land currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management to the Forest Service. The land is currently being managed by the Forest Service. Another reason for the transfer is that the Penhody National Recreational Trail runs through a portion of the land that we are transferring. This transfer will enhance the management of the Penhody. The total amount being transferred is 559 acres. It is my understanding that the minority has no objection to this legislation, and that the administration is in support.

Mr. Speaker, I will include a document titled "Questions and Answers, H.R. 1874, Talladega National Forest," for the RECORD.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1874, a bill to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest. This bill is a commonsense attempt to streamline and make more cost-efficient the management of our national forests by transferring two small tracts of adjacent Bureau of Land Management [BLM] land to the Talladega National Forest in Alabama. I commend our colleague, Mr. BROWDER of Alabama, in his efforts.

H.R. 1874 modifies the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest in Alabama by transferring approximately 350 acres of Bureau of Land Management [BLM] land to the Talladega National Forest. Both the U.S. For-

est Service and the BLM support the concept of the transfer. The bill ensures that no existing rights of way, easement, lease license or permit shall be affected by the transfer.

According to the U.S. Forest Service this transfer will actually reduce the amount of boundary line the U.S. Forest Service will be required to maintain. Further, because the BLM lands are adjacent to or surrounded by the Talladega National Forest, the Congressional Budget Office reports that there are no significant costs to the government associated with the change in jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like included in the RECORD a document from the U.S. Forest Service entitled "Questions and Answers, H.R. 1874, Talladega National Forest, Alabama," regarding the transfer.

#### QUESTION AND ANSWERS, H.R. 1874, TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST, ALABAMA

Q. Where is the Talladega National Forest located in Alabama?

A. The Talladega National Forest is broken up into two divisions—the Oakmulgee Division, located in central Alabama South and West of Birmingham, Alabama; and the Talladega Division, located east central Alabama and being East of Birmingham, Alabama.

Q. Which Division is effected by H.R. 1874?

A. The land is located on the Talladega Division.

Q. Where on the Talladega Division are the tracts mentioned in H.R. 1874 located?

A. The first tract is located in Cleburne County and contains 399.4 acres and is more particularly described as Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Section 34, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ . This tract is located within the existing Proclamation Boundary of the Talladega N.F. and close to being surrounded by National Forest ownership.

The second tract is located in Calhoun County and contains 160 acres and is more particularly described as Township 13 South, Range 9 East, Section 28, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ . This tract is located just outside of the existing Proclamation Boundary of Talladega N.F. but is adjacent to and contiguous with National Forest ownership.

Q. What's presently located on these lands?

A. Both properties are forested tracts with pine and hardwood. There are no known or surveyed cultural resource sites or threatened or endangered species known to be located on these tracts. However, the first and largest tract is located inside a tentative Habitat Management Area for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, a listed endangered species. In addition, the Pinhoti Trail, administered by the Forest Service, runs through the largest tract.

Q. What is a Habitat Management Area (HMA)? and why is it "tentative"?

A. This is an area that contains pine and pine-hardwood forest types that will be managed for the recovery of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

It is "tentative" until the Forest has completed its Forest Plan Revision.

Q. Just what is the Pinhoti Trail?

A. The Pinhoti Trail is a National Recreation Trail that was so designated back in 1977. It is a foot trail that extends for 98.6 miles along the mountains, valleys, and ridges of the Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest.

Q. Where does the Pinhoti Trail begin and end?

A. The trail starts on the Talladega Ranger District at Clairmont Gap off of the Talladega Scenic Drive and ends on the Northeastern boundary of the Shoal Creek Ranger District at Highway 278.

Q. H.R. 1874 indicates that the first tract contains 339.4 acres while the description calls for 399.4 acres. Which is correct?

A. The 399.4 acres is correct. There was probably a typo error made while drafting the bill. However, the description is accurate.

Q. Just what does the Bill do?

A. The Bill will transfer jurisdiction of these two tracts totaling 559.4 acres from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior to the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Q. Why is this necessary?

A. As pointed out, the effected lands are adjacent to and mixed in with existing National Forest lands. This would ease the administration of these federal lands for both agencies.

Q. Does BLM Agree with this change of jurisdiction?

A. Yes. They have worked closely with the Forest Service on this transfer for a number of years.

Q. Does the public have any concern about the change?

A. No. They already think the land is part of the National Forest System because of their location. This is especially true where the Pinhoti Trail runs through the larger tract in Cleburne County. In fact, the Forests current Administrative Map shows the 399 acre parcel as being national forest.

The county records in Cleburne County shows the property to be owned by the "USA Talladega NF"; while the Calhoun County records shows it to be owned by the "US Forestry Division".

Q. Why does the Administrative Map show this property to be National Forest?

A. Probably an error was made when the map was last revised since the property is government land, almost surrounded by national forest land and has the Pinhoti Trail running through it.

Q. Are there any right-of-ways, easements, leases, licenses or permits on the lands being transferred?

A. There are no known right-of-ways, easements, etc. or known claims (neither properties are adjacent to residential development) on either of the properties. If there were, the Forest Service has the necessary authority and regulations to handle.

Q. What is the history of these Tracts?

A. The 160 acre parcel, located in Calhoun County, has never been patented and was not withdrawn from the Public Domain when the Talladega National Forest was established by Proclamation 2190 dated 7/17/1936. This property has always been owned by the United States.

The 399 acre parcel, located in Cleburne County, was patented to the State of Alabama back in August 1941. A clause in the Patent stated "this patent is issued upon the express condition that the land hereby granted shall revert to the USA upon a finding by the Secretary of Interior that for a period of five (5) consecutive years such land has not been used by the said State of Alabama for park or recreational purposes, or that such land or any part thereof is being devoted to other uses." On November 14, 1978, the State of Alabama Quitclaimed this land to the United States and on February 9, 1979 title was accepted by the Bureau of Land Management.

