

against fire and other catastrophic events. H.R. 4609 will improve local fire and emergency services to the community of West Fork and will ensure that residents of the West Fork area will be prepared for catastrophic events without expending any new Federal dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I want to note the hard work that Representative TIPTON has put into this bill, and I salute his efforts and leadership.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4609 authorizes the conveyance of 3.61 acres of National Forest System land to Dolores County, Colorado, for the purpose of building a fire station. The language of this bill also allows the United States to regain ownership of the land if the county no longer uses it for its intended purpose.

During a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing in February of this year, representatives from the Forest Service not only expressed their support for this conveyance, but went on to note the lack of non-Federal options for land suitable for building a fire station in the area.

We can all agree on the importance of public safety. It is our duty as Members of Congress to ensure that the brave men and women who serve as firefighters in their communities have access to the infrastructure they need to do their work.

Mr. Speaker, I support the adoption of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), the author of this measure and one of the leaders in the House on important issues facing the Western States.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman McCLINTOCK and also Representative HANABUSA for their support on this important piece of legislation, which ultimately creates a win not only for the local community property rights, but also for our forest system, as well, in the event of a catastrophic wildfire breaking out.

West Fork is in a remote part of Dolores County, Colorado, surrounded by the San Juan National Forest. Emergency and fire response is a challenge in this part of the county because the closest fire station is currently 26 miles away. The West Fork Fire Station Act conveys approximately 3.6 acres of National Forest System land to Dolores County for the strict purpose of building and operating a fire station in the West Fork area.

In addition to creating emergency and fire response challenges, the lack of a dedicated fire station has created insurance challenges for homeowners in West Fork. In an area surrounded by national forest land, it is critical to have fire insurance for your home and other structures on your property. With no fire station in reasonable prox-

imity to the area, it is near impossible for homeowners to obtain fire insurance in West Fork. My bill would help change that.

The West Fork fire station will be operated by a volunteer fire department, men and women who dedicate their time, talent, and often put the safety of their community and neighbors ahead of their own. I greatly appreciate their service to the county.

I also commend Dolores County for working along with local property owners and the surrounding fire districts to obtain necessary firefighting equipment for the volunteers who would serve the West Fork fire station.

Dolores County, Colorado, U.S. Senators CORY GARDNER and MICHAEL BENNET, along with the U.S. Forest Service all support the West Fork Fire Station Act.

The bill passed out of the Natural Resources Committee with a unanimous vote. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the House to support this bill and the community of West Fork today.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the adoption of this bill. It is a great bill. It protects our first responders and is something that we need to provide for them. As stated earlier, the Forest Service has no other use for this land.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4609.

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.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3961) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Kissimmee River and its tributaries in the State of Florida for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3961

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

This Act may be cited as the “Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2018”.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Kissimmee River has undergone, over the course of two decades, the largest river restoration effort in the world.

(2) Extending approximately 105 miles from Orlando to Lake Okeechobee, the Kissimmee River forms the headwaters of Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades and serves as a vital component of ecosystem restoration in South Florida as a whole.

(3) The Kissimmee River Restoration Project has significantly improved approximately 63,000 acres of wetlands within the Kissimmee River watershed and reestablished an environment suitable for fish, wildlife, and the wetland plants that existed prior to the Kissimmee River’s channelization in the 1960s.

(4) The Kissimmee River Restoration Project is expected to be completed in 2020, at which point it is expected to reestablish historic hydrologic conditions, recreate historic river and floodplain connectivity, recreate the historic mosaic of wetland plant communities, and restore historic biological diversity and functionality.

(5) After decades of restoration efforts and the expenditure of nearly a billion dollars, upon completion of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, a study should be conducted to determine the eligibility of including the fully restored Kissimmee River into the National Wild and Scenic River program to preserve the fully restored free-flowing condition and immediate environment of the river for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

(6) Inclusion of the Kissimmee River into the National Wild and Scenic River program would be a fitting tribute to the hard work of the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District’s restoration work.

(a) DESIGNATION FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“() KISSIMMEE RIVER, FLORIDA.—The segment from the southern shore of Lake Kissimmee to its confluence with Lake Okeechobee.”.

