

The bill before us today represents a compromise between the House and the Senate. It is important that we pass this legislation today and protect America's fisheries from this terrible practice.

The Shark Finning Prohibition Act bans the wasteful practice of removing a shark's fins and discard the remainder of the shark into the ocean.

The next step in this process is to act internationally. The bill directs the Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce to work to stop the global shark fin trade. This will require the active engagement of more than 100 countries, and reduction in the demand for shark fins and other shark products. As my resolution from last year stressed, international measures are a critical component of achieving effective shark conservation.

Finally, the bill authorizes a Western Pacific longline fisheries cooperative research program to provide information for shark stock assessments. This includes identifying fishing gear and practices that prevent or minimize incidental catch of sharks and ensure maximum survivorship of released sharks and providing data on the international shark fin trade. This important provision was included at the request of the Senate and represents the best form of compromise and action.

The United States has always been a leader in fisheries conservation and management. This legislation provides us the opportunity to stand on the world stage and demand that other countries take action to stop this wasteful and unsportsmanlike practice.

The Shark Finning Prohibition Act has broad bipartisan support. It is strongly supported by the Ocean Wildlife Campaign, a coalition that includes the Center for Marine Conservation, National Audubon Society, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Wildlife Conservation Society, and the World Wildlife Fund. In addition, it is supported by the State of Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the American Sportfishing Association, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Sportfishing Association of California, the Cousteau Society, and the Western Pacific Fisheries Coalition.

Today, we can act to halt the rampant waste resulting from shark finning and solidify our national opposition to this terrible practice. Vote "yes" on H.R. 5086; vote "yes" to prohibit shark finning.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5086, 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 National Marine Sanctuaries Act to honor Dr. Nancy Foster, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members that it

is not in order to characterize the Senate or its actions or inactions.

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VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN TRAIL BATTLEFIELDS PRESERVATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 710) to authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 710

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vicksburg Campaign Trail Battlefields Preservation Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) there are situated along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail in the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee the sites of several key Civil War battles;

(2) the battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail are collectively of national significance in the history of the Civil War; and

(3) the preservation of those battlefields would vitally contribute to the understanding of the heritage of the United States.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize a feasibility study to determine what measures should be taken to preserve certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CAMPAIGN TRAIL STATE.—The term "Campaign Trail State" means each of the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee, including political subdivisions of those States.

(2) CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD.—The term "Civil War battlefield" includes the following sites (including related structures adjacent to or thereon)—

(A) the battlefields at Helena and Arkansas Post, Arkansas;

(B) Goodrich's Landing near Transylvania, and sites in and around Lake Providence, East Carroll Parish, Louisiana;

(C) the battlefield at Milliken's Bend, Madison Parish, Louisiana;

(D) the route of Grant's march through Louisiana from Milliken's Bend to Hard Times, Madison and Tensas Parishes, Louisiana;

(E) the Winter Quarters at Tensas Parish, Louisiana;

(F) Grant's landing site at Bruinsburg, and the route of Grant's march from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, Claiborne, Hinds, and Warren Counties, Mississippi;

(G) the battlefield at Port Gibson (including Shafer House, Bethel Church, and the ruins of Windsor), Claiborne County, Mississippi;

(H) the battlefield at Grand Gulf, Claiborne County, Mississippi;

(I) the battlefield at Raymond (including Waverly, (the Peyton House)), Hinds County, Mississippi;

(J) the battlefield at Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi;

(K) the Union siege lines around Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi;

(L) the battlefield at Champion Hill (including Coker House), Hinds County, Mississippi;

(M) the battlefield at Big Black River Bridge, Hinds and Warren Counties, Mississippi;

(N) the Union fortifications at Haynes Bluff, Confederate fortifications at Snyder's Bluff, and remnants of Federal exterior lines, Warren County, Mississippi;

(O) the battlefield at Chickasaw Bayou, Warren County, Mississippi;

(P) Pemberton's Headquarters at Warren County, Mississippi;

(Q) the site of actions taken in the Mississippi Delta and Confederate fortifications near Grenada, Grenada County, Mississippi;

(R) the site of the start of Greirson's Raid and other related sites, LaGrange, Tennessee; and

(S) any other sites considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 4. FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after funds are made available for this Act, the Secretary shall complete a feasibility study to determine what measures should be taken to preserve Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail.

