

proceed to designate the Clarion River despite the fact that the wild and scenic river study that this House authorized in the 102d Congress has not been completed. However, we had favorable testimony on this proposal from the administration, the bill's sponsor, and the local community. That being the case we will not object H.R. 3568, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], the author of the legislation.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here today and to rise in support of H.R. 3568—a bill to designate 51.7 miles of the Clarion River—located in Pennsylvania—as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This effort started 4 years ago when the Clarion River became eligible for study by direction of Public Law 102-271 which conveyed a wild and scenic designation upon the Allegheny River.

In March of this year, the Forest Service determined after lengthy analysis that 51.7 miles of the Clarion River contain outstanding scenic and recreational values of regional significance. Mr. Speaker, while I do not share the professional expertise of those who made this determination, I can attest to the fact that the eligible corridor is indeed a natural and beautiful environmental treasure.

The Clarion River corridor is located in the unglaciated Allegheny plateau, is free flowing and relatively slow moving. For that reason, more than 130,000 people have floated on the Clarion River in 1995. In fact, one of my staff members had the opportunity to float the river this summer during celebration of Pennsylvania Rivers Month during which the Clarion River was recognized.

Apart from the Clarion River's recreational value—which winds its way through the Allegheny National Forest—its hallmark is its beauty and serenity. I strongly believe that such a unique natural resource—especially in the eastern United States—should be preserved and protected for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

And judging from the communication that I have had with the residents of the area over the past 4 years, they overwhelmingly agree. During hearings on H.R. 3568 before Chairman HANSEN's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands, we heard positive testimony from two residents of the Clarion area—one private landowner and one travel and tourism representative.

The testimony of Ms. Kimberly Miller, a landowner herself and a self-described caretaker of the land, was especially important considering her property along the corridor has been in family ownership since 1883.

Another Pennsylvania resident came to the Capitol for the hearing last July

to tell the subcommittee about the economic benefit that will follow designation of the corridor. Mr. David Morris, executive director of a regional visitors bureau, stated that according to the U.S. Travel Data Center, more than \$127 million are spent annually by visitors to the Clarion area. This translates into some 1,700 jobs and over \$3 million in local tax receipts—jobs and revenue that might well be lost in the future if the extraordinary recreational values of the river became degraded.

Despite the many positive comments I received about H.R. 3568, and the outpouring of public support that fueled this effort from the start, that's not to say reservations have not been voiced, but the critics have been few and largely limited to those who oppose any designation under the act on philosophical grounds.

It has been my goal since the inception of this project to maintain an open dialog with any and all interested parties. Pending passage of this measure, drafting of the management plan for the river will be developed with the same goal in mind: to achieve consensus among local, State, and Federal agencies along with the interests of private citizens.

I believe it's important to note that H.R. 3568 does not contain any unfunded mandates; does not permit the Government to acquire land through condemnation since more than 50 percent of the land is publicly owned; and would merely require the continuation of a requirement to submit new permit applications for projects on public lands to be reviewed by the responsible State or Federal agency. This has already been the case since 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I want to very gratefully thank all of my Pennsylvania colleagues—Republican and Democrat—who lent their support to this effort, including 15 Pennsylvania House Members and both of our Members from the other body—who introduced companion legislation in the Senate. Their cosponsorship is testimony to the fact that preservation of our national resources is an issue that knows no boundaries—congressional or otherwise.

I believe the words spoken by one of my constituents best capture the sentiment and commitment by residents to see the successful conclusion of this effort, as part of our national infrastructure, this employer will not relocate for warmer weather or for less expensive labor as some other industries have done. The Clarion is part of us and is here as long as we are.

So, Mr. Speaker, in the waning days of the 104th Congress—which brings to a close my career as a Member of this House—it's a great opportunity to consider and pass this legislation which means so much to the people who have sent me back to Washington for the past 18 years. While I have been fortunate to guide many very important reform measures through the House this year, H.R. 3568 allowed me to work hand in hand with the citizens who are

passionate about preserving our local resources for the benefit of fellow Pennsylvanians and all Americans.

With that, I want to thank Chairman YOUNG and Chairman HANSEN for their support over the past months in bringing this measure to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I also express my appreciation to the gentleman from American Samoa for his willingness to also support the legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I certainly would like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania who is the chief sponsor of this legislation and am most appreciative of his comments. We do not have any additional speakers, but I want to say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania that hopefully sometime in the future I look forward to visiting the Clarion Wild River and perhaps even asking other Members.

