

passionate work on this, and we are grateful for it.

I, too, would like to add my voice to this, to the chairman for once again proving to America that this Congress can work, that there are bipartisan solutions to issues that we care about in serving our constituents and our veterans and others. It is something that we are very proud of here. It doesn't always come easy, but his leadership somehow finds a way to bring us to the table. We get it done, and I am grateful for that.

I urge my colleagues to join us in passing S. 324, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, unless Mr. ZELDIN has talked to my doctor and knows something I don't know, I hope to be here next year. That is my plan.

I appreciate the opportunity to work on this bill with him. He has been a great advocate, as the ranking member has been. This is a bill that is long overdue, much needed, and I give my strong support along with—I think I can speak for them—the entire Veterans' Affairs Committee. We voiced this. I encourage Members to support this legislation.

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 Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 324.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2017

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4465) to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, to require a report on the implementation of those programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4465

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 “Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION TO USE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN FUND REVENUES FOR ANNUAL BASE FUNDING OF FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS; REMOVAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Section 3(d)(2) of Public Law 106–392 (114 Stat. 1604; 126 Stat. 2444) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence—

(A) by striking “2019” and inserting “2023”; and

(B) by striking “; except that” and all that follows through “capital projects and monitoring”; and

(2) by striking the fifth, sixth, and seventh sentences.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS.

Section 3 of Public Law 106–392 (114 Stat. 1603; 126 Stat. 2444) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2021, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

“(A) describes the accomplishments of the Recovery Implementation Programs;

“(B) identifies—

“(i) as of the date of the report, the listing status under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) of the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and bonytail; and

“(ii) as of September 30, 2023, the projected listing status under that Act of each of the species referred to in clause (i);

“(C)(i) identifies—

“(I) the total expenditures and the expenditures by categories of activities by the Recovery Implementation Programs during the period beginning on the date on which the applicable Recovery Implementation Program was established and ending on September 30, 2021; and

“(II) projected expenditures by the Recovery Implementation Programs during the period beginning on October 1, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2023;

“(ii) for purposes of the expenditures identified under clause (i), includes a description of—

“(I) any expenditures of appropriated funds;

“(II) any power revenues;

“(III) any contributions by the States, power customers, Tribes, water users, and environmental organizations; and

“(IV) any other sources of funds for the Recovery Implementation Programs; and

“(D) describes—

“(i) any activities to be carried out under the Recovery Implementation Program after September 30, 2023; and

“(ii) the projected cost of the activities described under clause (i).

“(2) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall consult with the participants in the Recovery Implementation Programs in preparing the report under paragraph (1).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering my bill, H.R. 4465, the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017.

This bipartisan bill extends efforts to promote the dual goals of recovering

certain fish species protected under the Endangered Species Act, while ensuring the continued reliability of water and power operations in the West.

I would like to thank the Members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat, who have cosponsored my bill. I also appreciate the work of ROB BISHOP as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and his help over the last several months to move my bill through the legislative process.

I think it is also worth mentioning that we have received over 20 letters of support for this bill from a wide range of stakeholders, including water conservation districts, Indian Tribes, conservation organizations, State governments, and more.

With a total water storage capacity of more than 30 million acre-feet and a capacity to generate over 5 billion megawatt hours of energy annually, the Colorado River Storage Project, or CRSP, has been vital to the economics of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and Arizona.

Four fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act also call the basin home, and the threat of water and power restrictions resulting from these listings prompted the affected States to enter into an agreement with Federal and non-Federal partners to ensure the continued reliability of the water and power operations in the West.

These agreements resulted in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. In 2000, Congress enacted legislation to establish Federal participation and cost-sharing agreements, including the authority to use CRSP power revenues, to support these two programs.

Congress reauthorized the programs in 2012, but also added necessary oversight and accountability reforms to ensure that funds are going towards recovery.

H.R. 4465 extends the use of CRSP power revenues through 2023, which aligns with the recovery deadline for these programs and does not require any new Federal spending of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars.

In addition, the bill extends the existing transparency improvements and adds a report to highlight the programs' performance. This reauthorization is necessary to ensure that the more than 2,300 water and power projects in the five-State region can continue to operate in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

I am hopeful that at the conclusion of this reauthorization through 2023, these programs will have accomplished what they are seeking to achieve: the recovery and delisting of four endangered fish species.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill is a great example of how Members of Congress can work across party lines to solve an issue facing their respective

States. I look forward to working together with my colleagues and solving other problems with a similar commonsense and bipartisan approach.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in supporting this bipartisan legislation and urge its adoption by the House.

H.R. 4465 extends the authorization through 2023 of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

These two multiagency partnerships bring together local, State, and Federal agencies; water users; utilities; and environmental organizations to help restore four endangered fish species, while also maintaining water delivery, hydropower generation, and protecting economic development along the Colorado and San Juan Rivers.

This legislation will allow for the continued funding of projects that improve habitat, support crucial research and monitoring, and remove non-native species, which will both benefit endangered fish species and protect the many other uses of the rivers.

Healthy rivers are vital to a region's overall environmental and economic well-being. When our rivers are healthy, our communities are healthy. We all share a responsibility to sustain and preserve the integrity of these resources for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation for this leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CURTIS. 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 Utah (Mr. CURTIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4465.

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. CURTIS. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND TO FACILITATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1800) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1800

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

SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, RICH COUNTY, UTAH.

(a) LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to valid existing rights, not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the Utah State University Research Foundation, (in this section referred to as the "Foundation") all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property consisting of approximately 80 acres, including improvements thereon, located outside of the boundaries of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Rich County, Utah, within Sections 19 and 30, Township 14 North, Range 5 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian for the purpose of permitting the Foundation to use the property for scientific and educational purposes.

(b) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If the Secretary of Agriculture determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in such subsection, all right, title and interest in and to such real property, including any improvements thereto, shall, at the option of the Secretary, revert to and become the property of the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto such real property. A determination by the Secretary under this subsection shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall require the Foundation to cover the costs (except any costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the Foundation in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the Foundation.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursement under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this bill involves 80 acres of land controlled by the Forest Service but not in the actual national forest.

Over the past 50 years, this land has been used by the Space Dynamics Laboratory, by NASA, by the Naval Research Laboratory, and they have a great deal of infrastructure on this land.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service decided to list this as disposable lands without contacting anybody, and now they don't have the ability of going back and delisting it so these groups can actually use this land for what they have been doing for the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is the cleanest and simplest way of simply transferring control of this land back to the entity which is using it now so they can continue their research, much of which is done in support of our military. It is a simple and easy and correct way to solve an administrative lapse, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and its adoption by the House.

H.R. 1800 authorizes the transfer of 80 acres of Forest Service land to the Utah State University Research Foundation. The land will support ongoing research efforts that support national defense and space programs.

The idea that there should be national public lands that belong to and are managed on behalf of the American people is a value that dates back to the founding of our country and is embedded in our Constitution.

Generation after generation of Americans have endorsed the idea that our public lands should be managed for the benefit of all Americans to support a wide range of activities. As stewards of this land, we must work to find a balance between compelling yet sometimes competing interests and make sure that the Federal Government is a good neighbor to local communities.

Whenever we decide that it is appropriate to sell or convey these shared resources, we must make sure there is adequate compensation to Federal taxpayers or safeguards in place to guarantee that the land is used for public purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP for working across the aisle to ensure that we met these goals in this legislation. I support H.R. 1800 and its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.