

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

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Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman HUFFMAN for his leadership.

I am proud to speak in support of two of my bills being considered today, H.R. 5458 and H.R. 5459. As you have heard, these bipartisan bills would extend Rocky Mountain National Park and ultimately create more opportunities for Coloradans and visitors to our State to enjoy outdoor activities.

H.R. 5458, the bill before the House right now, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act, as has been articulated previously, would formally codify a generous donation into the park boundary made by former astronaut and Longmont, Colorado, native, Vance Brand.

Mr. Brand bravely served our country in the Armed Forces and then served as an astronaut, and he has now so generously agreed to donate roughly 40 acres to Rocky Mountain National Park. This expansion would add additional protections for the park's high elevation ecosystem and provide recreational access to literally hundreds of miles of trails.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced both of these legislative proposals, which came at the request of local communities that I have the honor of representing back in Colorado and that ultimately seek to protect the public lands that they love. The bills enjoy the support from the town of Estes Park, Larimer County, and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

As one of the Nation's most historic parks, Rocky Mountain National Park remains one of the top-visited public lands in our country, attracting over 4.6 million people, annually, in recent years. Given the park's breathtaking scenery and iconic significance, these numbers are only anticipated to rise.

I know my good friend from the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado, Representative LAMBORN, knows Rocky Mountain National Park well. I am sure, like me, he and his family have had countless opportunities to enjoy the park and its breathtaking scenery.

It is an honor to be able to represent Rocky Mountain National Park here in the United States Congress.

People from all over the world are drawn to the park, each for their own reasons, to experience nature, seek solitude, watch wildlife, and partake in outstanding recreational activities. I, myself, hold a number of treasured memories growing up in Colorado and enjoying Rocky Mountain National Park: hikes with my father and now being able to take my daughter on those same trails. It is something that holds deep meaning for many Americans, and especially for Coloradans.

As we collectively seek healing during and after the COVID-19 pandemic,

our public lands offer both a mental and physical refuge as well as an economic stimulus for the local communities that rely on them.

Additionally—and this bears mentioning—this year, devastating wildfires have occurred across Colorado, forcing evacuations, threatening air and water quality, and destroying homes and businesses. Three of the State's five largest fires in the history of Colorado occurred in 2020.

While the bulk of these fires were on lands surrounding Rocky Mountain National Park, nearly 30,000 acres burned within the park's boundary. When the East Troublesome fire grew over 100,000 acres in 1 day and swept through a portion of the park, a number of park structures were lost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the superintendent of the Rocky Mountain National Park and her wonderful rangers and all of the personnel at Rocky Mountain National Park who work tirelessly to protect the park and the communities that surround it.

Given the devastating nature of these wildfires, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, fulfilling the requests of local Colorado communities that have been impacted by, not one, but two, historic disasters is an even greater imperative.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I respectfully urge my colleagues to support both H.R. 5458 and H.R. 5459, bipartisan bills that will protect our treasured public lands.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5458.

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.

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK OWNERSHIP CORRECTION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5459) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5459

*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 "Rocky Mountain National Park Ownership Correction Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "Federal land" means the approximately 0.18 acres of land depicted as "TR04-168-1" on the map.

(2) **MAP.**—The term "map" means the map entitled "Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Forsyth Family Land Exchange", numbered 121/154,326, and dated June 2019.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 0.18 acres of land depicted as "TR04-169" on the map.

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

#### SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF EXCHANGE.**—To correct a longstanding land ownership error, if the owner of the non-Federal land offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the owner in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall convey to the owner of the non-Federal land, subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) **VALUATION.**—The value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land to be exchanged under this Act shall be considered to be of equal value.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The non-Federal land acquired by the Secretary under this section shall be administered by the Secretary as part of Rocky Mountain National Park.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. 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 measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5459, the Rocky Mountain National Park Ownership Correction Act, introduced again by my colleague, JOE NEGUSE.

In the 1970s, a tiny 0.18-acre plot of land containing the Forsyth family cabin was erroneously transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park when the Park Service purchased land surrounding a private inholding.