I can say also to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, we have a very sensitive appreciation of what it means to try to pass legislation for not 1 year, not for 2 years, 3 years, but for 4 years. Sometimes our friends from downtown are not exactly very cooperative of some of the things that we here as Members have tried to do in formulating pieces of legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend again the gentleman from Pennsylvania for bringing this piece of legislation to the floor and having the sense of bipartisanship and support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3568.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2200

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

WEKIVA RIVER, SEMINOLE CREEK, AND ROCK SPRINGS RUN, FL, NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM STUDY

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 3155) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating the Wekiva River, Seminole Creek, and Rock Springs Run in the State of Florida for study and potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3155

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION.

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“() WEKIVA RIVER, FLORIDA.—(A) The entire river.

“(B) The Seminole Creek tributary.

“(C) The Rock Springs Run tributary.”.

SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT.

Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“() The study of the Wekiva River and the tributaries designated in paragraph () of subsection (a) shall be completed and the report transmitted to Congress not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial bill, introduced by our colleague, Mr. MCCOLLUM, which authorizes the administration to conduct a study to determine if the Wekiva River in Florida should be designated for protection under the Wild and Scenic River Act. The river has rich biological diversity, and is already protected under Florida State law. The State of Florida supports protection of this river so strongly that it has already acquired 20,000 acres for preservation purposes along its shores. This legislation will enhance efforts already undertaken at the State and local level.

The legislation is supported by the administration which has been listed on the National Park Service's nationwide river inventory for potential study.

The bill directs the administration to complete their study in 2 years. The administration normally takes 3 years to complete wild and scenic river studies, but in this case, where so much is known about the river, that length of time is unnecessary. I know of no objections to this legislation and encourage all Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3155 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating the Wekiva River and its tributaries in the State of Florida for study and potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The administration testified in favor of the measure and we also understand that there is local support for such a study. The information to be gained from such a study should be helpful in providing for the care and use of these river resources. As such we have no objection to H.R. 3155, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

I want to commend the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] for introducing this bill and again thank members of the Committee from both sides of the aisle for their support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that this bill directs the administration to complete their study in 2 years. The administration normally takes 3 years to complete wild and scenic river studies, but in this case there is so much known about this river the length of time is unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM], the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are now considering H.R. 3155, a bill to designate the Wekiva River, Seminole Creek, and Rock Springs Run in central Florida for study and potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Naturally, I think this is a good bill and would like to express my gratitude for the work done by the Committee on Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands. I would like to personally thank my good friends and colleagues Chairman YOUNG and Chairman HANSEN, as well as their knowledgeable, helpful staff for their efforts.

The Wekiva River Basin provides historical, recreational, and educational opportunities for residents and visitors. The area is rich in natural resources, and once provided a home for prehistoric inhabitants. Eleven archaeological sites associated with various Native American cultures have been identified. The location of the Wekiva River also allows for the study of a diverse ecosystem and hosts a variety of flora and fauna, including several threatened species such as the West Indian manatee, the American bald eagle, and the Florida black bear. The Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run are also host to over 300,000 visitors a year. The river and the springs which feed into the basin provide visitors with opportunities for canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding along nature trails.

I am sure that the Wekiva more than qualifies for the designation of a National Wild and Scenic River. As someone who literally lives down the street from the river, I can personally attest to its delicate beauty and value that should be preserved. The river and its major tributaries are already designated as Outstanding Florida Waters and a State Wild and Scenic River, and the State of Florida has identified the land around the Wekiva as a priority for preservation. A national designation, should it follow after the study, would prohibit Federal agencies from altering, or granting a permit to alter, the natural flow of the river. These protections would ensure that the river remains a source of enjoyment and education for future generations.

Additionally, a Federal designation would be consistent with State policy, which has already recognized the importance of this river. The Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has said that passage of this legislation would be a “great example of local, State, and Federal governments, environmental organizations, and community leaders partnering for increased protection of one Florida's greatest nature treasures.”

Mr. Speaker, my bill has bipartisan support, and I have received assurances that the appropriate State agencies will work with the Department of the Interior to help expedite this study as much as possible. I believe the time has come for the Federal Government to consider making one of central Florida's treasures, the Wekiva River, a National Wild and Scenic River. I urge an “aye” vote.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA].

