

lands since the State's admittance to the Union.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill and support the folks in my district who have simply had their land taken from them without due process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3392 requires the Bureau of Land Management to disclaim interest in 230 acres of land in northern Louisiana. The land at issue was originally surveyed in 1842, transferred to the Bossier Levee District in 1892, and conveyed to private owners in 1904.

However, BLM conducted a resurvey in 1967 after realizing that certain lands were omitted from previous Federal surveys. The resurvey puts more than 200 acres of land previously thought to belong to Louisiana and private interests back into Federal ownership.

Until recently, the results of this resurvey were largely ignored or forgotten, and now there are several homeowners with clouded titles and some confusion regarding the ownership of mineral rights in the area.

BLM is currently working to evaluate ownership and authorized conveyance where appropriate under the Color-of-Title Act. The Color-of-Title Act authorizes the BLM to convey public lands that have been acquired by peaceful adverse possession often caused by historical surveying anomalies, such as in this case. However, the Color-of-Title Act does not authorize the transfer of mineral rights owned by the United States, which is why this bill is necessary.

To be clear, under most circumstances, we would not support legislation to transfer Federal mineral rights without fair compensation to the American taxpayer, but this is a very unusual and special case. Over 40 years have passed since the BLM attempted to enforce Federal ownership of this land. This lack of clarity and communication is unacceptable. For that reason, I support this bill and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This particular bill is not the first time we have talked about this on the floor. It is long overdue. In fact, it is about 100 years long overdue, with only a handful of homeowners having their title for which they have bought, sold, and lived for decades questioning whether they actually have the title to it or not.

It is unfair, and it was wrong. It was wrong for BLM, and it is right for Congress to step in and try and solve this problem to bring some finality and certainty to an issue that never should

have been an issue in the very first place. This harms the status quo and harms people.

That is not our position, and that is not what we should be doing. So I appreciate the minority working with us on this particular bill very well because it is an extremely important one to try and finally solve this particular issue so we don't come back again.

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

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for this particular bill that is solving a problem that should never have been there in his particular district, for his efforts on it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this bill, and 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3392, 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.

#### MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1791) to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1791

*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 "Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act".

##### SEC. 2. PURPOSES; CONSTRUCTION.

The purposes of this Act include—

- (1) to recognize the national importance of the natural and cultural legacies of the area, as demonstrated in the study entitled "Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Feasibility Study" dated April 2012 and its addendum dated May 2014;
- (2) to recognize the heritage of natural resource conservation in the Pacific Northwest and in the Mountains to Sound Greenway;
- (3) to preserve, support, conserve, and interpret the legacies of natural resource conservation, community stewardship, and Indian tribes and nations from time immemorial, and reserved rights of Indian Tribes within the Mountains to Sound National Heritage Area;
- (4) to promote heritage, cultural, and recreational tourism and to develop educational and cultural programs for visitors and the general public;
- (5) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key developments in the creation of America, particularly the settlement of the American West and the stories of diverse ethnic groups, Indian tribes, and others;

(6) to enhance a cooperative management framework to assist Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, the private sector, and citizens residing in the Heritage Area in conserving, supporting, managing, and enhancing natural and recreational sites in the Heritage Area;

(7) to recognize and interpret the relationship between land and people, representing broad American ideals demonstrated through the integrity of existing resources within the Heritage Area; and

(8) to support working relationships between public land managers and the community by creating relevant links between the National Park Service, the Forest Service, other relevant Federal agencies, Tribal governments, State and local governments and agencies, and community stakeholders within and surrounding the Heritage Area in order to protect, enhance, and interpret cultural and natural resources within the Heritage Area.

##### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area established in this Act.

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term "local coordinating entity" means the entity selected by the Secretary under section 4(d).

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term "management plan" means the management plan for the Heritage Area required under section 5.

(4) **MAP.**—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Proposed Boundary", numbered 584/125,484, and dated August 2014.

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

(6) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Washington.

(7) **TRIBE OR TRIBAL.**—The terms "Tribe" or "Tribal" mean any federally recognized Indian tribe with cultural heritage and historic interests within the proposed Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, including the Snoqualmie, Yakama, Tulalip, Muckleshoot and Colville Indian tribes.

##### SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the State the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Heritage Area shall consist of land located in King and Kittitas Counties in the State, as generally depicted on the map.

(c) **MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, and the local coordinating entity.

(d) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The Secretary shall designate a willing local unit of government, a consortium of affected counties, Indian tribe, or a nonprofit organization to serve as the coordinating entity for the Heritage Area within 120 days of the date of the enactment of this Act.

##### SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the local coordinating entity shall submit to the Secretary for approval a proposed management plan for the Heritage Area.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan shall—

- (1) incorporate an integrated and cooperative approach for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, Tribal, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(2) take into consideration Federal, State, Tribal, and local plans, and treaty rights; and

(3) include—

(A) an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area, including an acknowledgment of the exercise of Tribal treaty rights, that relate to the national importance and themes of the Heritage Area that should be conserved and enhanced;

(B) a description of strategies and recommendations for conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area;

(C) a description of the actions that Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, private organizations, and individuals have agreed to take to protect and interpret the natural, cultural, historical, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(D) a program of implementation for the management plan by the local coordinating entity, including—

(i) performance goals and ongoing performance evaluation; and

(ii) commitments for implementation made by partners;

(E) the identification of sources of funding for carrying out the management plan;

(F) analysis and recommendations for means by which Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs may best be coordinated to carry out this section;

(G) an interpretive plan for the Heritage Area, including Tribal heritage;

(H) recommended policies and strategies for resource management, including the development of intergovernmental and interagency cooperative agreements to protect the natural, cultural, historical, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area; and

(I) a definition of the roles of the National Park Service, the Forest Service, other Federal agencies, and Tribes in the coordination of the Heritage Area and in otherwise furthering the purposes of this Act.

(c) **DEADLINE.**—If a proposed management plan is not submitted to the Secretary by the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the local coordinating entity shall be ineligible to receive additional funding under this Act until the date on which the Secretary receives and approves the management plan.

(d) **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the proposed management plan, the Secretary, in consultation with the State, affected counties, and Tribal governments, shall approve or disapprove the management plan.

(2) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—In determining whether to approve the management plan, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity has afforded adequate opportunity, including public hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan;

(B) the resource protection and interpretation strategies contained in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect the natural, cultural, historical, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(C) the management plan is consistent with the Secretary's trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and Tribal treaty rights within the National Heritage Area; and

(D) the management plan is supported by the appropriate State, Kittitas County, King County, and local officials, the cooperation of which is needed to ensure the effective im-

plementation of State and local aspects of the management plan.

(3) **ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary shall—

(A) advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval;

(B) make recommendations to the local coordinating entity for revisions to the management plan; and

(C) not later than 180 days after the receipt of any revised management plan from the local coordinating entity, approve or disapprove the revised management plan.

(e) **AMENDMENTS.**—The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove in the same manner as the original management plan, each amendment to the management plan that makes a substantial change to the management plan, as determined by the Secretary. The local coordinating entity shall not carry out any amendment to the management plan until the date on which the Secretary has approved the amendment.

## SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of implementing the management plan, the Secretary and Forest Service may—

(A) provide technical assistance for the implementation of the management plan; and

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with the local coordinating entity, State and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties to carry out this Act, including cooperation and cost sharing as appropriate to provide more cost-effective and coordinated public land management.

(2) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary to provide technical assistance under this Act terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY AUTHORITIES.**—For purposes of implementing the management plan, the local coordinating entity may—

(1) make grants to the State or a political subdivision of the State, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with, or provide technical assistance to, Federal agencies, the State or political subdivisions of the State, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in natural, cultural, historical, scenic, and recreational resource protection and heritage programming;

(4) obtain money or services from any source, including any money or services that are provided under any other Federal law or program, in which case the Federal share of the cost of any activity assisted using Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas shall not be more than 50 percent;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) undertake to be a catalyst for other activities that—

(A) further the purposes of the Heritage Area; and

(B) are consistent with the management plan.

(c) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY DUTIES.**—The local coordinating entity shall—

(1) in accordance with section 5, prepare and submit a management plan to the Secretary;

(2) assist units of Federal, State, and local government, Tribes, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties in carrying out the approved management plan by—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize, protect, and enhance important resource values in the Heritage Area;

(B) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs in the Heritage Area;

(C) developing recreational and educational opportunities in the Heritage Area; and

(D) increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural, cultural, historical, Tribal, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(3) consider the interests of diverse units of government, Tribes, business, organizations, and individuals in the Heritage Area in the preparation and implementation of the management plan;

(4) conduct meetings open to the public at least semiannually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan;

(5) encourage, by appropriate means, economic viability that is consistent with the Heritage Area; and

(6) submit a report to the Secretary every five years after the Secretary has approved the management plan, specifying—

(A) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity; and

(B) significant grants or contracts made by the local coordinating entity to any other entity over the 5-year period that describes the activities, expenses, and income of the local coordinating entity (including grants from the local coordinating entity to any other entity during the year that the report is made).

(d) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The local coordinating entity may not acquire real property or interest in real property through condemnation or with Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas.

(e) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—Nothing in this Act shall preclude the local coordinating entity from using Federal funds available under other laws for the purposes for which those funds were authorized.

## SEC. 7. RELATIONSHIP TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

Nothing in this Act shall construe, define, waive, limit, or affect any rights of any federally recognized Indian tribe and the Federal trust responsibility.

## SEC. 8. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.**—Any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the local coordinating entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Nothing in this Act—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

## SEC. 9. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, the proposed Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, or resulting management plan (or any revisions to that plan) shall—

(1) abridge the rights of any owner of public or private property, including the right to refrain from participating in any plan,

project, program, or activity conducted within the Heritage Area;

(2) require any property owner—

(A) to allow public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner; or

(B) to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;

(3) alter any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency;

(4) convey any land use or other regulatory authority to the local coordinating entity or any subsidiary organization, including but not necessarily limited to development and management of energy or water or water-related infrastructure;

(5) authorize or imply the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(6) diminish the authority of the State or Tribe to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing, hunting, or gathering within the Heritage Area or the authority of Tribes to regulate their members with respect to such matters in the exercise of Tribal treaty rights;

(7) create any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property;

(8) affect current or future grazing permits, leases, or allotment on Federal lands;

(9) affect the construction, operation, maintenance or expansion of current or future water projects, including water storage, hydroelectric facilities, or delivery systems; or

(10) alter the authority of State, county, or local governments in land use planning or obligate those governments to comply with any recommendations in the management plan.

#### SEC. 10. EVALUATION AND REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the management plan;

(2) analyze the investments of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and private entities in the Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

(c) REPORT.—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that includes recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service with respect to the Heritage Area.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials 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. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), who is the sponsor of this piece of legislation, who is establishing a heritage area, and who is doing it the right way.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the entire committee, for that matter, for their support of this legislation that is so critical and important for the State of Washington, especially those people who live in the Eighth District of Washington State.

I am especially thankful for Mr. BISHOP's cooperation and for his advice on language to be added to the bill to make it that much better, especially as it relates to protecting the property rights of individuals within the designated heritage area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today in support of H.R. 1791, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act. This is a bipartisan bill that—it may have been stated—was favorably reported out of the House Natural Resources Committee earlier this month. This legislation will designate the Mountains to Sound Greenway in Washington State as a national heritage area.

This greenway spans 1.5 million acres, tracing along Interstate 90, which crosses the country. It crosses the crest of the Cascade Mountains to Ellensburg, Washington, which is in the central part of the State. It is a spectacular landscape that encompasses a vibrant mix of small towns, working farms, lush forests, and rugged mountains, alongside one of the largest and fastest growing metropolitan areas in the county—and in the State, for that matter.

Efforts to protect this area and its amazing views have made this a popular local, national, and international tourist destination where people go to hunt, fish, camp, hike, and bike. Using collaboration, negotiation, and compromise, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and its public-private membership have maintained a vibrant and diverse economy, while conserving the environment and protecting private property rights.

In considering the future of the greenway, the trust conducted extensive public meetings. There were 145 meetings held, with comments from over 1,000 individuals. In those discussions, the conclusion was reached that the greenway was a special place deserving of national recognition. My bill does just that by designating the greenway as a national heritage area.

National recognition of this landscape's unique historical and natural value will promote coordination, encourage local engagement, and draw visitors to small towns, supporting economic growth.

Based on the feedback we have received over the years, I have strengthened my legislation to include important protections needed to protect individual rights, property rights of private owners and Tribal communities. We are also concerned about their rights. They were also involved in this process in protecting their rights of their Indian Nation.

This is what my bill does not do:

It does not force private property owners to participate in any activity or provide public access;

It does not affect land use planning;

It does not alter, modify, or extinguish treaty rights, affect water rights, or limit the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including hunting and fishing regulations.

The result is a balanced bill that enjoys broad public support. I am proud to say the support continues to grow. Over 6,000, and counting, elected officials, agencies, businesses, and organizations support the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.

I would like to thank my colleague from Washington State (Mr. SMITH), whom I have worked with over the years to get this bill to where it is today, and it has been years.

I would also like to thank former Senator Slade Gorton, Council member Reagan Dunn, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Coalition, who have been longtime supporters of the greenway, for their tireless efforts to make this a reality.

In addition, I thank, again, Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and their committee staff for their help in bringing this important piece of legislation through the committee and to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this bill. I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

□ 1630

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise in support of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area designation.

This is a project that has been completely collaborative throughout the region. I think it is a great example of how to get things done. It was various government officials working with the private sector, all with the same goal, and that is to preserve open spaces in the Puget Sound area.

This is a very difficult thing to do. We are growing rapidly, businesses are

popping up all over the place, and that is great. But the other thing about the Pacific Northwest that everybody loves is the ability to get outdoors and fish, hunt, hike, and basically enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. This group came together to make sure that we can preserve that, even in the face of such massive growth.

It wasn't done by government fiat. It was done by working together with private landowners, tribes, and all of the interested stakeholders to say: "We have a mutual interest in preserving open spaces for the better enjoyment of all of us in our community," and that is how the Mountains to Sound Greenway was born.

