

PIT RIVER LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2025

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2400]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2400) to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends 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 “Pit River Land Transfer Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.

(a) TRANSFER OF FOUR CORNERS FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Four Corners Federal land is hereby taken into trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the Tribe.

(2) SURVEY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide to the Secretary a complete survey of the Four Corners Federal land.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Upon being taken into trust under this section, the lands taken into trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the Tribe shall be—

(1) considered part of the Pit River Tribe Reservation; and

(2) administered by the Secretary in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe.

(c) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust under this section shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) FOUR CORNERS FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Four Corners Federal land” means the approximately 583.79 acres of land managed by the Forest Service generally depicted within the “Proposed Land Conveyance” boundary on the Map, including improvements and appurtenances thereon.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “Four Corners Federal land” does not include the approximately 20.03 acres of roads, highways, and public rights-of-way

subject to existing easements generally depicted within the “Proposed Land Conveyance” boundary on the Map.

(2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map titled “Proposed Land Conveyance to the Pit River Tribe” prepared by the Forest Service and dated November 6, 2024.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Pit River Tribe, California (includes XL Ranch, Big Bend, Likely, Lookout, Montgomery Creek, and Roaring Creek Rancherias).

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 2400 is to take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 2400, introduced by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), would place approximately 584 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land, commonly known as the “Four Corners,” into trust for the Pit River Tribe. Gaming on these lands, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, would be prohibited.¹

The Pit River Tribe consists of eleven different California tribal bands.² They currently reside on a 100-square-mile reservation near the Pit River in northeastern California.³ While the Pit River Tribe was federally recognized in 1976,⁴ their history spans decades and is riddled with conflict and loss.

During the Gold Rush, the tribe’s bands were victims of disease and murder.⁵ As the 19th century progressed, the tribe struggled to obtain a permanent land base, and many tribal members were forced to live on the Round Valley Reservation away from their ancestral homelands.⁶

Like many tribes, some tribal members were able to individually acquire land via land allotments per the General Allotment Act⁷ at the end of the 19th century.⁸ However, many tribal members lost ownership of the land allotted to them⁹ under various circumstances, leading to the removal of most tribal members from their allotted land by 1950.¹⁰

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the tribe attempted to regain certain USFS land near the intersection of Highways 299 and 89, referred to as the “Four Corners,” near Burney, California.¹¹ The Pit River Tribe claimed it was their ancestral land, despite being owned by the USFS.¹²

¹ 25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.

² Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 324.

³ Official Home of the Pit River Tribe. *Home*. <https://pitrivertribe.gov/>.

⁴ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 324.

⁵ Sabalow, Ryan. *A long history of loss for Pit River Tribe*. Record Searchlight. Sept 2011. <https://archive.redding.com/news/a-long-history-of-loss-for-pit-river-tribe-ep-375503037-354670171.html>.

⁶ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 323.

⁷ Act of February 8, 1887, Ch. 119, 24 Stat. 388.

⁸ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 324.

⁹ Act of February 8, 1887, Ch. 119, 24 Stat. 388.

¹⁰ Tiller, Veronica E. Velarde. *Tiller’s Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*. 3rd ed. Pg. 324.

¹¹ Sabalow, Ryan. *A long history of loss for Pit River Tribe*. Record Searchlight. Sept 2011. <https://archive.redding.com/news/a-long-history-of-loss-for-pit-river-tribe-ep-375503037-354670171.html>.

¹² *Id.*

In 2013, the tribe again attempted to regain the Four Corners land from federal ownership through outreach to the Lassen National Forest, with the stated intent to build an interpretive center and reacquire their ancestral lands.¹³ The Pit River Tribe also passed a resolution in 2013 declaring the acquisition of the Four Corners land a priority and formally requested the USFS to transfer ownership of the land to the tribe.¹⁴ The tribe submitted a map, tribal resolution, draft imperative plan, and formal request to the USFS in 2013. In 2015, the tribe sent a follow-up request letter, which included a resubmission of the original documents. To date, the land remains in USFS ownership.¹⁵

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 2400 was introduced on March 27, 2025, by Representative Doug LaMalfa (R CA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. On April 30, 2025, the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing on the bill. On July 23, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2400 by unanimous consent. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) offered an amendment designated LaMalfa 059. The amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held on April 30, 2025.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 establishes that the Act may be cited as the “Pit River Land Transfer Act of 2025.”

Section 2. Land to be taken into trust

Section 2 would place the parcel of USFS land known as “Four Corners Federal Land” into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe. Pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, this section also prohibits gaming on this land.

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.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Pit River Tribe Resolution No: 13–07. July 16, 2013. On file.

¹⁵ Follow-Up Letter from Mickey Gemmill, Pit River Tribal Chairman. June 11, 2015. On file.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *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 take certain Federal land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pit River Tribe.

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.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

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.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

As ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources,
H.R. 2400 would make no changes in existing law.