(NOTE: The 1891 Organic Act originally gave the President the authority to place forest land into public reservations by Proclamation. President Franklin Roosevelt issued a Proclamation withdrawing the land now within our forest boundary for public recreational use pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act before the Talladega National Forest was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1936. A patent on the withdrawn lands was then issued to the State in 1941 with a reversionary clause to the United States. Alabama

reconveyed by Quit Claim deed to the United States in 1978 due to its non-use. The Proclamation creating the Talladega National Forest included a provision that all lands hereafter acquired by the United States under the Weeks Act should be administered as a part of the Talladega National Forest. This provision, however, only applied to lands acquired under the Weeks Act, and not the BLM land which simply reverted back to the United States. The proclamation itself no longer had the force of law when the United States regained title to the subject land due to the repeal of the 1891 Act by section 704 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Hence, the subject land reverted to the status of unappropriated public land, and hence are not included within the Talladega National Forest as they had been withdrawn in favor of the State of Alabama prior to the proclamation and were later patented to the State, thus entirely escaping federal control and the scope of the proclamation.)

Q. What boundaries are being modified?

A. As previously indicated, the 160 acre parcel located in Calhoun County is located adjacent to but west of and outside of the existing Proclamation Boundary for the Talladega National Forest. The Bill would extend this boundary to incorporate the tract.

The 399.4 acre parcel located in Cleburne County is within the Proclamation Boundary. Technically no boundary modification is needed in this case as far as the Proclamation Boundary is concerned. However, the land line boundary would technically be changed in the jurisdictional transfer.

Regardless of the technicality of boundary modification, the Bill does effect the correct transfer of jurisdiction being sought by both agencies.

Q. How many additional acres of lands does the BLM presently have jurisdiction over that are within or adjacent to the Talladega National Forest?

A. None to the best of our knowledge.

Q. How is BLM presently managing these lands to be transferred to the Forest Service?

A. They are currently being managed for hunting and dispersed recreation.

Q. How much will it cost the Forest Service to administer these lands?

A. The main additional cost would be to maintain the approximately 1 mile of additional boundary lines located on the 160 acre parcel in Calhoun County. Estimated cost for maintenance runs around \$500 to \$600 per mile. However, with the tract located in Cleburne County, the Forest Service would actually lose approximately 1¼ miles of land lines. Therefore there is a net loss of around ¾ miles of land lines that the Forest Service will not have to maintain.

Since the lands are adjacent to and/or are within the existing National Forest, there will be little or no additional costs associated with the change of jurisdiction. The 599 acres would be incorporated into the 229,772 acres that currently makes up the Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest. (Total for the entire Talladega National Forest is 387,176 acres.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1874

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The exterior boundaries of the Talladega National Forest is hereby modified to include the following described lands:

Huntsville Meridian, Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Section 34, NE¼, SW¼, and S½NW¼, Cleburne County, containing 339.40 acres, more or less.

Huntsville Meridian, Township 13 South, Range 9 East, Section 28, SE¼, Calhoun County, containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands described under subsection (a) are hereby added to and shall be administered as part of the Talladega National Forest.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the validity of or the terms and conditions of any existing right-of-way, easement, lease, license, or permit on lands transferred by subsection (a), except that such lands shall be administered by the Forest Service. Reissuance of any authorization shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applying to the Forest Service, and the change of jurisdiction over such lands resulting from the enactment of this Act shall not constitute a ground for the denial of renewal or reissuance of such authorization.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Clerk read as follows:

Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The exterior boundaries of the Talladega National Forest is hereby modified to include the following described lands:

Huntsville Meridian, Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Section 34, NE¼, SW¼, and S½NW¼, Cleburne County, containing 339.40 acres, more or less.

Huntsville Meridian, Township 13 South, Range 9 East, Section 28, SE¼, Calhoun County, containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands described under subsection (a) are hereby added to and shall be administered as part of the Talladega National Forest, and the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer, without reimbursement, administrative jurisdiction over such lands to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the validity of or the terms and conditions of any existing right-of-way, easement, lease, license, or permit on lands transferred by subsection (a), except that such lands shall be administered by the Forest Service. Reissuance of any authorization shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applying to the Forest Service, and the change of jurisdiction over such lands resulting from the enactment of this Act shall not constitute a ground for the denial of renewal or reissuance of such authorization.

Mr. EMERSON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. THURMAN (at the request of GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness in the family.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, August 3, 1995, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1298. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of a memorandum of justification for Presidential determination on drawdown of Department of Defense articles and services to the United Nations for purposes of supporting the rapid reaction force [RRF], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2348a; to the Committee on International Relations.

1299. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 11-126, "Motor Vehicle Rental Company Amendment Act of 1995," pursuant to D.C. Code, section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

1300. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting a copy of a report entitled "Cost/Benefit Analysis of Radar Installations at Joint-Use Military Airports and Radar Coverage at Cheyenne, Wyoming, Airport," pursuant to Public Law 103-305, section 524 (108 Stat. 1603); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1301. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting the department's report on the implementation of the aircraft cabin air quality research program, pursuant to Public Law 103-305, section 304(e)(1) (108 Stat. 1592); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1302. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, transmitting the Administration's report on aviation safety inspector staffing requirements for fiscal years 1995, 1996, and 1997, pursuant to Public Law 102-581, section 121 (106 Stat. 4884); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.