

I wish to commend our colleague, a member of our Natural Resources Committee and our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative DEFAZIO, for his outstanding work on this bill.

I support H.R. 3513.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will simply rise to say this: I believe that Chairman RAHALL has adequately described this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I have no further requests for time. We're ready to yield back if the gentleman from Tennessee is.

Mr. DUNCAN. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 3513, the Copper Salmon Wilderness Act.

The Copper Salmon Wilderness Act would permanently protect nearly 13,000 acres in the headwaters of the Elk River on the southern coast of Oregon, and designate more than 11 additional miles of the river as either Wild or Scenic under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This legislation would protect some of the last remaining stands of Port-Orford-cedar in the Elk River watershed, which has the distinction as one of the most productive salmon and steelhead rivers outside of Alaska. This is rugged, wild territory, and I am hopeful that it may finally become wilderness in the 110th Congress.

Renowned among fishermen, the Elk River watershed is one of the last intact watersheds on the southwest Oregon Coast and is widely regarded as Oregon's last, best coastal salmon and steelhead stream. Oregon State University researchers have concluded that the Elk River is one of the healthiest habitats in the lower 48 states for anadromous fish, and the stream is home to chinook salmon, winter steelhead, coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout.

One of the things about this legislation about which I am most proud is that diverse stakeholders have been working together for more than a decade to gain broad support for protecting the Copper Salmon area. H.R. 3513 enjoys backing from Curry County Commissioners, local elected officials, the local Chamber of Commerce, hunting and fishing groups, tribes, the timber industry, and all local conservation groups. This is a model for the community-based consensus approach to designating wilderness.

Copper Salmon is truly a rare coastal Oregon gem. It is almost entirely intact ancient forest, which supports healthy fish runs and great elk herds, blacktailed deer, bears, and other wildlife. It is adjacent to the existing Grassy Knob Wilderness, and combined, these two areas will be one of the largest intact areas of forest in the Coast Range. This is an area that deserves protection for the enjoyment of future generations.

I am a proud advocate of protecting the Copper Salmon area, and urge my colleagues to join me in the passage of H.R. 3513, the Copper Salmon Wilderness Act.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3513, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WILD MONONGAHELA ACT: A NATIONAL LEGACY FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S SPECIAL PLACES

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5151) to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5151

*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 "Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places".

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS, MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST, WEST VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal lands within the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia are designated as wilderness and as either a new component of the National Wilderness Preservation System or as an addition to an existing component of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land comprising approximately 5,144 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Big Draft Proposed Wilderness" and dated March 11, 2008, which shall be known as the "Big Draft Wilderness".

(2) Certain Federal land comprising approximately 11,951 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Cranberry Expansion Proposed Wilderness" and dated March 11, 2008, which shall be added to and administered as part of the Cranberry Wilderness designated by section 1(1) of Public Law 97-466 (96 Stat. 2538).

(3) Certain Federal land comprising approximately 7,156 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Dolly Sods Expansion Proposed Wilderness" and dated March 11, 2008, which shall be added to and administered as part of the Dolly Sods Wilderness designated by section 3(a)(13) of Public Law 93-622 (88 Stat. 2098).

(4) Certain Federal land comprising approximately 698 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Otter Creek Expansion Proposed Wilderness" and dated March 11, 2008, which shall be added to and administered as part of the Otter Creek Wilderness designated by section 3(a)(14) of Public Law 93-622 (88 Stat. 2098).

(5) Certain Federal land comprising approximately 6,792 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Roaring Plains Proposed Wilderness" and dated March 11, 2008, which shall be known as the "Roaring Plains West Wilderness".

(6) Certain Federal land comprising approximately 6,030 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Spice Run Pro-

posed Wilderness" and dated March 11, 2008, which shall be known as the "Spice Run Wilderness".

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) FILING AND AVAILABILITY.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall file with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a map and legal description of each wilderness area designated or expanded by subsection (a). The maps and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service and the office of the Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in this subsection shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct errors in the maps and descriptions.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal lands designated as wilderness by subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.). The Secretary may continue to authorize the competitive running event permitted from 2003 through 2007 in the vicinity of the boundaries of the Dolly Sods Wilderness addition designated by paragraph (3) of subsection (a) and the Roaring Plains West Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (5) of such subsection, in a manner compatible with the preservation of such areas as wilderness.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to the Federal lands designated as wilderness by subsection (a), any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State of West Virginia with respect to wildlife and fish.

#### SEC. 3. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, LAUREL FORK SOUTH WILDERNESS, MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the Laurel Fork South Wilderness designated by section 1(3) of Public Law 97-466 (96 Stat. 2538) is modified to exclude two parcels of land, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Monongahela National Forest Laurel Fork South Wilderness Boundary Modification" and dated March 11, 2008, and more particularly described according to the site-specific maps and legal descriptions on file in the office of the Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest. The general map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Federally owned land delineated on the maps referred to in subsection (a) as the Laurel Fork South Wilderness, as modified by such subsection, shall continue to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.). Any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of Public Law 97-466 and this Act.

