

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

MAY 7, 2007.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. RAHALL, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1080]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1080) to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1080 is to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land located within the GT Park Subdivision.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 1080 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundaries of the Grand Teton National Park to include approximately 50 acres that landowners in the Grand Teton Park Subdivision wish to donate to the park.

The property is adjacent to the park's eastern boundary and is visible from the park's main road. According to the National Park Service, the land is similar in character and quality to the adjacent park lands and offers unobstructed views of the Teton Range across the broad valley of Jackson Hole.

One lot in the subdivision is owned by the Gerald Halpin family. The remaining seven lots were donated by the Halpin family to private organizations, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Park Foundation, and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation.

All of these owners would like to donate their land to the park, but the parcels lie outside the existing park boundary. The 1950 law creating the park includes a provision forbidding expansion of any national park or monument in Wyoming without the express authorization of Congress.

H.R. 1080 would authorize the Secretary to accept the donation of lands within the subdivision and, upon acquisition, adjust the boundary of Grand Teton National Park. The bill would prohibit the future sale, donation, exchange or other transfer of the acquired land without congressional approval.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1080 was introduced on February 15, 2007, by Representative Barbara Cubin (R-WY). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. On April 19, 2007, the Subcommittee met to mark up the bill. It was adopted, without amendment, by voice vote. The bill was then forwarded to the Full Committee. On May 2, 2007 the Full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The bill as introduced was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 provides that this Act may be cited as the "Grand Teton National Park Extension Act of 2007."

Section 2. Definitions

Section 2 defines the terms of the bill, including defining the area to be added to the park as approximately 49.67 acres within the GT Park Subdivision, as generally depicted on a plat recorded in the Office of the Teton County Clerk and Recorder on December 16, 1997.

Section 3. Acquisition of land

Section 3 would permit the Secretary of the Interior to accept from any willing donor the donation of any land or interest in land within the defined Subdivision.

Upon acquisition of any land or an interest in land acquired under subsection (a), the Secretary is directed to include the land or interest in land within the boundaries of the Grand Teton National Park; and to administer the land or interest as part of the Park, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The section also directs that the transfer be completed within one (1) year of the date of enactment, and forbids the Secretary from donating, selling, exchanging or otherwise transferring any land acquired under the bill without express authorization from Congress.

Section 4. Authorization of appropriations

Section 4 authorizes such sums as are necessary to carry out the Act.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. **Cost of Legislation.** Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. **Congressional Budget Act.** As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. **General Performance Goals and Objectives.** As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land located within the GT Park Subdivision.

4. **Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate.** Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

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H.R. 1080 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept the donation of about 50 acres of land in Wyoming. Once acquired, the property would become part of the Grand Teton National Park under the administration of the National Park Service. Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1080 would cost less than \$500,000, mostly for surveys and appraisals. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On February 8, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 277, the Grand Teton National Park Extension Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on January 31, 2007. S. 277 and H.R. 1080 are identical, as are the cost estimates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

EARMARK STATEMENT

H.R. 1080 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or (f) of rule XXI.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.