

land, if the overall value of the parcels is not equal, the Secretary and the State may agree to use a ledger account to make equal the value.

(2) **IMBALANCES.**—A ledger account described in paragraph (1) shall reflect imbalances in value to be reconciled in a subsequent transaction.

(3) **ACCOUNT BALANCING.**—Each ledger account described in paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) balanced not later than 3 years after the date on which the ledger account is established; and

(B) closed not later than 5 years after the date of the last conveyance of land under this Act.

(4) **COSTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary or the State may assume costs or other responsibilities or requirements for conveying land under this Act that ordinarily are borne by the other party.

(B) **ADJUSTMENT.**—If the Secretary or the State assume costs or other responsibilities under subparagraph (A), the Secretary or the State shall make adjustments to the value of the unappropriated Federal land conveyed to the State to compensate the Secretary or the State, as applicable, for assuming the costs or other responsibilities.

(5) **MINERAL LAND.**—If value is attributed to any parcel of unappropriated Federal land that has been selected by the State because of the presence of minerals under a lease entered into under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) that is in a producing or producible status, and the lease is to be conveyed under this Act, the value of the parcel shall be reduced by the amount that represents the likely Federal revenue sharing obligation under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) with the State, but the adjustment shall not be considered as reflecting a property right of the State.

SEC. 5. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Land or minerals conveyed under this Act shall be subject to all applicable Federal, State, and Tribal law.

(b) **PROTECTION OF INDIAN RIGHTS.**—

(1) **TREATY RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this Act modifies, limits, expands, or otherwise affects any treaty-reserved right or other right of any Indian Tribe recognized by any other means, including treaties or agreements with the United States, Executive orders, statutes, regulations, or case law.

(2) **LAND OR MINERALS HELD IN TRUST.**—Nothing in this Act affects—

(A) land or minerals held in trust by the United States as of the date of enactment of this Act on behalf of, and for the benefit of, any Indian Tribe; or

(B) any individual Indian allotment.

(c) **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the State shall make available for review and inspection any record relating to hazardous materials on land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Prior to completing a conveyance of unappropriated Federal land under this Act, the Secretary shall complete an inspection and a hazardous materials certification of the land to be conveyed.

(B) **STATE LAND GRANT PARCELS.**—Prior to completing a conveyance of a State land grant parcel under this Act, the State shall complete an inspection and a hazardous materials certification of the land to be conveyed.

(d) **GRAZING PERMITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If land conveyed under this Act is subject to a lease, permit, or contract for the grazing of domestic livestock in effect on the date of the conveyance, the Secretary or the State, as applicable, shall allow the grazing to continue for the remainder of the term of the lease, permit, or contract, subject to the related terms and conditions of the user agreements, including permitted stocking rates, grazing fee levels, access, and ownership and use of range improvements.

(2) **CANCELLATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act prevents the Secretary or the State from canceling or modifying a grazing permit, lease, or contract if the land subject to the permit, lease, or contract is sold, conveyed, transferred, or leased for non-grazing purposes.

(B) **BASE PROPERTIES.**—If land conveyed by the State under this Act is used by a grazing permittee or lessee to meet the base property requirements for a Federal grazing permit or lease, the land shall continue to qualify as a base property for the remaining term of the lease or permit and the term of any renewal or extension of the lease or permit.

(C) **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS.**—Nothing in this Act prohibits a holder of a grazing lease, permit, or contract from being compensated for range improvements pursuant to the terms of the lease, permit, or contract under existing Federal or State laws.

SEC. 6. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act applies to or affects litigation or disputes pending on the date of enactment of this Act regarding the ownership of any land or mineral resources located within the State of North Dakota.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1088), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

The bill (S. 1059) to adjust the boundary of Big Bend National Park in the State of Texas, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1059

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 Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Big Bend National Park, Proposed Boundary Adjustment”, numbered 155/167,296, and dated November 2022.

(2) **PARK.**—The term “Park” means the Big Bend National Park established under the Act of June 20, 1935 (49 Stat. 393, chapter 283; 16 U.S.C. 156).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—The Secretary may acquire approximately 6,100 acres of land or interests in land generally depicted on the map as “Tracts to Include in Boundary” by donation, purchase from willing sellers, or exchange.

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

(c) **BOUNDARY REVISION AND ADMINISTRATION.**—On acquisition of any land or interests in land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) revise the boundary of the Park to include the acquired land or interests in land; and

(2) administer the acquired land or interests in land as part of the Park in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

(d) **EMINENT DOMAIN OR CONDEMNATION.**—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary may not use eminent domain or condemnation.

NULHEGAN RIVER AND PAUL STREAM WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT OF 2023

The bill (S. 432) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 432

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 “Nulhegan River and Paul Stream Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT.

(a) **DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.**—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(147) NULHEGAN RIVER AND PAUL STREAM, VERMONT.—The following segments:

“(A) The approximately 22-mile segment of the main stem of the Nulhegan River from the headwaters near Nulhegan Pond to the confluence with the Connecticut River, and any associated tributaries (including the North, Yellow, Black, and East Branches).