#### SEC. 4. MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY CONFIRMATION.

The boundary of the Monongahela National Forest is confirmed to include the tracts of land as generally depicted on the map entitled "Monongahela National Forest

Boundary Confirmation" and dated March 13, 2008, and all Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, encompassed within such boundary shall be managed under the laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System.

#### SEC. 5. ENHANCED TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES.

##### (a) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with interested parties, shall develop a plan to provide for enhanced nonmotorized recreation trail opportunities on lands not designated as wilderness within the Monongahela National Forest.

(2) NONMOTORIZED RECREATION TRAIL DEFINED.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term "nonmotorized recreation trail" means a trail designed for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the plan required under subsection (a), including the identification of priority trails for development.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION OF FOREST ROADS TO RECREATIONAL USES.—In considering possible closure and decommissioning of a Forest Service road within the Monongahela National Forest after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with applicable law, may consider converting the road to nonmotorized uses to enhance recreational opportunities within the Monongahela National Forest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Today, it is my privilege to bring to the floor of the House of Representatives the "Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places."

This legislation is supported by the entire West Virginia delegation: In this body, my colleagues Representatives ALAN MOLLOHAN and SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, and in the other body, our Senators, ROBERT C. BYRD and JAY ROCKEFELLER.

The pending measure would designate 37,771 acres of Federal land as wilderness within the Monongahela National Forest.

Included in this legislation is the expansion of three existing wilderness areas: Cranberry, Dolly Sods and Otter Creek. Additionally, three new wilderness areas would be established: The Big Draft, the Roaring Plains West, and Spice Run.

The issue of wilderness has captivated many Americans since the pas-

sage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. According to this landmark statute, these are places "where the Earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

To be in a wilderness area is, to me, truly a humbling experience. To be part of designating wilderness is even more humbling because wilderness is an effort to retain the landscape as God has created it.

As the Reverend Dennis Sparks, Executive Director of the West Virginia Council of Churches wrote to me, and I quote, "We believe that carefully protecting this wonderful national forest and its wilderness-quality lands not only has a sound biblical basis, but is also the best and most practical course of action for safeguarding the world which we will pass along to our children."

A great many people have worked to make this legislation possible: Matt Keller, Dave Saville, Mary Wimmer, Beth Little, Mayor John Manchester of Lewisburg, West Virginia, Bob Bittner, Jr., Mike Price, as well as the Reverend Sparks. And there are many others with whom I've hiked and with whom I've worked on this legislation for which time will not allow me to name them all.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Monongahela National Forest Supervisor, Clyde Thompson, as well as to Sammie Lammie, for his excellent map making.

And finally, to the Governor of West Virginia, Joe Manchin, and to the Division of our Natural Resources Director, Frank Jezioro. We have and will continue to work to ensure that appropriate wildlife management activities can take place in the areas designated by this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters for the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, April 17, 2008.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 2, 2008 the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported an amended version of H.R. 5151, the "Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places." As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to Committee of Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

H.R. 5151 seeks, among other policy objectives, to designate as "wilderness" certain Federal Lands within the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia. Clause 1(a) of Rule X confers upon the Agriculture Committee jurisdiction over bills relating to forestry in general and forests other than those created from the public domain. In the past, the Committee on Agriculture has worked cooperatively with the Committee on Natural Resources regarding matters that generally concern forestry.

It is my understanding that the Committee on Natural Resources wishes to have the House of Representatives consider the bill next week. Given the need to expedite this

legislation, I will agree to discharge H.R. 5151 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that this action in no way waives the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdictional interests in the subject matter of the legislation or serves as a precedent for future referrals. Furthermore, in the event a House-Senate conference is requested on this matter, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you very much for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture as we deal with forestry issues in the future.

Sincerely,

COLLIN C. PETERSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, April 18, 2008.

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Longworth H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter on April 18, 2008, indicating jurisdictional interests in H.R. 5151, the "Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places." As you are aware, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported an amended version of the bill on April 2, 2008, and would like to have the House of Representatives consider the legislation next week.

I acknowledge your jurisdictional interests in the bill, and note that the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture have had a history of working cooperatively on matters that generally concern forestry. I appreciate your willingness to discharge the bill without further consideration by the Agriculture Committee and understand that this action will in no way waive your Committee's jurisdictional interests in the subject matter of the legislation or serve as a precedent for future referrals.

Furthermore, in the event that a conference with the Senate is requested on this matter, I would support naming Agriculture Committee members to the conference committee. A copy of our exchange letters regarding this bill will be inserted into the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective Committees as we deal with forestry issues in the future.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,  
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Earth Day in support of H.R. 5151, the Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places, introduced by my colleague from West Virginia's Third District and the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman NICK RAHALL.

