

the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2921.

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.

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2941) to provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System land within Kisatchie National Forest in the State of Louisiana.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2941

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 "Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that it is in the public interest to authorize the conveyance of certain Federal land in the Kisatchie National Forest in the State of Louisiana for market value consideration.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COLLINS CAMP PROPERTIES.—The term "Collins Camp Properties" means Collins Camp Properties, Inc., a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Louisiana.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCES, KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST, LOUISIANA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and subsection (b), the Secretary may convey the Federal land described in paragraph (2) by quitclaim deed at public or private sale, including competitive sale by auction, bid, or other methods.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The Federal land referred to in paragraph (1) consists of—

(A) all Federal land within sec. 9, T. 10 N., R. 5 W., Winn Parish, Louisiana; and

(B) a 2.16-acre parcel of Federal land located in the SW¼ of sec. 4, T. 10 N., R. 5 W., Winn Parish, Louisiana, as depicted on a certificate of survey dated March 7, 2007, by Glen L. Cannon, P.L.S. 4436.

(b) FIRST RIGHT OF PURCHASE.—Subject to valid existing rights and section 6, during the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, on the provision of consideration by the Collins Camp Properties to the Secretary, the Secretary shall convey, by quitclaim deed, to Collins Camp Properties all right, title and interest of the United States in and to—

(1) not more than 47.92 acres of Federal land comprising the Collins Campsites within sec. 9, T. 10 N., R. 5 W., in Winn Parish, Louisiana, as generally depicted on a certificate of survey dated February 28, 2007, by Glen L. Cannon, P.L.S. 4436; and

(2) the parcel of Federal land described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may—

(1) configure the Federal land to be conveyed under this Act—

(A) to maximize the marketability of the conveyance; or

(B) to achieve management objectives; and

(2) establish any terms and conditions for the conveyances under this Act that the Secretary determines to be in the public interest.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for a conveyance of Federal land under this Act shall be—

(1) in the form of cash; and

(2) in an amount equal to the market value of the Federal land being conveyed, as determined under subsection (e).

(e) MARKET VALUE.—The market value of the Federal land conveyed under this Act shall be determined—

(1) in the case of Federal land conveyed under subsection (b), by an appraisal that is—

(A) conducted in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) approved by the Secretary; or

(2) if conveyed by a method other than the methods described in subsection (b), by competitive sale.

(f) HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any conveyance of Federal land under this Act, the Secretary shall meet disclosure requirements for hazardous substances, but shall otherwise not be required to remediate or abate the substances.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section otherwise affects the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) to the conveyances of Federal land.

SEC. 5. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.

The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of a conveyance of Federal land under section 4 in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") (16 U.S.C. 484a).

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) COSTS.—As a condition of a conveyance of Federal land to Collins Camp Properties under section 4, the Secretary shall require Collins Camp Properties to pay at closing—

(1) reasonable appraisal costs; and

(2) the cost of any administrative and environmental analyses required by law (including regulations).

(b) PERMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An offer by Collins Camp Properties for the acquisition of the Federal land under section 4 shall be accompanied by a written statement from each holder of a Forest Service special use authorization with respect to the Federal land that specifies that the holder agrees to relinquish the special use authorization on the conveyance of the Federal land to Collins Camp Properties.

(2) SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—If any holder of a special use authorization described in paragraph (1) fails to provide a written authorization in accordance with that paragraph, the Secretary shall require, as a condition of the conveyance, that Collins Camp Properties administer the special use authorization according to the terms of the special use authorization until the date on which the special use authorization expires.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2941, the Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act.

This measure introduced by our colleague, Mr. ABRAHAM, authorizes the USDA to sell specified Federal land in Winn Parish, Louisiana. The rural residential qualities of the land make it incompatible with National Forest management, and this transfer would eliminate unnecessary administrative and boundary maintenance costs on the already strained Forest Service.

The Kisatchie National Forest is rich in renewable wildlife resources, and supporting wilderness habitat is vital to their sustainability. This transfer, supported by the Forest Service, will allow the forest to be managed at the highest level of stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2941, the Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2941 permits the sale of two isolated parcels of Kisatchie National Forest land, totaling approximately 50 acres. These parcels are isolated from the forest's core lands and are intermixed with private land and residences, leaving it incompatible with the National Forest management.

The proceeds from the sale of these parcels will be made available for the acquisition of lands and interest in the Kisatchie National Forest.

Under H.R. 2941, the Secretary of Agriculture is required to first convey a portion of the land to Collins Camp Properties. Collins Camp Properties must pay reasonable appraisal costs and costs of any required administrative and environmental analysis.

