

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1787.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) and his staff in helping me to bring forward H.R. 1787, the Deschutes Resources Conservancy Reauthorization bill. I also appreciate the support of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for this important bill.

The DRC is one of the best examples of a win-win program that I have ever seen. Because it is a consensus-based mission, it brings together central Oregonians from diverse backgrounds and should be the model for other resource management programs across our great country.

The DRC has brought together interests who have historically, at times, been at odds in competing for the limited supply of our resources. Board members include ranchers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Warm Springs Tribes, the Forest Service, timber companies, developers and environmentalists, all working together and doing exceptional projects on the ground in central Oregon to improve water quality and water quantity.

The beauty of the DRC model is that they are taking scarce Federal dollars and then leveraging them with other grants to obtain the greatest impact. In 1999, the DRC leveraged its \$450,000 appropriation to complete more than \$2.1 million in on-the-ground restoration projects, more than a 4 to 1 ratio. These projects include piping irrigation district delivery systems to prevent water losses; securing in-stream water rights to restore flows to Squaw Creek; providing riparian fences to protect water banks; working with private timber landowners to restore riparian and wetland areas; and seeking donated water rights to enhance in-stream flows in the Deschutes River Basin.

Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the reauthorization of this sound conservation program for another 5 years and support the increase of its reauthorization level. If the authorization level is increased as requested in this legislation, I do not have any objections to including the

Department of Agriculture as an additional funding source.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this sound environmental legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon for explaining this legislation. He has done more than an adequate job explaining the values of the Deschutes Resources Conservancy and I urge Members to support this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1787.

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.

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4132) to reauthorize grants for water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4132

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT OF 1984.

(a) WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 104(f)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1997 and 1998, and \$9,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 and 2000” and inserting “\$9,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005”.

(b) GRANTS FOR RESEARCH FOCUSED ON WATER PROBLEMS OF INTERSTATE NATURE.—The first sentence of section 104(g)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 10303(g)(1)) is amended by striking “\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 through 2000” and inserting “\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4132.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Water Resources Research Institutes have the capability to provide important support to the States in their long-term water planning, policy development and resources management efforts. The state water resources research institutes, under the authority of the Water Resources Research Act, have established an effective Federal-State partnership in water resources, education, and information transfer. These institutes are located in each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam/Federated States of Micronesia. They have worked with State and Federal agencies and water resources stakeholders in their home States for more than 3 decades while acting as a network for the exchange of water resources research and information transfer among States.

This legislation will reauthorize the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 for the fiscal years 2001 through 2005. It will provide increased funding for the water resources research program grants and provide an increase in the authorization for grants for research focused on water problems of an interstate nature.

We recognize the important role of these institutes and the role they play in our understanding of water policy and planning throughout the United States, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4132, a bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984. This legislation extends the authorization’s important program for 5 years and provides a modest increase in the authorization of appropriations. The water research program has provided us with extraordinary benefits for many years, and I would ask that all Members support the legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4132.

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.

CAHABA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4286) to provide for the establishment of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4286

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 "Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) *The Cahaba River in Alabama is recognized nationally for its unique biological diversity which includes providing habitat for 131 species of fish (more than any other river its size in North America).*

(2) *The Cahaba River is home to 64 rare and imperiled species of aquatic plants and animals, including fishes, freshwater turtles, mussels, and snails.*

(3) *The Cahaba River is home to 12 species of fish, mussels, and snails listed as endangered or threatened species.*

(4) *The Cahaba River is home to 6 terrestrial species of plants and animals listed as endangered or threatened species.*

(5) *The Cahaba River harbors the largest population in the world of the imperiled shoals lily, known locally as the Cahaba Lily.*

(6) *The Cahaba River watershed contains extremely rare plant communities that are home to 8 species of plants previously unknown to science and a total of 69 rare and imperiled species of plants.*

(7) *The Cahaba River is home to at least a dozen endemic aquatic animals that are found nowhere else in the world.*

(8) *The Cahaba River is the longest remaining free-flowing river in Alabama, flowing through 5 counties in central Alabama.*

(9) *The Cahaba River is recognized as an Outstanding Alabama Water by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.*

(10) *The Cahaba River has high recreational value for hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, canoeists, nature photographers, and others.*

