

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

BIG BEAR LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5513) to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5513

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 "Big Bear Land Exchange Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COUNTY.**—The term "County" means the County of San Bernardino, California.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means the approximately 73 acres of Federal land administered by the Forest Service generally depicted as "Federal Land Proposed for Exchange" on the Map.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 71 acres owned by the County generally depicted as "Non-Federal Land Proposed for Exchange" on the Map.

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

(5) **MAP.**—The term "Map" means the map titled "Big Bear Land Exchange" and dated August 6, 2018.

SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND; EQUALIZATION OF VALUE.

(a) **EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.**—Subject to valid existing rights and the terms of this Act, no later than one year after the date that the portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is relocated in accordance with subsection (h), if the County offers to convey the non-Federal land to the United States, the Secretary shall—

(1) convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land; and

(2) accept from the County a conveyance of all right, title, and interest of the County in and to the non-Federal land.

(b) **EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.**—(1) **EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.**—The land exchange under this section shall be for equal value, or the values shall be equalized by a cash payment as provided for under this subsection or an adjustment in acreage. At the option of the County, any excess value of the non-Federal lands may be considered a gift to the United States.

(2) **CASH EQUALIZATION PAYMENT.**—The County may equalize the values of the lands to be exchanged under this section by cash payment without regard to any statutory limit on the amount of such a cash equalization payment.

(3) **DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM COUNTY.**—Any cash equalization payment received by the Secretary under this subsection shall be deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; commonly known as the Sisk Act). The funds so deposited shall remain available to the Secretary, until expended, for the acquisition of lands, waters, and interests in land for the San Bernardino National Forest.

(c) **APPRAISAL.**—The Secretary shall complete an appraisal of the land to be exchanged under subsection (a) in accordance with—

(1) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(2) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(d) **TITLE APPROVAL.**—Title to the land to be exchanged under this Act shall be in a format acceptable to the Secretary and the County.

(e) **SURVEY OF NON-FEDERAL LANDS.**—Before completing the exchange under this Act, the Secretary shall inspect the non-Federal lands to ensure that the land meets Federal standards, including hazardous materials and land line surveys.

(f) **COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.**—As a condition of conveyance, any costs related to the exchange under this section shall be paid by the County.

(g) **MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LANDS.**—The Secretary shall manage the non-Federal land acquired under this section in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.; commonly known as the Weeks Act), and other laws and regulations pertaining to National Forest System lands.

(h) **PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL RELOCATION.**—No later than three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in accordance with applicable laws, shall relocate the portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail located on the Federal land to—

(1) adjacent National Forest System land;

(2) land owned by the County, subject to County approval;

(3) land within the Federal land, subject to County approval; or

(4) a combination of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(i) **MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a map and legal descriptions of all land to be conveyed under this Act. The Secretary may correct any minor errors in the map or in the legal descriptions. The map and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) 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 Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days 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. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK), the sponsor of this piece of legislation, to explain why we should actually deal with this particular piece.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about my bill, H.R. 5513, the Big Bear Land Exchange Act. This bill would authorize a land exchange of approximately 71 acres of land in the San Bernardino National Forest for approximately 73 acres of land currently owned by San Bernardino County.

This land would be used by the county to build a timber processing facility that would serve the mountain communities. Currently, trees and other forest waste are driven down the mountain through a narrow and winding pass to a processing facility in the valley, resulting in increased traffic congestion, significant wear and tear on mountain roads, and numerous traffic accidents. This has been exacerbated this week. We had quite a bit of snow, and, once again, it was very, very treacherous. Safety is always a problem on these mountain roads.

This land exchange would require the relocation of a small portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. I have worked closely with the Pacific Crest Trail Association to include language ensuring that the relocation would include environmental review and will occur before the exchange takes place.

This land exchange has virtually unanimous local support, including the city of Big Bear Lake, the Friends of Big Bear Valley, the Big Bear Fire Department, the Big Bear City Community Services Department, the Big Bear Municipal Water District, the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District, the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce, and the local Big Bear Group chapter of the Sierra Club. We haven't heard from the local bear associations at all. That is a bad joke. It passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee on a unanimous vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5513. This bill authorizes an equal value land exchange between the U.S. Forest Service and San Bernardino County.

The exchange would allow the county to build a resource conservation and recovery facility adjacent to the current transfer station. The Forest Service would receive an undeveloped parcel currently surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest.

