

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that President Carter is heavily involved in the land acquisition and park expansion authorized in this legislation. We have been made aware that one of the properties included in the expansion is a haunted house. This is no Halloween trick. The currently dilapidated structure will be rehabilitated by the National Park Service and eventually be made available to show the public where President Carter lived before his current estate was constructed.

I am also aware that President Carter is an avid hunter. He likes to stalk deer, dove, quail, turkey, and even the occasional squirrel. Fortunately, with the passage of an important Republican gun rights amendment to the Credit Card Reform Act last spring, President Carter will be able to legally transport his firearms to and from his home and clean and load his firearms on his compound within the national park without fear of violating Federal law when this provision goes into effect in February 2010.

□ 1415

Right now, other Americans and the other 391 National Park units would be subject to criminal penalties for these actions.

President Carter has an excellent relationship with the National Park Service, which should be preserved. After all, the agency has the duty to preserve the legacy of his 4 years as President through the conservation of his high school, boyhood home and even his current residence within the park. The National Park Service dutifully handles many important tasks, including the day-to-day maintenance of his property and even of mowing his lawn.

Finally, it has been said that these new acquisitions will complete the story of Mr. Carters life. This is a noble goal. I can only assume that is why the legislation also includes the Federal takeover of Billy Carter's gas station.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1471, which will expand and revitalize the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, which is located in Plains, Georgia.

My Congressional District in Southwest Georgia includes Plains. Therefore I am pleased to sponsor this bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives which, if passed, will bolster the local economy, enhance tourism, and provide people from around the world with a new insight into the life and career of the 39th President of the United States.

H.R. 1471 will expand the national historic site's authorized boundaries from 15 acres to 18 acres and would allow the National Park Service to acquire several additional properties for the park, including a house that the Carter family lived in from 1956–1961. Additionally, the legislation will redesignate the park from a national historic site to a national historical park. It also would direct that the park service preserves, and interprets, a southern agricultural-based rural community during the early to middle years of the 20th century.

Last August, I took my whole staff on a visit to the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, including his boyhood home and school, so they could get a better feel and understanding of the values that shaped this great Georgian. We listened to the messages recorded by the former President that tell visitors of his experiences as a child and young man and how they influenced his views and values. After touring the Depression-era farm, home and school where he grew into manhood, every one of my staff members, including a number from Georgia and several who are not, told me they were inspired by what they learned about the life of Jimmy Carter, just as I have been.

The eventual passage of this bill will ensure that the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site has the resources it needs to continue to inspire generation after generation of visitors. Additionally, the investments made in this property will positively impact the economic development of Plains and the surrounding Sumter County by providing increased opportunities for tourism.

The Jimmy Carter National Historic Site already does a remarkable job of helping people to understand the values that shaped this great Georgian. This bill will ensure that the site will continue to inspire generations of visitors, as well as grow and positively impact the economies of Plains. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1471.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1471, 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.

STEPHEN MATHER WILDERNESS AND NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2806) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2806

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 1988, 93 percent of the North Cascades National Park Complex was designated the Stephen Mather Wilderness.

(2) A road corridor was deliberately excluded from the wilderness designation to provide for the continued use and maintenance of the upper Stehekin Valley Road.

(3) The upper Stehekin Valley Road provides access to Stephen Mather Wilderness trailheads and North Cascades National Park from the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

(4) Record flooding in 1995 and again in 2003 caused severe damage to the upper Stehekin Valley Road and led to the closure of a 9.9-mile section of the road between Car Wash Falls and Cottonwood Camp.

(5) The National Park Service currently does not have the flexibility to rebuild the upper Stehekin Valley Road away from the Stehekin River due to the current location of the non-wilderness road corridor provided by Congress in 1988.

(6) It is a high priority that the people of the United States, including families, the disabled, and the elderly, have reasonable access to the National Parks system and their public lands.

(7) The 1995 Lake Chelan National Recreation Area General Management Plan calls for retaining vehicle access to Cottonwood Camp.

(8) Tourism associated with the North Cascades National Park Complex is an important part of the economy for rural communities in the area.

(9) Additional management flexibility would allow the National Park Service to consider retention of the upper Stehekin Valley Road in a manner that provides for no net loss of wilderness.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.

The Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-668) is amended by inserting after section 206 the following:

“SEC. 207. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR ROAD.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may adjust the boundaries of the North Cascades National Park and the Stephen Mather Wilderness in order to provide a corridor of not more than 100 feet in width along which the Stehekin Valley Road may be rebuilt—

“(1) outside of the floodplain between milepost 12.9 and milepost 22.8;

“(2) within one mile of the route, on the date of the enactment of this section, of the Stehekin Valley Road;

“(3) within the boundaries of the North Cascades National Park; and

“(4) outside of the boundaries of the Stephen Mather Wilderness.

“(b) NO NET LOSS OF LANDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary adjustments made under this section shall be such that equal amounts of federally owned acreage are exchanged between the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park, resulting in no net loss of acreage to either the Stephen Mather Wilderness or the North Cascades National Park.

“(2) STEHEKIN VALLEY ROAD LANDS.—The newly designated wilderness shall include the lands along the route of the Stehekin Valley Road that are replaced by the reconstruction.

“(3) EQUALIZATION OF LAND.—If the lands described in paragraph (2) contain fewer acres than the corridor described in subsection (a), the Secretary may designate additional Federal lands in the North Cascades National Park as wilderness, but such designation may not exceed the amount needed to equalize the exchange and these additional lands must be selected from lands that qualify as wilderness under section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131(c)).

“(c) NO SALE OR ACQUISITION AUTHORIZED.—Nothing in this Act authorizes the sale or acquisition of any land or interest in land.

“(d) NO PRIORITY REQUIRED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as requiring the Secretary to give this project precedence over the construction or repair of other similarly damaged roads in units of the National Park System.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2806, sponsored by Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member DOC HASTINGS, would allow the National Park Service to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness, inside North Cascades National Park, to provide for a new road corridor.

Flooding has repeatedly washed out significant portions of a road in the park. Today, the road is impassable for vehicles above what used to be the halfway point.

The pending measure would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to redraw the boundaries of the wilderness within prescribed parameters to provide a new corridor so that the road could be partially rerouted out of the floodplain and rebuilt to its original end. The bill would require that any boundary changes made to accommodate the road result in no overall loss of acreage to the wilderness area.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to ensure that a wilderness designation would not block public access to historic recreation sites, the 1988 law that established the Stephen Mather Wilderness area in the North Cascades National Park provided for a 100-foot-wide, non-wilderness corridor to the upper Stehekin Valley.

Unfortunately, flooding in 1995 and again in 2003 washed away parts of the road, and it remains impassable today.

Representative DOC HASTINGS' bill, H.R. 2806, restores the intent of Congress by allowing the relocation of the road to a less flood-prone site. This bill does not reduce the amount of wilderness in the park.

It is strongly supported by local officials and by former Senator Dan Evans, who sponsored the 1988 law. When the National Park Service solicited public comments on alternatives for the management of the area, over 90 percent of those comments favored keeping the road open.

I urge my colleagues to join ranking Republican DOC HASTINGS and Chairman NICK RAHALL in supporting this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I now would like to recognize for 1 minute the author of the bill, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. I am not the author of the bill, but I have worked with Mr. HASTINGS. Thank you for that compliment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in favor of this bill, and I thank Mr. HASTINGS for his working with us to perfect this bill in a couple of ways.

We have made the bill clear that we have constrained the Park Service's definition of where a potential road could be built. Mr. HASTINGS and I both felt that it was important for Congress to retain some authority over where the wilderness boundaries are so that we would not give unfettered control to the Executive branch. We also make clear in the bill that the passage of this bill is not intended, in any way shape or form, to instruct the Park Service to change their prioritization on what roads to build or not to build in the Park Service.

There are many needs in the Park Service. We know there is a constrained budget situation. We know there are many roads that have been washed out and that there are trails that have been washed out, and we do not intend in this bill to change any priority array as to what could be done to the Park Service.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all Members to support this piece of legislation. I commend the author, Mr. HASTINGS from the State of Washington, for authoring this, and I ask that all Members support this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2806 is a limited bill that allows for continued public access to the North Cascades National Park from the community of Stehekin, Washington.

Stehekin, located at the western end of Lake Chelan, is the gateway to the North Cascades National Park and is accessible only by boat, floatplane, or a multi-day hike. From the town of Stehekin, the Stehekin Valley Road has long allowed residents and visitors to access some of the most beautiful scenery in the North Cascades in what is now the Park's Stephen Mather Wilderness.

At the July 30, 2009 hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, the Subcommittee heard testimony from local officials on how flood damage to the upper Stehekin Valley Road has limited public recreational access to the North Cascades National Park Complex. This reduced access has been particularly painful for the small, tourist-dependent community of Stehekin which serves as the gateway to the Park.

During legislative consideration of the Park's creation in 1988, Congress determined that Stehekin Road would remain outside of the wilderness boundary to ensure continued public access. Otherwise, no cars, mountain

bikes, or other mechanized vehicles would have been allowed to transport area residents or Park visitors into the wilderness areas in the center of the Park north of Stehekin.

As the Stehekin River has shifted and damaged the road, the Park Service has been unable to rebuild the road out of the path of the river because of the narrow road corridor in the original Park designation. H.R. 2806 would simply allow the Secretary limited authority to adjust the road corridor out of the path of the Stehekin River, with no net loss of land to either the Park or the Stephen Mather Wilderness. These changes and road rebuilding would still be subject to review and comment under the National Environmental Policy Act.

This is a limited bill that protects the public access into the Park Complex promised at the Park's creation, and I encourage my colleagues to give their support to H.R. 2806 and the Stehekin community.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2806, 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.

CASCADIA MARINE TRAIL STUDY ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1641) to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the Cascadia Marine Trail, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1641

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF TRAIL FOR STUDY.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This section may be cited as the “Cascadia Marine Trail Study Act”.

(b) *DESIGNATION OF TRAIL FOR STUDY.*—Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“() Cascadia Marine Trail, a series of water trail routes encompassing approximately 2,300 miles of shoreline in the State of Washington, extending from Point Roberts near the Canadian border to the southern reach of Puget Sound near Olympia. In conducting the study, the Secretary shall coordinate with appropriate Federal, State, local, tribal, and private entities, and may evaluate sites of recreational, scenic, or historic significance near the Cascadia Marine Trail for potential inclusion in the Trail. The Secretary shall also consider what activities may be limited by the designation, including existing activities, hunting, boating, or proposed infrastructure improvements.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.