

of the Klamath Project facilities while improving water quality, consistent with the protection of fish and wildlife.

It is important to note that there were severe shortages of water in the Basin this year. However, this was not a drought year. The shortages are symptoms of a much larger problem in the Basin. If a solution is not found soon, a drought could have devastating effects on farmers in the area and on the wildlife that depends upon certain flow levels.

S. 2882 is an extremely important bill to people of the Klamath Basin. I support this measure and urge its immediate passage.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2882.

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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STUDY OF RESOURCES IN SALMON CREEK WATERSHED

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2951) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to investigate opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek watershed of the upper Columbia River.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2951

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

SECTION 1. SALMON CREEK WATERSHED, WASHINGTON, WATER MANAGEMENT STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may conduct a study to investigate the opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek Watershed, a tributary to the Upper Columbia River system, Okanogan County, Washington, so as to restore and enhance fishery resources (especially the endangered Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead), while maintaining or improving the availability of water supplies for irrigation practices vital to the economic well-being of the county.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the study under subsection (a) shall be to derive the benefits of and further the objectives of the comprehensive, independent study commissioned by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Okanogan Irrigation District, which provides a credible basis for pursuing a course of action to simultaneously achieve fish restoration and improved irrigation conservation and efficiency.

(c) COST SHARE.—The Federal Government's cost share for the feasibility study shall not exceed 50 percent.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2951, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to investigate opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek watershed of the upper Columbia River.

The study would allow the Secretary of the Interior to build on an independent study commissioned by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the local irrigation district to restore and enhance fishery resources, especially the endangered Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead, while maintaining or improving the availability of water supplies for irrigation practices.

S. 2951 passed the Senate on October 13. I urge an aye vote.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2951. This legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to investigate opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek watershed of the upper Columbia River. The purpose of the study is to explore ways to improve salmon migration while maintaining irrigation for area farms.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very similar to my legislation passed by the House and Senate earlier this year to study the potential benefits of replacing water currently removed from the Yakima River with water drawn from the Columbia River in order to benefit salmon. These two pieces of legislation highlight our commitment to saving the salmon in Central Washington without tearing down our dams and destroying our way of life. This common sense legislation is a locally derived solution that will greatly improve habitat and salmon survival while respecting historic water rights in my district.

Salmon Creek is a tributary of the Okanogan River in my district in Central Washington. During irrigation season, water is released from the reservoirs to provide water needed by local farms. However, the diversion of the creek waters causes approximately 4.3 miles of Salmon Creek to dry up during the later months of the irrigation season. This creek has historically provided habitat for several threatened and endangered salmon species.

The Okanogan Irrigation District in Okanogan County, Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have worked together to study and develop a series of projects to restore natural fish runs in Salmon Creek while protecting irrigation for over 5000 acres of orchards and farms. As a result of this collaborative effort, the Okanogan Irrigation District and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have developed a proposal that would move the intake system for the Okanogan Irrigation District from Salmon

on Creek to the Okanogan River. These projects, which are frequently referred to as "pump exchanges," allow irrigation districts to terminate withdrawals from over appropriated rivers and streams and secure water from more abundant rivers further downstream from the initial intake point.

This legislation authorizes the study of both the pump exchange and other irrigation improvements that could return as much as 11,000 acre feet of water to Salmon Creek. The bill would limit the federal government's share of the total cost of the feasibility study to 50 percent, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing S. 2951 would cost about \$250,000 in fiscal year 2001. The Administration testified in favor of this legislation during a hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.

This feasibility study offers Okanogan County residents hope for the protection and improvement of what is left of their hard-hit economy. More than 262 jobs have been lost in the Okanogan Basin in recent months due to declines in the forest products industry. Additionally, falling apple prices have resulted in the loss of 80 jobs from the recent closure of an apple packing facility in Tonasket, Washington. This is compounded by the possibility that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will shut down irrigation facilities, as they have elsewhere in my district, due to inadequate stream flow in local rivers and creeks for endangered fish species. As more than 5000 acres of orchards and fields are served by the Okanogan Irrigation District, an irrigation shutdown would be devastating.

Once again, I thank you for this opportunity to express my support for authorizing this essential fish restoration study provided in S. 2951. I commend the Okanogan Irrigation District and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for their proactive approach to restoring salmon and steelhead populations and maintaining water deliveries to irrigators. I urge my colleagues to support this common sense local solution to improve the water resources in Salmon Creek.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2951.

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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AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE RECLAMATION SAFETY OF DAMS ACT OF 1978

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3595) to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Reclamation of Safety of Dams Act of 1978, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3595

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

SECTION 1. INCREASED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE RECLAMATION SAFETY OF DAMS ACT OF 1978.

The Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 is amended—

(1) in section 4 (43 U.S.C. 508)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “or from nonperformance of reasonable and normal maintenance of the structure by the operating entity”;

(B) in subsection (c), by—

(i) inserting after “1984” the following: “and the additional \$380,000,000 further authorized to be appropriated by amendments to that Act in 2000”;

(ii) striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(iii) in the first sentence of paragraph (3), as so redesignated, inserting “irrigation,” after “Costs allocated to the purpose of”, and inserting “without regard to water users’ ability to pay” before the period at the end; and

(C) in subsection (d), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “: Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to expend payments of such reimbursable costs made pursuant to a repayment contract at any time prior to completion of construction”;

(2) in section 5 (43 U.S.C. 509), by—

(A) inserting after “levels” the following: “and, effective October 1, 1997, not to exceed an additional \$380,000,000 (October 1, 2000, price levels)”;

(B) striking “\$750,000” and inserting “\$1,200,000 (October 1, 2000, price levels), plus or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indexes applicable to the types of construction involved herein,”; and

(C) striking “sixty days (which” and all that follows through “day certain)” and inserting “30 calendar days”;

(3) in section 2 (43 U.S.C. 506), by inserting “(a)” before “In order to”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Prior to selecting a Bureau of Reclamation facility for modification, the Secretary shall notify project beneficiaries in writing of such selection and solicit their interest in participating in evaluating the facility for modification. If requested by the project beneficiaries, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, is authorized to negotiate an agreement with project beneficiaries for the cooperative oversight of planning, design, cost containment, procurement, construction, and management of the modifications. Prior to submitting the modification reports required by section 5, the Secretary shall consider, and where appropriate implement, alternatives recommended by project beneficiaries. Within 30 days after receiving such recommendations, the Secretary shall provide to the project beneficiaries a written response detailing proposed actions to address the recommendations. The Secretary’s response to the project beneficiaries shall be included in the modification reports required by section 5.

“(c) Following submission of the reports required by section 5, project beneficiaries who wish to receive regular information concerning the status and costs of modifications shall notify the Secretary in writing. During the construction phase of the modifications, the Secretary shall keep such beneficiaries informed of the costs and status of such modifications. The Secretary shall consider, and where appropriate implement, alternatives recommended by project beneficiaries concerning the cost containment measures and construction management techniques needed to carry out such modifications.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would increase the authorized cost ceiling for the Bureau of Reclamation’s dam safety program. The program is designed to ensure that its facilities operate in a safe and reliable condition to protect the public, property, and natural resources downstream of reclamation structures.

Since the introduction of this bill, members of the Subcommittee on Water and Power have worked to ensure that project beneficiaries are informed of the costs and status of dam safety modifications. This legislation requires the Secretary to provide the costs and the status of the modifications if the project beneficiaries notify the Secretary in writing of their interest in this information.

In addition, the legislation requires the Secretary to consider and, where appropriate, implement containment and construction management techniques and recommendations provided by the project beneficiaries regarding costs.

I urge an aye vote.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. The bill amends the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to increase the authorized cost ceiling for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act by \$380 million.

The bill also makes important changes pertaining to reimbursable costs. The amendment affords local projects beneficiaries an opportunity to negotiate an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, allowing for local participation in the oversight of dam safety project planning, design, cost containment, and other matters.

It should be clearly understood, however, that the public safety responsibilities of the Secretary pursuant to this Act are not diminished or affected in any way by these procedures allowing for full participation by the project beneficiaries.

I urge adoption of this legislation.

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

Mr. GIBBONS. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3595, 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.

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MIWALETA PARK EXPANSION ACT

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1725) to provide for the conveyance by the Bureau of Land Management to Douglas County, Oregon, of a county park and certain adjacent land.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 3, strike out lines 6 through 10 and insert:

(1) IN GENERAL.—After conveyance of land under subsection (a), the County shall manage the land for public park purposes consistent with the plan for expansion of the Miwaleta Park as approved in the Decision Record for Galesville Campground, EA #OR110-99-01, dated September 17, 1999.

Page 3, line 14, strike out “purposes—” and insert “purposes as described in paragraph 2(b)(1)—”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1725, as amended and introduced by my colleague the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

A significant amount of effort has gone into the preparation of this bill, and I would like to begin by commending the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) for their diligence in bringing this legislation to the floor.

The Miwaleta Park, located in Oregon, is a 30-acre area jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Douglas County.

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The title to this park and surrounding area is currently held by the BLM; and under H.R. 1725, the title and all rights and interests to this land would be transferred to Douglas County for the purpose of building a public campground.

I reiterate my support for H.R. 1725 and ask for support of this legislation.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1725.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 1725.