H.R. 5513 is supported by the nearby city of Big Bear, by the Friends of Big

Bear Valley, and by the local chapter of the Sierra Club.

I thank my colleague, Representative COOK, for working to address some of our concerns with earlier drafts of this bill. Thanks to his efforts, we have ensured this exchange will be subject to existing law, that it will preserve critical and occupied habitat for endangered species, and that the exchange will have minimal impacts on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

H.R. 5513 demonstrates how a collaborative process can meet the interests of local stakeholders, while protecting the integrity of our environment and public lands.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a perfect example of how to do something well. I commend Congressman COOK for listening to his local constituents, trying to get their input, and getting a bill that has total local support. It is the way things should be done, solving a problem for both the Forest Service, as well as San Bernardino County.

Not only will the Forest Service get a small parcel of land which solves the problem of in-holdings within their property, but San Bernardino County gets the ability of solving significant problems they have in the area of public safety. This is one of those things that is a win-win situation: a win-win situation which actually provides safety, as well as the changing of that trail, if absolutely necessary, but that has to be worked out before any of this is concluded.

The bottom line here is that we have realized there is a significant problem, we have recognized this is a significant problem, and, by working with local communities to get their input trying to come up with a locally-driven solution to that problem, this is the way government should operate. Unfortunately, it doesn't operate that way all the time, but Congressman COOK has worked very hard to make sure that this is one of those positive efforts. This bill is one of those things that is a win for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I heartily ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this, 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. 5513, 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.

PRESERVING AMERICA'S BATTLEFIELDS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 6108) to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6108

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 "Preserving America's Battlefields Act".

SEC. 2. CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF 2002.

Section 2 of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-359) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

"(1) Battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812 and the Civil War—

"(A) provide a means for the people of the United States to understand our Nation's turbulent first century;

"(B) serve as living memorials to those who fought and sacrificed in these conflicts to establish and maintain our freedom and liberty;

"(C) serve as training grounds for our Nation's Armed Forces; and

"(D) serve as heritage tourism destinations, generating revenue for local economies.

"(2) According to the Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, prepared by the National Park Service and updated in 2010, of the 383 Civil War battlefields identified as national preservation priorities—

"(A) only at 31 battlefields is more than half of the surviving landscape permanently protected;

"(B) at 227 battlefields, less than half of the surviving landscape is permanently protected;

"(C) 65 battlefields have no protection at all; and

"(D) 113 battlefields have been severely hampered by development since the Civil War or are on the verge of being overwhelmed.

"(3) According to the 2007 Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States, prepared by the National Park Service, of the 243 principal Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields identified as national preservation priorities—

"(A) almost 70 percent lie within urban areas as denoted in the 2000 U.S. Census;

"(B) 141 are lost or extremely fragmented, with residential and commercial development being the chief threats;

"(C) 100 other battlefields retain significant features and lands from the period of battle, although on average these battlefields retain only 37 percent of the original historic scene;

"(D) of these 100 surviving but diminished battle landscapes, 82 are partially owned and protected by public and nonprofit stewards, although the extent of that protection varies from site to site;

"(E) 18 are without any legal protection;

"(F) the condition of two battlefields is unknown, with additional research and survey being required to determine their exact location and condition; and

"(G) the paucity of existing battlefield landscapes necessitates preservation and maintenance of what precious little remains today.

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

"(1) to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of those battlefields from willing sellers; and

"(2) to create partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War."

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.

Section 308103(f) of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide grants under this section \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2025, of which not more than 10 percent may be used each fiscal year as follows:

"(1) Not more than \$1,000,000 for projects and programs that modernize battlefield interpretive and educational assets through the deployment of technology, disbursed through the competitive grant process to non-profit organizations.

"(2) Not more than \$1,000,000 for grants to organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code to be used for projects that restore day-of-battle conditions on land preserved through Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant Program funds."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) 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 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. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE), the sponsor of this excellent piece of legislation that protects our heritage and our battlefields.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the opportunity to speak on behalf of my bill, H.R. 6108, the Preserving America's Battlefields Act.

Mr. Speaker, the American Battlefield Protection Program was first authorized in 1996 by Congress in order to promote and protect significant American battlefield sites, as well as to provide an educational platform for current and future generations of Americans. Since the inception of this program, Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants have been used extensively to preserve portions of dozens of battlefield sites that have played a significant role in the American Revolution,