I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation, and I

commend the chairman for all of his hard work on this bill.

In 1964, Congress enacted the Wilderness Act that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America. Today the U.S. Forest Service preserves the natural and cultural resources and values of the forest system, including those of the Monongahela National Forest for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

West Virginia's wilderness is part of our history and heritage, and it is passed on as a legacy. This bipartisan bill will protect approximately 38,000 acres of the Mon Forest in West Virginia through the designation of three additional wilderness areas and expansion of three existing Federal wilderness areas including: Big Draft, Cranberry Expansion, Dolly Sods Expansion, Dry Fork Expansion, Roaring Plains West and Spice Run.

West Virginia's national forest provides an excellent outdoor experience with our State's majestic mountains, winding rivers and superb hunting, camping, fishing, backpacking and other activities. Protecting these additional acres of pristine forest will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of our home State of West Virginia.

Over the last several months I've engaged in discussion with many of my constituents, many whom are avid hunters, anglers, mountain bikers and outdoorsmen who have a unique and vested interest in the impact of the wilderness designation on their local community. The people of this area are well acquainted with wilderness, and H.R. 5151 reflects their desire to preserve their natural treasures, while maintaining important flexibility for the local residents.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is vitally important to guaranteeing that future generations of Americans can experience the natural wonder and beauty of West Virginia. I applaud Chairman RAHALL and his staff for all of their hard work on this bill and all those in West Virginia who have seen it come to this point.

I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation, and I encourage each of them to experience firsthand the pristine natural beauty of West Virginia and the Mon National Forest.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. But, in conclusion, I want to commend the staff of our Natural Resources Committee as well, Mr. Jim Zoia, who's been with me for numerous years and knows our people in West Virginia, has been with this legislation almost daily.

Rick Healy, our chief counsel. And I wish as well to commend the ranking minority member on my committee, Mr. DON YOUNG, for his assistance and willingness to work with us on this as well, and today's acting ranking member, Mr. JIMMY DUNCAN, for his help on this legislation.

I have no further requests for time, and I'll reserve, pending any further requests that the ranking member has.

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

H.R. 5151 will designate portions of the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia as wilderness, and it is my understanding that Members of Congress whose districts are affected support the bill.

Although we should give considerable deference to those who have been elected to represent the people in the area, I do not necessarily agree that wilderness designation is always the wisest conservation decision we can make. Wilderness designation is the most restrictive policy we can impose on an area, and there are often far better, more creative ways to conserve our forests and other natural areas. In many instances, it is a mistake to foreclose active management options that can improve fish and game habitat, increase recreational access and lessen the severity of wildfires. And to protect our economic well-being, provide jobs for young people and protect our national security, our country is going to need continued access to the rich resources our own public lands provide.

We now have over 100 million acres in wilderness areas, and we keep adding to that at a record level. And we are very close to getting to the point where that's beginning to hurt us economically at a time when we don't need more blows to our economy.

Nevertheless, I do wish the people of West Virginia good luck living around these wilderness areas, and I know that they, like the people of my State, will in the long run prove to be better guardians of their mountains, rivers and wildlife than bureaucrats in Washington.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5151, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### COFFMAN COVE ADMINISTRATIVE SITE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 831) to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 831

*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 "Coffman Cove Administrative Site Conveyance Act of 2008".*

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) CITY.—The term "City" means the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska.

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

#### SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the City, without consideration and by quitclaim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States, except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), in and to the parcel of National Forest System land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel of National Forest System land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 12 acres of land identified in U.S. Survey 10099, as depicted on the plat entitled "Subdivision of U.S. Survey No. 10099" and recorded as Plat 2003-1 on January 21, 2003, Petersburg Recording District, Alaska.

(2) EXCLUDED LAND.—The parcel of National Forest System land conveyed under subsection (a) does not include the portion of U.S. Survey 10099 that is north of the right-of-way for Forest Development Road 3030-295 and southeast of Tract CC-8.

(c) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The United States may reserve a right-of-way to provide access to the National Forest System land excluded from the conveyance to the City under subsection (b)(2).

(d) REVERSION.—If any portion of the land conveyed under subsection (a) (other than a portion of land sold under subsection (e)) ceases to be used for public purposes, the land shall, at the option of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(e) CONDITIONS ON SUBSEQUENT CONVEYANCES.—If the City sells any portion of the land conveyed to the City under subsection (a)—

(1) the amount of consideration for the sale shall reflect fair market value, as determined by an appraisal; and

(2) the City shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the gross proceeds of the sale, which shall be available, without further appropriation, for the Tongass National Forest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the pending measure was introduced by the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

The bill would direct the U.S. Forest Service to convey a 12-acre administrative site in the middle of Coffman Cove, Alaska to that city.