

Raggeds Wilderness area just west of the town of Marble in Colorado. The encroachment consists of approximately 400 feet of power line and 400 feet of road. In addition, portions of four subdivision lots extend into this wilderness. The road is a county road and provides the sole legal access to the four lots. The entire encroachment is less than 1 acre of land.

The Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service surveys found that the original survey of the Crystal Meadows subdivision was erroneous. Although less than 1 acre is affected, the Forest Service cannot settle the matter under the authority of the Small Tracts Act because the lands in question are within the Raggeds Wilderness. The wilderness boundary may only be modified by an act of Congress.

H.R. 1019 follows the guidelines established by the Small Tracts Act, Public Law 97-465. The bill is noncontroversial, Mr. Speaker, and I urge its passage.

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, this is the first of four national forest bills on the floor today which are sponsored by our Republican members. Along with other Democratic members of the Committee on Resources, I am pleased to support this legislation introduced by the gentleman from Colorado. This bill would correct an erroneous land survey which has resulted in the encroachment of 1 acre of private land on the Raggeds Wilderness area in the White River National Forest. The legislation is without controversy, and it is supported by the administration. A similar bill passed the House in the last Congress. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation of the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. McINNIS].

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. McINNIS].

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1019. I would also like to comment briefly on H.R. 1020, but prior to that I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH], subcommittee chairman, for rapidly moving this legislation forward. I would also like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa for his courtesies and support in regard to H.R. 1019.

Briefly on H.R. 1020, that is also a noncontroversial issue and ties into this. It adjusts the boundary of the White River National Forest to include all the National Forest System Lands within Summit County, CO, which are currently part of the Arapaho National

Forest, being the Dillon Ranger District. The White River National Forest has administered these lands for a number of years. Therefore, the inclusion of the Dillon Ranger District within the White River National Forest will more accurately depict the administration of these lands. Furthermore, the inclusion should reduce confusion within the general public as to who administers the Dillon Ranger District. The legislation will not alter the current distribution of forest receipts to the affected county governments. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and again H.R. 1019, once again expressing my appreciation.

□ 1515

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. DELAHUNT], my good friend, who unfortunately, because of a traffic jam, was unable to deliver his statements in support of the previous legislation.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of House Resolution 1019 offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. McINNIS], and I support that and I commend his efforts. I would also like to speak, Mr. Speaker, to House bill 1420.

Mr. Speaker, when President Theodore Roosevelt established the first wildlife refuge in Florida 94 years ago, he could have hardly imagined a national system of 500 refuges covering 93 million acres. Today we have an opportunity to make a genuine contribution to this remarkable legacy of wildlife conservation and management.

It is in that spirit that I do support enthusiastically House Resolution 1420, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The chairman and ranking member have worked together to craft a bill for consideration by the full House that fulfills the conservation objective and ensures the future biological integrity of our refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased to offer my support of this legislation because of the important role in building that legacy played by my predecessor in this Chamber, former Congressman Gerry Studds. As chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Mr. Studds fought tenaciously for species large and small, beautiful and not so beautiful, endangered and common alike. Legacies are not historical relics. Like the species that inhabit our refuge, they survive only if they prosper and evolve.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us explicitly encourages the Fish and Wildlife Service to pursue partnerships with local communities, States, private and nonprofit groups. It is precisely such a partnership that has characterized our progress toward one of the newest additions to the refuge system in Mashpee on Cape Cod, home to over 180 migratory fish and bird species.

Like so many others across the country, the Mashpee Refuge has value even

beyond its statutory objectives, in this case in safeguarding the quality and quantity of the area's fragile water resources. This imperative has become particularly acute with recent findings that pollution emanating from a nearby military reservation is seriously contaminating groundwater and jeopardizing future drinking water supplies.

For all these reasons, I can think of no better way to honor the work of Mr. Studds and others who have advanced these objectives than to fulfill the Federal commitment by completing acquisition of the final 325-acre tract of the Mashpee Refuge, and to enact H.R. 420 into law.

Mr. Speaker, this bill draws on historic bipartisan support for the basic mission of the refuge system and makes adjustments that keep this refuge system alive and viable, and I urge my colleagues to join me in helping the House to pass it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. DELAHUNT] for his fine statements.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1019.