This is an incredibly successful collaborative effort. I am pleased to have the Federal Government put its stamp on it as a national heritage area. It definitely deserves that. It will help the process moving forward as they continue to make sure that they preserve these open spaces for the enjoyment of all people in the Puget Sound region.

I also want to particularly thank Congressman REICHERT for his leadership on this issue. He has been working on it for a number of years, and it has been a true bipartisan effort. People ask me all the time, basically: "Don't you guys work together on anything?" referring to Democrats and Republicans in general, not to DAVE and me specifically.

I have been pleased to work with DAVE for, I guess, 14 years now that he has been in Congress—I worked with him before when he was the King County sheriff—and it has been a great working relationship. Whenever people ask me that question, I am very pleased to know that, right next door, I have got Congressman REICHERT. I say: Well, DAVE and I work on a whole bunch of different things. We have over the years, and this is certainly one of the most important in his final year in Congress. I think it is very appropriate that we get this to the finish line, pass it into law, and get it signed by the President.

Again, this is a fine example of what we can do when we work together with all interested parties coming together for a mutual benefit. Maintaining open spaces in the Puget Sound region is incredibly important. It is not easy. This project is a reflection of how you can get that done, and I am pleased to support this legislation.

Again, I want to thank Congressman REICHERT for his leadership and partnership. It was great working together with him on this and other issues in the interest of our community in the Puget Sound region.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is often the situation where heritage areas that were originally established to try to allow local people to have some mechanism in which they can get together to actu-

ally advertise their particular area are usually for tourism interests or historical preservation interests. It kind of devolved, unfortunately, through time, to an issue in which people simply found a way of using the Federal Government as the deep pocket to keep getting more money all the time back to those particular areas, even though it was supposed to be a one-time situation. Then we found that other heritage areas found a way in which special interest groups got control of these areas and were starting to dictate to local government entities.

Each of those problems that have been a significant problem in other heritage areas was eliminated by Mr. REICHERT in his particular piece of legislation. That is why I said he did it the right way, with the right instincts, with the right purposes, the right illustration, especially with the emphasis on protecting private property rights and Native American rights.

So this is one of the few heritage areas that I am happy to support, because it is organized the proper way to solve problems, not just try to find a cheap and easy way to get more money back into the area. So he is commended for his integrity and the way he has orchestrated that.

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

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this piece of legislation, and 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1791, 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.

#### ADVANCING CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4257) to maximize land management efficiencies, promote land conservation, generate education funding, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4257

*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 "Advancing Conservation and Education Act".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds that—*

(1) at statehood, Congress granted each of the western States land to be held in trust by the States and used for the support of public schools and other public institutions;

(2) since the statehood land grants, Congress and the executive branch have created multiple Federal conservation areas on Federal land within the western States, including National Parks, National Monuments, national conservation areas, national grassland, components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, wilderness study areas, and national wildlife refuges;

(3) since statehood land grant land owned by the western States are typically scattered across the public land, creation of Federal conservation areas often include State land grant parcels with substantially different management mandates, making land and resource management more difficult, expensive, and controversial for both Federal land managers and the western States; and

(4) allowing the western States to relinquish State trust land within Federal conservation areas and to select replacement land from the public land within the respective western States, would—

(A) enhance management of Federal conservation areas by allowing unified management of those areas; and

(B) increase revenue from the statehood land grants for the support of public schools and other worthy public purposes.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) **APPLICATION.**—The term "application" means an application for State relinquishment and selection of land made under this Act in accordance with section 5.

(2) **ELIGIBLE AREA.**—The term "eligible area" means land within the outer boundary of—

(A) a unit of the National Park System;

(B) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(C) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

(D) a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System;

(E) an area determined by the Bureau of Land Management, through an inventory carried out in accordance with FLPMA, to have wilderness characteristics—

(i) as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) in a land use plan finalized under FLPMA;

(F) National Forest System land and public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management that has been designated as a national monument, national volcanic monument, national recreation area, national scenic area, inventoried roadless area, unit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, wilderness study area, or Land Use Designation II (as described by section 508 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 101-626; 104 Stat. 4428)); or

(G) a sentinel landscape designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **FLPMA.**—The term "FLPMA" means the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(4) **PRIORITY AREA.**—The term "priority area" means land within the outer boundary of any—

(A) National Monument;

(B) national conservation area managed by the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

(D) unit of the National Park System.

(5) **PUBLIC LAND.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "public land" has the meaning given the term "public lands" in section 103 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term "public land" does not include Federal land that—

(i) is within an eligible area;

(ii) is within an area of critical environmental concern established pursuant to section 202(c)(3) of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1712(c)(3));

(iii) is within an area withdrawn or reserved by an Act of Congress, the President, or public