(b) STUDY.—Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“() KISSIMMEE RIVER, FLORIDA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete a study of the Kissimmee River, as described in subsection (a)(), and submit a report describing the results of such study to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

“(B) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) include a discussion of the effect of the designation of the segment to be studied under subsection (a)() on—

“(I) existing commercial and recreational activities, such as cattle ranching, dairy production, hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational shooting, motor boat use, or bridge construction;

“(II) the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure;

“(III) military operations; and

“(IV) the authority of State and local governments to manage the activities described in subclauses (I) and (II); and

“(ii) identify—

“(I) all authorities that will authorize or require the Secretary of the Interior to influence local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal land if the area studied under subsection (a)() is designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act;

“(II) all authorities that the Secretary of the Interior may use to condemn property if the area studied under subsection (a)(____) is designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; and

“(III) all private property located in the area to be studied under subsection (a)(____).

“(C) NONINTERFERENCE.—This study shall not interfere with the Kissimmee River Restoration Project authorized under section 101(8) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-580).”

(c) NO NEGATIVE IMPACT.—Nothing authorized by this Act may negatively impact agricultural production in the Kissimmee River basin.

(d) NO EFFECT ON MANAGEMENT.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not interfere with the current management of the area of the Kissimmee River described in section 5(a)(____) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, nor shall the fact that such area is listed for study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) be used as justification for more restrictive management, such as wilderness or as a category of wild and scenic river, until Congress acts on the study recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3961 would designate the Kissimmee River for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

I must admit, I have become highly skeptical of wild and scenic designations on our rivers after I watched the Merced River's designation used as an excuse to severely restrict traditional recreational amenities at Yosemite National Park in my district, including bicycling, horseback riding, river rafting, lodging, and many other amenities that long predated the wild and scenic designation. The iconic Curry Village Skating Rink was lost to these restrictions.

Not only are the designations used to severely restrict public access and to restrict the enjoyment of the public's lands, even the existence of a study has often been used as an excuse to forbid longstanding and traditional enjoyment of these rivers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill's author, Mr. SOTO, for agreeing to amendments that will assure that the conduct of the study authorized by this measure cannot be used as justification for any restrictions on the public's use of the Kissimmee.

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It should be very clearly understood that, with this bill, Congress is authorizing a study and nothing else. In no way is it authorizing any restriction on the public's use of this land while it is being studied or because it is being studied.

Any further actions forthcoming from the result of this study is for the Congress and the Congress alone to decide.

With that very clear understanding, I support adoption of the measure.

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), the author of the bill.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3961, the Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Chairman MCCLINTOCK, Ranking Member HANABUSA, and Congressman WEBSTER for all their collaboration and support on this important bill.

The Kissimmee River forms the headwaters of both Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades.

Decades ago, the Federal and State governments, including Florida, instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to channelize this river, leading to a decline in the ecosystem.

Decades later, both the Federal Government and State government got together and spent nearly a billion dollars to restore this iconic river in order to improve recreation activities for Floridians and all Americans; to protect local ecosystems, including endangered species; and, of course, to clean the water that goes to Lake Okeechobee and eventually to the Everglades.

This bill, now that we have spent nearly a billion dollars, will help start us down the road for potential protection, and I am proud to work with both sides of the aisle to make sure that we get it right.

I believe it is imperative for future generations that we use this as an opportunity to safeguard the investment that we have made and to protect this ecosystem for wildlife corridors, for the enjoyment of Floridians and all Americans, for the protection of species, and to make sure that we are protecting the Everglades for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, once again, our Natural Resources Committee, including Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Chairman MCCLINTOCK, Ranking Member HANABUSA, and Congressman WEBSTER for working with me on this. With their support, this legislation could only be on the floor with them helping out.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in this Chamber to support H.R. 3961.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3961 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct a study of the Kissimmee River to potentially be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The designation would prohibit dams and other projects that would negatively impact the river's natural condition, but would not restrict private land use.

Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3961, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE HISTORIC LANDS REACQUISITION ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 146) to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 146

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 “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act”.

SEC. 2. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

(a) *LANDS INTO TRUST.*—Subject to such rights of record as may be vested in third parties to rights-of-way or other easements or rights-of-record for roads, utilities, or other purposes, the following Federal lands managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority and located on or above the 820-foot (MSL) contour elevation in Monroe County, Tennessee, on the shores of Tellico Reservoir, are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the use and benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians:

(1) *SEQUOYAH MUSEUM PROPERTY.*—Approximately 46.0 acres of land generally depicted as “Sequoyah Museum”, “Parcel 1”, and “Parcel 2” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 1” and dated April 30, 2015.

(2) *SUPPORT PROPERTY.*—Approximately 11.9 acres of land generally depicted as “Support Parcel” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 2” and dated April 30, 2015.

(3) *CHOTA MEMORIAL PROPERTY AND TANASI MEMORIAL PROPERTY.*—Approximately 18.2 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota Memorial