

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5923

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain public lands in Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2018

Mr. WESTERMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain public lands in Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Walnut Grove Land
5 Exchange Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CHURCH.—The term “Church” means the
9 Walnut Grove Church.

1 (2) OFFERED TRACT.—The term “Offered
2 Tract” means all right, title, and interest of the
3 Church in and to approximately 6.3 acres of non-
4 Federal land identified as “Offered Tract 5742” on
5 the Detail Map of the Walnut Grove Exchange,
6 Ouachita National Forest Map.

7 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Agriculture.

9 (4) SELECTED TRACT.—The term “Selected
10 Tract” means all right, title, and interest of the
11 United States in and to approximately 4 acres iden-
12 tified as “Selected Tract 5743” on the Detail Map
13 of the Walnut Grove Exchange, Ouachita National
14 Forest Map.

15 (5) SERVICE.—The term “Service” means the
16 United States Forest Service.

17 **SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND; EQUALIZATION OF VALUE.**

18 (a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provi-
19 sions of this Act, not later than 2 years after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, if the Church offers to convey
21 the Offered Tract to the United States, the Secretary
22 shall—

23 (1) convey to the Church all right, title, and in-
24 terest of the United States in and to the Selected
25 Tract; and

1 (2) accept from the Church a conveyance of all
2 right, title, and interest of the Church in and to the
3 Offered Tract.

4 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The exchange under sub-
5 section (a) shall be—

6 (1) subject to valid existing rights;

7 (2) conditioned on an equalization payment
8 made by the Church in accordance with subsection
9 (c); and

10 (3) conditioned on the payment of the costs de-
11 scribed in subsection (g).

12 (c) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), the exchange under subsection (a) shall
15 be for equal value or the values shall be equalized
16 by a cash payment.

17 (2) EXCEPTION.—If the value of the Offered
18 Tract exceeds the Selected Tract, an equalization
19 payment shall not be required.

20 (d) APPRAISALS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land to be
22 exchanged under this Act shall be determined by ap-
23 praisals conducted by one or more independent and
24 qualified appraisers.

1 (2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The appraisals
2 required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in
3 accordance with nationally recognized appraisal
4 standards, including, as determined appropriate by
5 the Church and Secretary, the Uniform Appraisal
6 Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the
7 Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Prac-
8 tice.

9 (e) FORMAT.—Title and valuation to the land to be
10 exchanged under this Act shall be in a format acceptable
11 to the Secretary and the Church.

12 (f) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 shall finalize a map and legal descriptions of all land
16 to be conveyed under this Act.

17 (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary may correct
18 any minor errors in the map or in the legal descrip-
19 tions.

20 (3) MAP ON FILE.—The map and legal descrip-
21 tions shall be on file and available for public inspec-
22 tion in appropriate offices of the United States For-
23 est Service.

1 (g) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of con-
2 veyance, any costs related to the conveyance under this
3 section shall be paid by the Church.

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