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.

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1020) to adjust the boundary of the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado to include all National Forest System lands within Summit County, CO, which are currently part of the Dillon Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1020

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

SECTION 1. INCLUSION OF DILLON RANGER DISTRICT IN WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.—

(1) WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST.—The boundary of the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado is hereby adjusted to include all National Forest System lands located in Summit County, Colorado, such lands forming the Dillon Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest. The Dillon Ranger District is hereby made a part of the White River National Forest.

(2) ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST.—The boundary of the Arapaho National Forest is hereby

adjusted to exclude the National Forest System lands included in the White River National Forest under paragraph (1).

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference to the Dillon Ranger District, Arapaho National Forest, in any existing statute, regulation, manual, handbook, or otherwise shall be deemed to be a reference to the Dillon District, White River National Forest.

(c) EXISTING RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect valid existing rights of persons holding any authorization, permit, option, or other form of contract existing on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) FOREST RECEIPTS.—Notwithstanding the distribution requirements of payments under the Act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260; 16 U.S.C. 500), the distribution of receipts from the Arapaho National Forest and the White River National Forest to affected county governments shall be based upon the National Forest boundaries that existed on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1020 adjusts the boundaries of the White River National Forest to include all national forest system lands within Summit County, CO, which are currently part of the Dillon Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest. The White River National Forest has administered these lands for a number of years, and therefore the inclusion of the Dillon Ranger District within the White River Forest will more accurately depict the proper administration of these lands. Furthermore, the inclusion should reduce confusion within the general public as to who administers the Dillon Ranger District. The legislation will not alter the current distribution of forest receipts to the affected county governments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is non-controversial, and I urge its passage.

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, as explained by the gentlewoman from Idaho, this bill adjusts the boundary of the White River National Forest to include lands which are currently part of the Dillon Ranger District of Arapaho National Forest. It is my understanding that the administration's earlier concerns about the language preserving the current distribution of forest receipts have been resolved and that there is no further objection by the administration on this bill.

This legislation again is sponsored by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr.

MCINNIS], and I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1020.

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.

FACILITATING THE SALE OF CERTAIN LAND IN TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1439) to facilitate the sale of certain land in Tahoe National Forest in the State of California to Placer County, CA, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1439

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) SALE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to all valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture may sell to Placer County, California (in this section referred to as the "County"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, consisting of approximately 35 acres located in Tahoe National Forest in the State of California to permit the County to create a community park in Squaw Valley.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) is generally depicted on a map entitled "Placer County Conveyance", dated April 1997, which shall be available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Secretary. The map and attached approximate legal description are subject to adjustment by survey. The cost of any such survey shall be borne by the County.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the conveyed parcel, as determined in conformance with the document entitled "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions (1992)". The proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; commonly known as the Sisk Act) and shall be available for expenditure in accordance with such Act.

(d) EXISTING USES.—As a condition on the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall agree to provide for continuation of any existing non-Federal improvements or uses on the conveyed parcel for the remainder of the terms of the existing authorizations.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1439 introduced by the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] of the committee authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell 35 acres in the Tahoe National Forest to Placer County, CA, for the purpose of creating a community park in Squaw Valley.

The site is located at the southwest and northwest corners of Squaw Valley Road and Highway 89.

Now this area stands out as the only feasible location to accommodate the various interests. Placer County believes that this legislation is needed to streamline the acquisition process and thus save thousands of dollars for the county and for the Forest Service.

There is substantial support for the park and the community, and the Placer County Parks Commission has allocated over \$250,000 for acquisition and development of this park. Currently there are no public parks in Squaw Valley, and the nearest park facilities are located in Tahoe City, which is approximately 10 miles away.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this legislation.

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, this piece of legislation was introduced by the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE], and the bill is intended to facilitate the sale of about 35 acres of Federal land in the Tahoe National Forest in California, Placer County. The prospective purchaser intends to use the property for a public park.

The Forest Service has the authority to sell this land under current law and testified that the bill is unnecessary, but the legislation serves the purpose of highlighting this as a priority matter for Forest Service attention. It does not, however, alter the responsibility of the purchaser to pay fair market value for the land.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation introduced by the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE].

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA].

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