

HERMISTON REVERSIONARY INTEREST RELEASE ACT

APRIL 4, 2014.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3366]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3366) to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hermiston Reversionary Interest Release Act”.

SEC. 2. RELEASE OF RETAINED INTERESTS IN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF OREGON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER.

(a) **RELEASE OF RETAINED INTERESTS.**—Any reservation or reversionary interest retained by the United States to the approximately 290 acres in Hermiston, Oregon, depicted as “Reversionary Interest Area” on the map entitled “Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center” and dated July 23, 2013, is hereby released without consideration.

(b) **INSTRUMENT OF RELEASE.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument reflecting the release of retained interests under subsection (a).

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 3366 is to provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land

conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 3366 would release the Bureau of Land Management's reversionary interest in 290 acres that were conveyed to the State of Oregon in 1954 for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center (HAREC) of Oregon State University (OSU) in Hermiston, Oregon.

In 1954, the federal government conveyed the 290 acres affected by this legislation to the State of Oregon for the creation of the HAREC. The federal government retains a reversionary interest in the property and the property would return to federal ownership if it is not specifically used for agricultural research purposes. As the city of Hermiston continues to grow up around the HAREC, this reversionary interest denies OSU and the city the control and flexibility needed to efficiently manage the property and advance new agricultural research programs. Lifting the reversionary interest will advance the goals of the HAREC and OSU, benefit the local economy and create job opportunities to meet the demands of the growing region.

Adjacent to the 290 acres affected by H.R. 3366 is a six acre parcel of land that previously reverted back to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and currently stands idle. This parcel will be orphaned, is of no use to BLM and will be a challenge to manage when the reversionary interest is removed from the 290 acres being used for the HAREC. The six acres could be better managed if it were to rejoin and be managed with the adjacent 290 acres.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3366 was introduced on October 29, 2013, by Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. On February 26, 2014, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On March 13, 2014, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation was discharged by unanimous consent. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT) offered an amendment designated #1; the amendment was adopted by unanimous consent. The bill as amended was then adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

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.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a compari-

son by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(2)(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. 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:

H.R. 3366—Hermiston Reversionary Interest Release Act

H.R. 3366 would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to convey a reversionary interest in about 290 acres of land to the State of Oregon. The affected lands were conveyed to the state under the condition that interest in the lands would revert to BLM if the state stopped using the land for certain agricultural purposes. Under the bill, that condition would no longer apply.

Based on information provided by BLM, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant effect on the federal budget. Because we expect that the affected lands would not generate any receipts for the federal government over the next 10 years, CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 3366 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

2. Section 308(a) of 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. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

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 provide for the release of the property interests retained by the United States in certain land conveyed in 1954 by the United States, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to the State of Oregon for the establishment of the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center of Oregon State University in Hermiston, Oregon.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

COMPLIANCE WITH H. RES. 5

Directed Rule Making. The Chairman does not believe that this bill directs any executive branch official to conduct any specific rule-making proceedings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95-220, as amended by Public Law 98-169) as relating to other programs.

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.