Since the error was discovered, the Park Service has been working with the Forsyth family to correct the legal ownership and exchange parcels, and the family is currently using its cabin through a special use permit. This bill would permanently resolve this ownership issue and ensure the intent of the original purchase is met by authorizing an equal value land exchange between the Forsyth family and the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative NEGUSE for his efforts to resolve this longstanding ownership issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5459 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to exchange a 0.18-acre parcel of park land for the same amount of private land to resolve a land ownership issue within the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park.

In the 1970s, the National Park Service purchased land surrounding a private inholding. An error in the bank's legal description incorrectly included a 0.18-acre parcel in that purchase. As a result, the parcel the National Park Service acquired included a family cabin, and the private owner acquired a vacant lot, not the cabin site.

This bill will permanently resolve this issue with an equal value land swap and ensure that the intent of the original purchase is met. This may be the tiniest amount of land that we have ever considered in a land use bill, but it is, nevertheless, an important piece of land and a good bill.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. 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 California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5459.

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.

## SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY EXPANSION AND STUDY ACT OF 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7098) to expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to study additional land for future adjustments to the boundary of the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7098

*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 "Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2020".

### SEC. 2. BOUNDARY OF SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK.

Section 4 of the Saguaro National Park Establishment Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-364; 108 Stat. 3467) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting "(1)" before "The boundaries of the park"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2)(A) The boundaries of the park are further modified to include approximately 1,232 acres, as generally depicted on the map titled 'Saguaro National Park—Proposed Boundary Adjustment', numbered 151/80,045G, and dated October 2020.

"(B) The map referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.";

(2) by striking subsection (b)(2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

"(2) The Secretary may, with the consent of the State of Arizona and in accordance with Federal and State law, acquire land or interests therein owned by the State of Arizona within the boundary of the park.

"(3) If the Secretary is unable to acquire the State land under paragraph (2), the Secretary may enter into an agreement with the State that would allow the National Park Service to manage State land within the boundary of the park."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) BOUNDARY STUDY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to identify any lands outside the boundaries of the park that may be appropriate for inclusion in the park.

"(2) CRITERIA.—The study shall be conducted in accordance with National Park Service criteria for boundary adjustment studies.

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date funds are made available for the study under this subsection, 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 on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. 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 measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7098, a bill introduced by the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Raul Grijalva from Arizona.

This bill would modify the boundaries of Saguaro National Park and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands within these new boundaries from willing sellers. The bill would also require the Secretary to study future potential boundary expansions and land acquisitions that would add to the park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Saguaro National Park is a true urban oasis, located in the Tucson met-

ropolitan area in Chairman GRIJALVA's hometown. This park provides habitat for iconic species, including its namesake—the saguaro cactus—and the desert tortoise, and it provides unparalleled recreational resources, such as hiking and mountain biking trails.

The expansion authorized in this bill would add to those abundant resources and provide an important linkage between the park and Pima County's Sweetwater Preserve, expanding access to southern Arizona's public lands.

There is broad local support for this expansion, which includes the Pima County Administrator, the Tucson Mountain Homeowners Association, and each individual owner of the land identified for inclusion in the park.

This bill is not just a win for the residents of southern Arizona; it is also a win for our national parks and public lands.

Expanding the future of conservation and access to public lands is a hallmark of Chairman GRIJALVA's leadership, so I want to thank him for that and for his hard work on this bill, and I urge its swift adoption by the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7098 would expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, Arizona, by a cumulative total of approximately 1,232 acres.

For those who haven't visited this park, it is another one of the jewels of our National Park System. I have been there, and I would urge everyone who has a chance to also visit this beautiful place.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land owned by the State of Arizona within the boundary of the park.

In addition, the bill also authorizes agreements where the National Park Service would manage State-owned land within the boundary of the park where acquisition is not possible.

Finally, the bill also authorizes a study to identify future potential park expansions to better protect desert habitats in the greater Tucson area.

Now, while I don't understand why the State of Arizona would want the National Park Service to manage any more land within its boundaries, this bill does go about expanding a park unit in the right way: through an open, deliberative process in Congress. This bill authorizes a rather large addition to the park, but we heard no local opposition to the expansion.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. 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 California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the