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] as a cosponsor of this legislation, and I want to salute his leadership. Mr. MCCOLLUM had the opportunity to represent this area before I came to Congress, and now, as my colleagues heard, lives close to the Wekiva River, and he has taken this step which really will do two things: first, the scenic designation which is so important; and also a second step will be to allow us to review what is going on with this river to see that it can be preserved and restored if necessary, for future generations.

So this is a piece of legislation that has a great deal of meaning for the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] and also myself. I am privileged to represent the 7th Congressional District of Florida, and that is the great growing area from Orlando to Daytona Beach which is just mushrooming since I was elected to Congress. We have two new cities in my district just in 3-plus years. So this area is being encroached upon by development and by other factors, and we do need to take a close

look at what we are doing in this natural reserve and preserve area.

I am also pleased and want to thank particularly Secretary Babbitt, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. REGULA, Senator MACK, and others who have assisted us in trying to connect the Ocala National Forest with the Wekiva Estate Park and acquire 18,000 acres along this area. This Congress has done more than anyone in the history that I know of, of the State or the Congress, in preserving that area which will connect the national forests with the State park and also with the scenic designation do a great deal in preserving an incredibly beautiful area for future generations.

So again I am pleased to join the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM]. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this and others, and I urge my colleagues to pass this very productive legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] for his comments, and also as the chief sponsor of this piece of legislation. I am sure that the good residents of his district as well as the good people of Florida will benefit from this piece of legislation when it is passed.

Again in the spirit of bipartisanship on this committee I would like to thank him, and certainly also the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] for his support, and again I ask my colleagues that we support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3155, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3497) to expand the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3497

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Snoqualmie National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Certain private lands in the State of Washington presently owned by Weyerhaeuser Company and others are located adjacent to the Snoqualmie National Forest and are logical extensions of the forest.

(2) A boundary adjustment will facilitate a land exchange which involves approximately 7,200 acres of National Forest land and 33,000 acres of private land owned by Weyerhaeuser Company, of which 6,278 acres are outside the present Snoqualmie National Forest boundary.

(3) Weyerhaeuser Company and the Forest Service are prepared to exchange these lands, which will benefit both the United States and Weyerhaeuser by consolidating their respective land-ownership holdings and providing reduced costs for each party to implement their land management objectives, providing an opportunity to implement more effective ecosystem based management, providing increased recreation opportunities for the American public, providing enhanced fish and wildlife habitat protection, and supporting the "Mountains-to-the Sound" goal of a continuous greenway between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to modify the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to include and encompass 10,589.47 acres, more or less, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Snoqualmie National Forest Proposed 1996 Boundary Modification" dated July 1, 1996. Such map, together with a legal description of all lands included in the boundary adjustment, shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington, District of Columbia.

(b) RULE FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For the purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460f-9), the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest, as modified pursuant to subsection (a), shall be considered to be the boundary of that National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN].

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HANSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3497, introduced by Ms. DUNN of Washington. This legislation modifies the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to facilitate a land exchange. It is needed because approximately 6,300 acres of land that would be exchanged to the Government is outside the national forest

boundary. H.R. 3497 is a bipartisan bill, introduced by the entire Washington delegation, and it has support from the administration and the public.

The land exchange has been 12 years in the making. It is the result of a collaborative effort between the Sierra Club's Checkerboard Project and the Weyerhaeuser Co. The Forest Service will exchange approximately 7,200 acres of national forest land for 33,000 acres of private lands owned by the Weyerhaeuser Co. The exchange is based on equal values of land and timber.

In addition to the trade, the agreement will result in a substantial donation of land from Weyerhaeuser to the Forest Service, including approximately 900 acres which will be added to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Since 1991, surveys of the land and timber resources have been completed, and the biological, archaeological and wetland resources on the two ownerships have been thoroughly studied. In July, 1996, the Forest Service completed a draft environmental impact statement [EIS] for the land exchange and requested public comment on the proposal. Three public meetings were held to discuss the land exchange and the draft EIS. Once a final EIS and record of decision are completed, H.R. 3497 will provide the authority the Forest Service needs to acquire the lands that lie outside the current forest boundary.

I commend my colleague, Ms. DUNN, for her leadership on this excellent measure. The environment and the people of the Puget Sound region will benefit as a result. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and vote with in favor of H.R. 3497.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any problems with this legislation, H.R. 3497. The bill would alter the boundaries of a national forest in the State of Washington to facilitate a land exchange that appears to be in the public interest. I understand the bill has the support of the various interested parties and I have no obligation to the legislation.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3497, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.