(b) COMPONENTS.—In completing the study, the Secretary shall—

(1) review current National Park Service programs, policies and criteria to determine the most appropriate means of ensuring the Civil War battlefields and associated natural, cultural, and historical resources are preserved;

(2) evaluate options for the establishment of a management entity for the Civil War battlefields consisting of a unit of government or a private nonprofit organization that—

(A) administers and manages the Civil War battlefields; and

(B) possesses the legal authority to—

(i) receive Federal funds and funds from other units of government or other organizations for use in managing the Civil War battlefields;

(ii) disburse Federal funds to other units of government or other nonprofit organizations for use in managing the Civil War battlefields;

(iii) enter into agreements with the Federal government, State governments, or other units of government and nonprofit organizations; and

(iv) acquire land or interests in land by gift or devise, by purchase from a willing seller using donated or appropriated funds, or by donation;

(3) make recommendations to the Campaign Trail States for the management, preservation, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Civil War battlefields;

(4) identify appropriate partnerships among Federal, State, and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector, including nonprofit organizations and the organization known as "Friends of the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail", in furtherance of the purposes of this Act; and

(5) recommend methods of ensuring continued local involvement and participation in the management, protection, and development of the Civil War battlefields.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the study under this section, the Secretary shall submit a report describing the findings of the study to—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$1,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 710, introduced by Senator TRENT LOTT from Mississippi, authorizes a feasibility study of the Vicksburg Campaign during the Civil War. The Vicksburg Campaign was one of the most important, decisive events of the Civil War. Vicksburg was the Confederacy's most vital defensive citadel, located on the Mississippi River. Its capture was considered essential to the Union plans to gain control of the Mississippi in 1863.

The fall of Vicksburg effectively split the South in two and gave the North complete control of the Mississippi River.

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Clearly, many of the battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail are of important historical significance and their preservation would contribute to the understanding of the heritage of the United States. Mr. Speaker, S. 710 would authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of many of the Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail to determine what measures should be taken to preserve these historical battlefields.

In addition, this bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a management entity for Civil War battlefields and to acquire funds and lands for use in managing these battlefields.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members of the House to support S. 710.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Alaska has quite properly explained this legislation to direct the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study to explore various options of the preservation of the Vicksburg Campaign Trail, and I urge the support of this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 710.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ISSUE A PATENT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1218) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1218

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of approximately 2.06 acres of land as follows: T.25 N, R.24 E, Montana Prime Meridian, section 27 block 2, school reserve, and section 27, block 3, lot 13.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1218, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District in the State of Montana a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, totaling 2.06 acres.

Landusky is a small agricultural community in north central Montana. An oversight in the original transfer of land from the Bureau of Land Management did not convey the surface and mineral estates on the two lots that the Landusky Elementary School has now occupied for a lengthy period of time. This legislation corrects that oversight.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1218 was introduced on June 14, 1999, by Senator BURNS. A legislative hearing was held where the assistant director of the Bureau of Land Management testified on behalf of the administration in support of the bill with certain amendments.

Today, we take up a bill fully supported by the administration and the other body. The estimated fair market value of the parcels is only \$30,300. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Alaska has quite properly explained the legislation. The administration supports this bill, and we have no objections to it.

S. 1218 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey, without consideration, the surface and subsurface mineral estates of

about two acres of federal land to the Landusky School District, located in Montana.

According to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the school district currently operates and maintains an elementary school and auxiliary school buildings on the land and bears full financial responsibility for the property. The land currently generates no federal receipts, and BLM does not expect the land to generate any significant receipts over the next 10 years.

The administration supports S. 1218. We have no objection to the bill.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. 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 Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1218.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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LAND AROUND THE CASCADE RESERVOIR

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1778) to provide for equal exchanges of land around the Cascade Reservoir.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1778

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

SECTION 1. EXCHANGES OF LAND EXCESS TO CASCADE RESERVOIR RECLAMATION PROJECT.

Section 5 of Public Law 86-92 (73 Stat. 219) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) LAND EXCHANGES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may exchange land of either class described in subsection (a) for non-Federal land of not less than approximately equal value, as determined by an appraisal carried out in accordance with—

“(A) the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.); and

“(B) the publication entitled ‘Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions’, as amended by the Interagency Land Acquisition Conference in consultation with the Department of Justice.

“(2) EQUALIZATION.—If the land exchanged under paragraph (1) is not of equal value, the values shall be equalized by the payment of funds by the Secretary or the grantor, as appropriate, in an amount equal to the amount by which the values of the land differ.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1778 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate