

National Park Service to study the Lamprey River in New Hampshire to determine what portion of the river might be eligible for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

In 1995, the National Park Service concluded that a little more than 23 miles met the requirements for such designation. However, at the time, there was local support for designating only 11½ miles of the river. As a result, in 1996, Congress abided by the wishes of the local community and designated only the 11.5-mile segment.

Just 3 years later, the designation is so popular in those areas which have it and the programs which grow out of this Wild and Scenic River designation are so successful that those communities where support was once lacking have now voted overwhelmingly to have their segment of the river included. H.R. 1615 would add the additional 12-mile segment to the portion of the Lamprey that is already designated a Wild and Scenic River.

Mr. Speaker, there are two very important things to note here. In designating the Lamprey, the National Park Service and the Congress have been very careful to listen to the wishes of the local communities and to abide by them. In addition, contrary to the views offered by critics of this program, when local communities have an opportunity to see firsthand the positive effects of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, they cannot wait to be included.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill that has bipartisan support, and we urge our colleagues to support H.R. 1615.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1615, the Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Extension Act. This legislation seeks to fulfill the original intent of the 1996 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act by incorporating a 12-mile river segment that runs through the Town of Epping, New Hampshire, under the Lamprey River's existing Wild and Scenic designation. H.R. 1615 helps to put the finishing touch on a 29-year effort to protect the Lamprey as a valuable and historic natural resource.

The Lamprey is located in the southeast region of our State and continues to be among New Hampshire's important tributaries.

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As one of only two rivers to achieve Wild and Scenic status, it spans 60 miles and flows through six communities before emptying into the Seacoast Great Bay Estuarine Reserve. Over 300 species of plants and 150 species of birds inhabit its river banks as

well as its neighboring marshes and forests, providing a diverse and scenic landscape. The Lamprey is also host to a large quantity of anadromous fish throughout the Great Bay watershed, which include Atlantic salmon, American shad, herring and sea Lamprey as well.

Apart from its impressive ecology, the Lamprey has long been a popular recreational resource for swimming, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing. The watershed region also houses several historically significant sites including the Wiswall Dam, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Realizing the importance of the Lamprey as both a natural and economic resource, several organizations and local entities have collaborated in efforts to ensure its stability and long-term preservation. For years, the towns of Durham, Epping, Lee and Newmarket have worked with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to ensure the safekeeping and quality of the Lamprey River. They have been joined by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, the Stafford Regional Planning Commission and New Hampshire Fish and Game as well to ensure common-sense, local approaches to conservation. The coalition's hard work has led to State efforts to safeguard the river under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, and ultimately the 1996 Wild and Scenic River designation of the 11.5 mile portion of the Lamprey in Durham, Lee and Newmarket.

Most notably, the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, whose members are nominated by each town in the area and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, has made significant strides in preserving and protecting the integrity of the Lamprey by implementing this river management plan. Two years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with the members of the committee, touring the river's many scenic areas and historic sites and surveying some of the projects upon which the organization has focused its efforts.

Although the National Park Service determined in 1995 that Epping's portion of the Lamprey met the criteria of eligibility for the Wild and Scenic designation, the town opted to wait until the initiative received broad based local support through a town meeting and vote. Last March, with the backing of the Board of Selectmen and the local conservation commission, the citizens of Epping voted by a large margin in support of the expanded Wild and Scenic River designation. At their request, I have introduced H.R. 1615 to enable this community of over 5,000 to build upon the success of the original Lamprey designation and to ensure the continued integrity of this important historic tributary.

Again, I want to thank the members of the committee for their support in

moving this legislation forward. I urge the passage of H.R. 1615.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1615.

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.

WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1665) to allow the National Park Service to acquire certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia, as previously authorized by law, by purchase or exchange as well as by donation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1665

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

SECTION 1. ADDITION TO WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

(a) REMOVAL OF CONDITION ON BATTLEFIELD ADDITION.—Section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 102-541 (16 U.S.C. 425k note; 106 Stat. 3565) is amended by striking “; Provided,” and all that follows through “Interior”.

(b) AUTHORIZED METHODS OF ACQUISITION.—

(1) LIMITATIONS ON ACQUISITION METHODS.—Section 3(a) of Public Law 101-214 (16 U.S.C. 4251(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The lands designated ‘P04-04’ on the map referred to in section 2(a) numbered 326-40072E/89/A and dated September 1990 may be acquired only by donation, and the lands designated ‘P04-01’, ‘P04-02’, and ‘P04-03’ on such map may be acquired only by donation, purchase from willing sellers, or exchange.”.

