

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 Colorado (Mr. CRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1676, as amended.

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. CRANK. 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.

□ 1540

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE PROJECT LANDS RESTORATION ACT

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2388) to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2388

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 “Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act”.

SEC. 2. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RESERVATION.—The term “Reservation” means the Lower Elwha Indian Reservation, also known as the Lower Elwha Reservation, located in the State of Washington.

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

(3) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Lower Elwha Tribal Community, also known as the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, located in the State of Washington.

(b) LAND HELD IN TRUST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to all valid existing rights of the United States, the approximately 1,082.63 acres of Federal land generally depicted as “NPS Parcels to be Transferred to Tribe” on the map entitled “Olympic National Park Proposed Transfer of Elwha Lands”, numbered 149/178020, and dated December 2021 is hereby taken into and held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

(2) INCLUSION IN RESERVATION.—The land taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall be part of the Reservation.

(3) LAW APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN LAND.—The land taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to any requirements for valuation, appraisal, or equalization under any Federal law.

(c) LAND MANAGEMENT.—Of the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1), the portion of the Elwha River subject to section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (Public Law 102-495; 106 Stat. 3175) shall be managed in accordance with subsection (b) of the first section of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271), except for necessary modifica-

tions under section 3(c)(3) of the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act (Public Law 102-495; 106 Stat. 3175).

(d) MAP AND SURVEY.—

(1) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; SURVEY.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a survey to define the boundaries of the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1).

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may—

(A) make minor boundary adjustments to the land taken into and held in trust under subsection (b)(1); and

(B) correct any minor errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of that land.

(e) GAMING PROHIBITION.—No land taken into and held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe under this section shall be considered Indian lands for the purpose of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

SEC. 3. NO IMPACT ON TREATY RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act affects treaty rights under the Treaty between the United States of America and the S’Klallams Indians, concluded at Point no Point, Washington Territory, January 26, 1855 (12 Stat. 933) (commonly known as the “Treaty of Point No Point”).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2388, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2388, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act, sponsored by Congresswoman RANDALL. H.R. 2388 would take approximately 1,083 acres of National Park Service land into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

The Tribe is located within the Olympic Peninsula in northwest Washington and has approximately 984 enrolled members.

The Tribe signed the Treaty of Point No Point in 1855, which entitled them to share a small reservation not on their traditional lands. After signing the treaty, most Tribal members opted not to live on their reservation, instead choosing rivers, shorelines, and sites of their ancestral burial grounds.

Through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Federal Government acquired 372 acres of land and assigned it to 14 families in the Tribe. In 1968, the Tribe received Federal recognition, which included the acres given to the families. As a result of Federal recognition, the Lower Elwha Reservation was formally established for the Tribe.

The approximately 1,083 acres of National Park Service land in this legis-

lation were acquired in the 1990s through the Elwha River Ecosystems and Fisheries Restoration Act. The act required the National Park Service to identify lands to be transferred to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for housing, cultural, or economic development purposes and place them into trust.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Subcommittee Chairman HURD for their partnership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I am deeply honored to serve on the House Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. I am proud to represent a district that is home to 12 federally recognized Tribes, Tribes that led the Nation in co-stewardship, climate resilience, and ecosystem restoration.

Each time this Congress gathers to address land restoration and treaty reserved rights, we are doing incredibly meaningful work, not only alongside the Tribes that we serve, but in service of the integrity of our Federal Government’s commitments.

I also want to extend a special thank you to Chairwoman Frances Charles of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for testifying before the committee earlier this year on this bill. Chairwoman Charles has spent her career protecting the Lower Elwha’s culture, preserving their language, and ensuring that treaty reserved hunting and fishing rights remain.

It strengthens the restoration of the Elwha watershed, which is one of the most iconic examples of climate resilience and ecological recovery anywhere in the country. This bill recognizes that the Lower Elwha people have lived on and cared for this land since time immemorial.

Transferring land into trust is one of the most impactful actions the United States can take to deliver on trust and treaty obligations. It is one of the clearest ways we can demonstrate respect for Tribal sovereignty and return land to the stewardship of the people who know it best.

This bill is straightforward, and it is long overdue. It aligns our policies with our values, and it honors the community that has spent decades repairing the damage caused by a Federal infrastructure that was built without Tribal consent.

As someone who has the honor of representing the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, I am proud to lead this legislation alongside Senators CANTWELL and MURRAY. I recognize the dedication and work of my predecessor, Representative Derek Kilmer, who championed this bill in past Congresses prior to his retirement last year.