H.R. 2941 allows the Kisatchie National Forest to consolidate ownership of natural lands and continues the strong tradition of the National Forest Service acting as stewards for the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2941. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2941.

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.

—————

**AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF
SMALL PARCEL OF NATURAL
RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE PROPERTY IN RIVER-
SIDE, CALIFORNIA**

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3567) to authorize the purchase of a small parcel of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside, California, by the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3567

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Since 1935, the United States has owned a parcel of land in Riverside, California, consisting of approximately 8.75 acres, more specifically described in section 2(a) (in this section referred to as the "property").

(2) The property is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and has been variously used for research and plant materials purposes.

(3) Since 1998, the property has been administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture.

(4) Since 2002, the property has been co-managed under a cooperative agreement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District, which is a legal subdivision of the State of California under section 9003 of the California Public Resources Code.

(5) The Conservation District wishes to purchase the property and use it for conservation, environmental, and related educational purposes.

(6) As provided in section 2, the purchase of the property by the Conservation District would promote the conservation education and related activities of the Conservation District and result in savings to the Federal Government.

SEC. 2. LAND PURCHASE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PROPERTY, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **PURCHASE AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall sell and quitclaim to the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District (in this section referred to as the "Conservation District") all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, that is located at 4500 Glenwood Drive in Riverside, California, consists of approximately 8.75 acres, and is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture. As necessary or desirable to facilitate the purchase of the property under this section, the Secretary or the Conservation District may survey all or portions of the property.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—As consideration for the purchase of the property under this section, the Conservation District shall pay to the Secretary of Agriculture an amount equal to the appraised value of the property.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON RESERVATION OF INTEREST.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall not

reserve any future interest in the property to be conveyed under this section, except such interest as may be acceptable to the Conservation District.

(d) **HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.**—Notwithstanding section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)) or the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), in the case of the property purchased by the Conservation District under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall be only required to meet the disclosure requirements for hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, but shall otherwise not be required to remediate or abate any such releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, including petroleum and petroleum derivatives.

(e) **COOPERATIVE AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **LEASES, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.**—In conjunction with, or in addition to, the purchase of the property by the Conservation District under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into leases, contracts and cooperative agreements with the Conservation District.

(2) **SOLE SOURCE.**—Notwithstanding sections 3105, 3301, and 3303 to 3305 of title 41, United States Code, or any other provision of law, the Secretary may lease real property from the Conservation District on a non-competitive basis.

(3) **NON-EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided by this subsection is in addition to any other authority of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3567, to authorize the transfer of the title of land owned by the NRCS in Riverside, California, to the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District. The conservation district has invested \$2.8 million in the facility with the hope of eventually acquiring the property, and would like to invest in further improvements when the property title issue is resolved.

Conservation districts work closely with their Federal partner, the NRCS. This legislation is a simple fix to allow the Riverside-Corona district to utilize the facility and serve the local folks on the ground through voluntary, incentive-based conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3567.

H.R. 3567 will allow California's Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District to purchase at appraised value the parcel of property on which it is currently located, which is the former U.S. Salinity Laboratory.

The property is currently administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and is being co-managed under a cooperative agreement. The cooperative agreement dates back to 1996. Since that time, the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District has invested \$2.8 million into the property with the understanding that NRCS would eventually transfer ownership.

The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District provides natural resource conservation through education, collaboration, and technical assistance in southern California.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to approve H.R. 3567, a necessary and long-overdue piece of legislation. This is a straightforward, commonsense bill that authorizes the purchase of a small parcel of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside, California, by the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District.

Since 1996, the conservation district has partnered with NRCS to acquire, collocate and manage what was previously the USDA Salinity Laboratory. Following acquisition of the property, NRCS has not obligated any Federal funds for plant materials research at the Riverside location in question.

On the other hand, the conservation district, as has been mentioned, has invested \$2.8 million in improvements and upgrade to the property. All along, the conservation district has an understanding with NRCS that they would eventually transfer the property to its ownership.

□ 1715

Following a series of changes in personnel within NRCS, the conservation district was informed that legislation authorizing such a transfer would be necessary.

H.R. 3567 authorizes USDA to sell the NRCS property in Riverside to the conservation district for an amount equal to the appraised value of the property. The legislation further states that current NRCS operation at the property shall be allowed to continue at no cost to the Federal Government.

In closing, this legislation will provide long-term security for the conservation district and the investments it has, and will continue to make, in the property. It also protects the interests of the NRCS and the Federal Government for as long as its limited use of the property is needed.