(2) REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON ACQUISITION OF ADDITION.—Section 2 of Public Law 102-541 (16 U.S.C. 425k note; 106 Stat. 3565) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 2(a) of Public Law 101-214 (16 U.S.C. 425k(a)) is amended by striking “Spotsylvania” and inserting “Spotsylvania”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1665, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN). The gentleman from Virginia has worked hard on this bill which will help the National Park Service protect additional Civil War battlefield land. H.R. 1665 allows the Park Service to acquire certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia by purchase or exchange as well as donation. Currently, the Park Service can acquire land only by donation, thereby preventing landowners from disposing of property the Park Service desires to include in the battlefield boundaries. Recently, however, the owners of three tracts of land have expressed their desire to dispose of property to the Park Service which is within the boundaries of the battlefield. Enactment of H.R. 1665 would allow the Park Service to acquire this land.

Mr. Speaker, an amendment was accepted at the subcommittee consideration of this bill which makes it clear that disposal of the land by purchase will only be from willing sellers. This bill now has wide bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1665.

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1665, and I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) for his initiative.

Mr. Speaker, on May 5 and May 6, 1864, Union troops, under their newly promoted overall commander, Ulysses S. Grant, fought a costly battle against Confederate troops, under Robert E. Lee, in an area of northern Virginia called the Wilderness. Despite a bloody flank attack by troops under General Longstreet, the Union soldiers held out and eventually won the battle of the Wilderness.

The Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefield Memorial National Military Park was established in 1927 to preserve the area and to commemorate the battle which took place there. The park includes a national cemetery and portions of four Civil War battlefields, but approximately 525 acres of the Wilderness Battlefield, including the site of Longstreet's attack, are not included in the park. Congress expanded the park's boundaries to include the Wilderness Battlefield in 1992 but authorized the National Park Service to acquire the land by donation

only. Unfortunately, the owners of the property have declined to donate the lands.

H.R. 1665 would authorize the National Park Service to acquire the 525 acres through purchase or exchange as well as donation. Since adding these lands to the park is already authorized, H.R. 1665 simply expands the mechanisms available to the NPS for accomplishing this goal.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill. It has bipartisan support. We urge our colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN).

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

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and the gentleman from Puerto Rico for their support of this measure. I also want to express my sincere thanks to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, for expeditiously moving this legislation through his committee and the full Committee on Resources.

I introduced this legislation that we are considering today because I feel strongly that the National Park Service should perpetuate the longstanding goal of preserving Civil War battlefields where events occurred that are dramatic, tragic and bold. The preservation of these lands is critical to conveying the human struggle and tactical components of battle that marked a watershed change in the nature of combat during the Civil War. This bill, H.R. 1665, as was said, would permit the Park Service to buy several tracts of land in the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park that embody these themes.

Before I outline the substance of H.R. 1665, let me touch on the historical significance of the land that will be protected. These three tracts, totaling 532 acres, comprise the area covered by Confederate General Longstreet's flank attack and other events associated with the Battle of the Wilderness. This ground bore witness to one of the most decisive attacks launched by the Confederates during the war in Virginia. It also marked the beginning of the end of the Confederate war effort.

On the morning of May 6, 1864, massive Union attacks pummeled Confederate lines in this area to the point of collapse. Only the timely arrival of General James Longstreet's First Corps of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia prevented total disaster. As Longstreet's troops arrived at the Widow Tapp Farm, west of the tracts in question here, the general threw them into the fight piecemeal, stopping the Union assaults, and even pushing the Federals back several hundred yards. At midmorning, Longstreet conceived the idea of a surprise counter-

attack against the Union left. Using the unfinished railroad, which borders the tracts in question on the south, as cover, Confederate troops formed unseen opposite the Union left. By 11 a.m., all was ready.

Ripping their way through thickets and underbrush, Confederate troops on a front more than a quarter-mile long thundered northward into the flank of the Union line. The Federals offered brief resistance, but then their lines collapsed. The momentum of the Confederate attack carried gray-clad troops all the way to the Orange Plank Road. There, disaster struck. Confederate General Longstreet was caught in a Confederate volley and fell gravely wounded only a few miles from where, a year before, Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded by Confederate troops. With that devastating blow, the Confederate attack lost momentum.

But the Federal lines had been ruined. Never again would they threaten the Confederates in the Wilderness. And indeed later that day, the Confederates would resume the attacks and push the Union lines to the edge of disaster. Later that day, woods on these lands would take fire, consuming wounded and dead alike. The fires of the Wilderness would become the signature horror of two of America's most horrific days.