“(B) The approximately 18-mile segment of Paul Stream from the headwaters on West Mountain to the confluence with the Connecticut River, and any associated tributaries.”.

(b) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(24) NULHEGAN RIVER AND PAUL STREAM, VERMONT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

“(A) complete the study of the Nulhegan River and Paul Stream segments in Vermont described in subsection (a)(147); and

“(B) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of such study.”.

DEERFIELD RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT OF 2023

The bill (S. 608) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 608

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 “Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION FOR STUDY; REPORT.

Section 5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(147) DEERFIELD RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS AND VERMONT.—The entire river, including—

“(A) the North, South, East, and West Branches of the Deerfield River; and

“(B) the major tributaries of the Deerfield River, including the Green River, North River, South River, Clesson Brook, Chickley River, Cold River, Gulf Brook, Bog Brook, and Dunbar Brook.”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(24) DEERFIELD RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS AND VERMONT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

“(A) complete the study described in subsection (a)(147); and

“(B) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the results of such study.”.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY MUSEUM ARTIFACTS ACT

The bill (S. 4129) to contribute funds and artifacts to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Museum Artifacts Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation.

(2) LIBRARY.—The term “Library” means the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library to be located in Medora, North Dakota.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY.

(a) GRANTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—To the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary may provide to the Foundation grants in an amount not to exceed a total of \$50,000,000 for the establishment of the Library—

(A) to preserve and make available to the public materials relating to the life of President Theodore Roosevelt; and

(B) to provide interpretive and educational services that communicate the meaning of the life of Theodore Roosevelt.

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may not provide a grant under paragraph (1) until the date on which the Foundation certifies to the Secretary that the Foundation has received an amount equal to not less than \$100,000,000 from funds for the Library—

(A) contributed by the State of North Dakota; or

(B) raised from non-Federal sources during the period beginning on the date on which the Foundation was established and ending on the date of the certification.

(3) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds provided under this subsection may not be used for the maintenance or operation of the Library.

(b) FEDERAL ARTIFACTS AND OBJECTS RELATING TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may enter into 1 or more agreements with the Foundation to provide for a loan to the Foundation from Federal agencies under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary (including the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) of historic, educational, artistic, natural, and other museum artifacts and objects, particularly artifacts and objects that are not on display to the public, without monetary consideration, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary for the preservation and exhibition of the artifacts and objects loaned to the Foundation.

(c) NON-FEDERAL OPERATION.—The Secretary or any other Federal entity shall have no involvement in the operation of the Library, except at the request of the non-Federal entity responsible for the operation of the Library in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations).

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 4129), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PLUM ISLAND PRESERVATION STUDY ACT

The bill (S. 5136) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The amendment (No. 3344), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Plum Island Preservation Study Act”.

SEC. 2. PLUM ISLAND PRESERVATION STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the consolidated Federal asset commonly known as “Plum Island” in the State of New York and all improvements on and to the Federal asset, including—

(A) the Orient Point facility; and

(B) all real and personal property, all transportation assets, and all associated infrastructure that support—

(i) Plum Island operations; and

(ii) access to Plum Island.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the appropriateness of—

(A) designating all or a portion of the study area as a unit of the National Park System or a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; or

(B) providing protection for the resources of the study area by other means.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities,

private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(C) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the findings and conclusions of the study; and

(B) any recommendations of the Secretary.

The bill (S. 5136), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am going to say a few words, and then others who have supported these bills, such as Senator CORNYN, Senator HOEVEN, and Senator WELCH, will speak to others as well.

The bill that I am very gratified and grateful that this body has now approved is S. 5136, the Plum Island Preservation Study Act, with the amendment that we just approved as well.

Very simply, I have been working on this issue for a long time. Plum Island has been there for a long time. Indigenous people treasure Plum Island; 800 acres with plant and animal species; thriving seal populations; species that now are endangered, like the piping plover and the roseate tern; and over the years, two significant locations: Fort Terry and the Plum Island Light-house.

It was a treasure then, and it is a treasure now. I haven't been working on it for as long as, obviously, it has been regarded as a treasure, but over the years that I have worked on it now—more than a decade—with Majority Leader SCHUMER, Senator GILLIBRAND, and Senator MURPHY, as well as State and local stakeholders and countless advocates, we have come to the realization that we need to preserve Plum Island.

Those 800 acres are in the midst of one of the most densely populated areas in the United States, and Plum Island is a home to those really valuable species of wildlife and habitat, an ecosystem that really supports wildlife up and down the east coast, for example, when populations of birds come there to rest and nest.

We are not going to make 500 acres—let alone 800 acres—of important ecological habitat in the middle of Long Island Sound if it is lost, and it has been threatened with loss because it had served as a site for a research facility, biological research, classified mostly—I have visited it—and that research facility is going to be moved to Kansas. The question has been, What happens now to Plum Island? The possibility of commercial development or residential buildings has been there from time to time.