

Union Calendar No. 715

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5923

[Report No. 115-922]

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

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 22, 2018]

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 Ex-*
5 *change Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *CHURCH.*—*The term “Church” means the*
9 *Walnut Grove Church in Garland County, Arkansas.*

10 (2) *OFFERED TRACT.*—*The term “Offered Tract”*
11 *means all right, title, and interest of the Church in*
12 *and to approximately 6.3 acres of non-Federal land*
13 *identified as “Offered Tract 5742” on the Detail Map*
14 *of the Walnut Grove Exchange, Ouachita National*
15 *Forest map (printed date May 11, 2017).*

16 (3) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
17 *the Secretary of Agriculture.*

18 (4) *SELECTED TRACT.*—*The term “Selected*
19 *Tract” means all right, title, and interest of the*
20 *United States in and to approximately 4 acres identi-*
21 *fied as “Selected Tract 5743” on the Detail Map of*
22 *the Walnut Grove Exchange, Ouachita National For-*
23 *est map (printed date May 11, 2017), subject to the*
24 *reservation of a road easement by the Secretary.*

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

2 (a) *EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.*—Subject to the provi-
3 sions of this Act, not later than 2 years after the date of
4 the enactment of this Act, if the Church offers to convey
5 the Offered Tract to the United States, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) convey to the Church all right, title, and in-
7 terest of the United States in and to the Selected
8 Tract; and

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

12 (b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The exchange under subsection
13 (a) shall be—

14 (1) subject to valid existing rights;

15 (2) conditioned on an equalization payment
16 made by the Church in accordance with subsection
17 (c); and

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

20 (c) *EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.*—

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), the exchange under subsection (a) shall be
23 for equal value or the values shall be equalized by a
24 cash payment.

1 (2) *EXCEPTION.*—*If the value of the Offered*
2 *Tract exceeds the Selected Tract, an equalization pay-*
3 *ment shall not be required.*

4 (d) *APPRAISALS.*—

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The value of the land to be ex-*
6 *changed under this Act shall be determined by ap-*
7 *praisals conducted by one or more independent and*
8 *qualified appraisers.*

9 (2) *APPRAISAL STANDARDS.*—*The Secretary shall*
10 *complete an appraisal of the land to be exchanged*
11 *under this Act in accordance with—*

12 (A) *the Uniform Appraisal Standards for*
13 *Federal Land Acquisitions; and*

14 (B) *the Uniform Standards of Professional*
15 *Appraisal Practice.*

16 (e) *FORMAT.*—*Title and valuation to the land to be*
17 *exchanged under this Act shall be in a format acceptable*
18 *to the Secretary and the Church.*

19 (f) *MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*As soon as practicable after*
21 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
22 *shall finalize a map and legal descriptions of all land*
23 *to be conveyed under this Act.*

1 (2) *CORRECTIONS.*—*The Secretary may correct*
2 *any minor errors in the map or in the legal descrip-*
3 *tions.*

4 (3) *MAP ON FILE.*—*The map and legal descrip-*
5 *tions shall be on file and available for public inspec-*
6 *tion in appropriate offices of the United States Forest*
7 *Service.*

8 (g) *COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.*—*As a condition of con-*
9 *veyance, any costs related to the conveyance under this sec-*
10 *tion shall be paid by the Church.*

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