Chairwoman Charles' leadership has been essential to one of the most ambitious restoration projects in our country's history: the removal of the two dams on the Elwha River, the largest dam removal project of our Nation's history at the time, and the healing of a river system that has been blocked for a century.

Just this year, we celebrated an anniversary of the river being free, the return of the salmon through canoe journey. This is an endeavor in which Tribal canoe families journey from around the Salish Sea and British Columbia to come to land, to celebrate, to commemorate their history, and to promise to preserve the land, water, and ecosystem for seven generations forward.

This legislation is an important piece of that puzzle, transferring approximately 1,082 acres of Federal land into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. These are lands once tied to the Federal hydroelectric project, lands acquired during the dam removal process, lands that include cultural sites, historic villages, and ecological areas directly connected to the Tribe's stewardship of the Elwha River.

Placing these lands into trust is not just a procedural act. It is a promise fulfilled. It affirms the Tribe's sovereign right to protect and manage sacred sites for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in moving this bill forward so we can take the final step in returning these lands to the Lower Elwha people, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2388 takes approximately 1,083 acres of National Park Service land into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. RANDALL for her work on this legislation, I urge the adoption of the 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 Colorado (Mr. CRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2388.

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.

QUINAUT INDIAN NATION LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2389) to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2389

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 "Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act".

SEC. 2. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE QUINAUT INDIAN NATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 72 acres of land located in the State of Washington and generally depicted as "Allotment 1157" on the map entitled "Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act" and dated February 2, 2024, shall be administratively transferred from the Forest Service to the Department of the Interior and taken into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation.

(b) LAND PART OF RESERVATION; ADMINISTRATION.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the Quinault Indian Reservation; and

(2) administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe.

(c) GAMING PROHIBITED.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be eligible for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

(d) NO IMPACT ON TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act affects treaty rights under the Treaty between the United States and the Qui-nai-elt and Qui-leh-ute Indians, done at the Qui-nai-elt River July 1, 1855, and Olympia January 25, 1856 (12 Stat. 971) (commonly known as the "Treaty of Olympia").

(e) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.—For purposes of the taking of land into trust under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall meet disclosure requirements for hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants under section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)); and

(2) shall not otherwise be required to remediate or abate those hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) and the gentleman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks into and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2389, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2389, the Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act, sponsored by Congresswoman RANDALL.

H.R. 2389 would place approximately 72 acres of U.S. Forest Service land, known as Allotment 1157, into trust for the Quinault Indian Nation.

The Quinault Nation is located on the western coast of Washington State in the southwestern corner of the Olympic Peninsula.

In the treaty of Olympia, or the Quinault Treaty, the Quinault Indian Tribe ceded their lands and, in return, received tracts that became the Quinault Indian Reservation. The treat-

ty was dismissed after the passage of the General Allotment Act, and the Tribe's lands were separated into 2,340 80-acre allotments to individual Tribe members.

One of these individual Tribal member allotments was Allotment 1157, which was sold by the Indian allottee to a logging company for \$60,000 in the 1960s. The logging company faced legal challenges by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the early 1990s. In 1996, the Trust for Public Lands purchased Allotment 1157 and sold it to the U.S. Forest Service for \$3 million. The Forest Service currently manages the land.

The Quinault Indian Nation has attempted to reacquire ownership of the land that sits on their reservation for the benefit of their Tribe. The Tribe has the support of local stakeholders and the Federal Government and plans to use the land for heritage and cultural purposes. Gaming on these lands pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act would be prohibited.

I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1550

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

I rise today in strong support of this bill, the Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act, and I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee Chairman HURD for the opportunity to speak about another bill before us today and for their thoughtful engagement with Tribal council members, Tribal President Capoean, when he came before the committee, and Quinault Business Committee member Tyson Johnston, who testified to the importance of this legislation earlier this year.

This bill, for me, represents the kind of tangible, bipartisan work I believe that Congress should be doing every day: delivering real solutions, repairing historic injustices, and strengthening our relationships with sovereign Tribal nations.

Earlier this year, I reintroduced the Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act in partnership with Senators CANTWELL and MURRAY. I want to recognize the leadership of my predecessor, Representative Derek Kilmer, who worked diligently on this legislation in past Congresses.

This bill would return approximately 72 acres of land, as we have heard, known as Allotment 1157, to the Quinault Indian Nation by placing it into trust with the Department of the Interior.

To understand why this matters, we have to understand the history. Allotment 1157 was once part of the original Quinault Reservation, land guaranteed to the Nation under the Treaty of Olympia.

In 1928, during the era of forced allotment and fractioning, where ownership of Tribal land was divided, the land was taken out of trust and ultimately lost