(11) *The Cahaba River Watershed supports large populations of certain game species, including deer, turkey, and various species of ducks.*

(12) *The Cahaba River area is deserving of inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System.*

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *REFUGE.—The term "Refuge" means the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge established by section 4(a).*

(2) *SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.*

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REFUGE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.—There is established in Bibb County, Alabama, the Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of approximately 3,500 acres of Federal lands and waters, and interests in lands and waters, within the boundaries depicted upon the map entitled "Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge—Proposed", dated April 10, 2000.*

(2) *BOUNDARY REVISIONS.—The Secretary may make such minor revisions of the boundaries of the Refuge as may be appropriate to carry out*

the purposes of the Refuge or to facilitate the acquisition of property within the Refuge.

(3) *AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Secretary shall keep the map referred to in paragraph (1) available for inspection in appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—The establishment of the Refuge under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall take effect on the date the Secretary publishes, in the Federal Register and publications of local circulation in the vicinity of the area within the boundaries referred to in that paragraph, a notice that sufficient property has been acquired by the United States within those boundaries to constitute an area that can be efficiently managed as a National Wildlife Refuge.*

SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF LANDS AND WATERS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may acquire up to 3,500 acres of lands and waters, or interests therein, within the boundaries of the Refuge described in section 4(a)(1).*

(b) *INCLUSION IN REFUGE.—Any lands, waters, or interests acquired by the Secretary under this section shall be part of the Refuge.*

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.

In administering the Refuge, the Secretary shall—

(1) *conserve, enhance, and restore the native aquatic and terrestrial community characteristics of the Cahaba River (including associated fish, wildlife, and plant species);*

(2) *conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to maintain and assist in the recovery of animals and plants that are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);*

(3) *in providing opportunities for compatible fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation, ensure that hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation are the priority general public uses of the Refuge, in accordance with section 4(a)(3) and (4) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668ee(a)(3), (4)); and*

(4) *encourage the use of volunteers and to facilitate partnerships among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation organizations, and other non-Federal entities to promote public awareness of the resources of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System and public participation in the conservation of those resources.*

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

(1) *such funds as may be necessary for the acquisition of lands and waters within the boundaries of the Refuge; and*

(2) *such funds as may be necessary for the development, operation, and maintenance of the Refuge.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4286, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4286, introduced by our colleagues, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. RILEY) would establish the 3,500 acre Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

The Cahaba is the longest free-flowing river in Alabama and it may have the greatest concentration of fish biodiversity per mile of any river in the United States. It has been called "Alabama's rain forest" because it contains essential habitat for 69 rare and imperiled species and 131 species of fish. There are 13 species found nowhere else in the world but in the Cahaba River.

During the hearing on this bill, the subcommittee learned that only those landowners who are interested in selling their property were included within the proposed boundaries of the refuge. Furthermore, one of our witnesses, Ms. Wendy Allen of the Alabama Nature Conservancy testified that "This refuge represents an outstanding opportunity to protect some of the rarest species in the world via a remarkable public/private partnership."

The goals of this refuge would be to conserve native aquatic species, assist in the recovery of listed plants and animals, provide opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation, and encourage partnerships and volunteers to assist in the operation of this refuge.

The Cahaba River is a unique, beautiful and pristine area that is worthy of refuge designation. I urge an "aye" vote on this important conservation measure, and I compliment the authors of this legislation for their outstanding leadership.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to take the time for the minority to speak in support of this legislation. This legislation is an important effort to establish a new National Wildlife Refuge in central Alabama along a 3½ mile reach of the Cahaba River.

The Cahaba River is a remarkable river in its biological diversity and concentration of rare endangered species. As examples, the Cahaba River Watershed provides habitat for 69 rare and imperiled aquatic species and 32 animal and plant species that are protected under the Endangered Species Act, including 13 endemic species that are found nowhere else in the world. This section of the Cahaba River should be added to the national wildlife refuge system to ensure its long-term protection.

H.R. 4286 was improved and clarified during its consideration by the Committee on Resources. I had the opportunity to sit in on the presentation of this bill by its sponsors. I am told the administration fully supports the enactment of H.R. 4286, and I urge my colleagues to vote "aye."

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