As Members can see, this stretch of land is a key component which will serve to complete the Wilderness Battlefield, ensuring our heritage for generations to come. The vast majority of this land is currently owned by developers. This spring, the prospective developers of this land offered a 3-year window for the government to acquire the tracts. After 3 years, they intend to move forward with development. Recognizing the need to preserve this land, legislation was passed in the 102nd Congress to allow the Park Service to acquire the land by donation. Since the early 1990s, this tract has been the object of intense efforts by nonprofit organizations, all of which have failed to preserve the tract.

I introduced H.R. 1665 because we are running out of time to save this battlefield from being lost forever. H.R. 1665 would permit the Park Service to buy the land which is already within the authorized boundary of the park. The Park Service, which supports H.R. 1665, has worked cooperatively with the owners of the land and the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors to protect the land for several years. Once the Park Service has been given legal authorization to acquire the land, they will enter into negotiations with the developers and other landowners to determine the price to be paid to buy the land. The language in this part of the bill prescribes that acquisition of these tracts of land will be from willing sellers only.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being given the opportunity to discuss my efforts to save this historically significant

battlefield. Alternatives to Federal acquisition have been exhausted. Congress and the National Park Service must act to acquire the Longstreet Flank Attack site. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1665.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from Virginia for his hard work to preserve this historic site. I am slightly surprised that he did not refer to our great Civil War as the "War of Northern Aggression."

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1665, 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.

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 748) to amend the Act that established the Keweenaw National Historical Park to require the Secretary of the Interior to consider nominees of various local interests in appointing members of the Keweenaw National Historical Parks Advisory Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 748

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

SECTION 1. APPOINTMENTS TO KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Section 9(c)(1) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Keweenaw National Historical Park, and for other purposes" (Public Law 102-543; 16 U.S.C. 410yy-8(c)(1)) is amended by striking "from nominees" each place it appears and inserting "after consideration of nominees".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 748, introduced by the gentleman from

Michigan (Mr. STUPAK). H.R. 748 is a simple yet necessary bill that amends the Keweenaw National Historical Park Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to consider nominees of various local interests in appointing members of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission.

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The existing statute establishing the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission states that members shall be appointed from nominees submitted by various local government entities. Apparently this has raised constitutional concerns as the statute directs the Secretary of the Interior to appoint to the commission persons nominated by State and local officials. The Department of Justice has stated that this procedure does not satisfy the requirements imposed by the appointments clause for Federal officers. H.R. 748 addresses these constitutional concerns by striking from nominees each place it appears and inserting after consideration of nominees.

This bill has the support of the administration and minority, and I urge my colleagues also to support H.R. 748.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 748 submitted by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK). The Keweenaw National Historical Park is located on the Keweenaw peninsula of Lake Superior in northeastern Michigan. The park was established in 1992 to preserve the area's rich copper mining history as well as the oldest and largest lava flow on earth. The first time I ever knew that there was any volcano in America.

The original legislation authorizing the park specified that the Secretary of the Interior was to appoint members of the park's advisory commission from among individuals nominated by State and local officials only. The Department of Justice found that such a restriction on the Secretary's authority conflicted with the appointments clause of the Constitution. As a result, the commission has never been assembled, and H.R. 748 would amend the authorizing statute to alter the terms under which the Secretary may nominate advisory committee members. The legislation makes clear that while the Secretary must consider State and local nominees, he may appoint commission members at will. Such a change would allow the commission to begin fulfilling its important role as a means of local input and coordination for this important park. This has bipartisan support, Mr. Speaker, and we urge our colleagues to support H.R. 748.

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today, H.R. 748, is a noncontroversial measure that will simply make a technical correction to the act that established the Keweenaw National Historic Park. Although this measure might be considered insignificant when compared with many of the other pieces of legislation considered in this body, H.R. 748 is very important to the people, the culture, and the history of Michigan's upper peninsula and especially to the Keweenaw peninsula. H.R. 748 would facilitate the appointment of the Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory Commission for this park located in my district. This correction will help the commission assume a greater role in the development of the park.

The Keweenaw peninsula at one time, Mr. Speaker, was a flourishing economic region in the center for copper mining. This remarkable copper mining history is matched by the extensive commercial fishing and maritime history of the massive Lake Superior which surrounds the peninsula. The splendor and the people of the Keweenaw peninsula rival many, if not most, of the national parks and monuments throughout our Nation.

I wish to thank the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the ranking Democratic member, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) for expediting the consideration of this legislation. I also want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the ranking subcommittee Democrat, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) the resident commissioner for Puerto Rico for their assistance.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 748 is very important to the future of the Keweenaw peninsula and the preservation of its rich and extensive history, and I wish to thank my colleagues for their support of this measure.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 748, 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Act