

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1585) to expand the boundary of the Modoc National Forest to include lands presently owned by the Bank of California, N.A. Trustee, to facilitate a land exchange with the Forest Service, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1585

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 "Modoc National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Certain private lands presently owned by the Bank of California, N.A. Trustee, are adjacent to the Modoc National Forest and are logical extensions of the forest.

(2) A boundary adjustment will facilitate a land exchange which involves approximately 4,240 acres of National Forest land and 11,804 acres of private land, of which only 760 acres are outside the present Modoc National Forest boundary.

(3) Bank of California, N.A. Trustee, and the Forest Service are prepared to exchange these lands under existing authority of the Secretary of Agriculture which will benefit both the private landowners and the United States by consolidating their respective landownership patterns, providing reduced costs for each party in implementing their land management objectives, providing increased recreation opportunities and fishery habitat for the American public, and providing commercial timber lands to the private landowners.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Modoc National Forest is hereby modified to include and encompass 760 acres, more or less, on the following described lands: Mount Diablo Meridian, Lassen County, California, T. 38 N., R. 10 E., sec. 5, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; sec. 8, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 16, W $\frac{1}{2}$; sec. 25, Lots 13, 14 and 15 (S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$); T. 37 N., R. 11 E., Sec. 20, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

(b) RULE FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For the purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-9), the boundary of the Modoc National Forest, as modified by this Act, shall be considered to be the boundary of that National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] and the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] each will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY].

(Mr. COOLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1585, sponsored by Mr. HERGER, which would expand the boundary of the Modoc National Forest to include lands presently owned by the Bank of California, N.A., Trustee, and to facilitate a land exchange with the Forest Service.

The Ash Creek Exchange was entered into by the Bank of California, N.A.,

Trustee [BankCal], and the Forest Service to consolidate their respective holdings in parts of the Lassen, Modoc, and Plumas National Forests. Because certain private lands subject to the exchange were outside but contiguous to the boundary of the Modoc National Forest, the exchange was structured in two phases.

The first phase was completed in June 1993. In phase 1 of the transaction, 11,044 acres of private land were exchanged for 3,757 acres of Forest Service land. Phase 2 of the transaction, which is the subject of this legislation, would transfer approximately 11,804 acres of private land to the Forest Service and approximately 4,240 acres of Forest Service land to private ownership.

The remaining 760 acres of private land is located outside, but contiguous to, the proclamation boundary of the Modoc National Forest. The proposed boundary adjustment will provide for these lands to be acquired by the Forest Service.

H.R. 1585 was favorably reported by the Committee on Resources by unanimous voice vote. I commend the work of my friend, Mr. HERGER, on this measure and urge the Members of the House to support this bill.

□ 1530

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

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

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this authorization will authorize the final phase of a two-step process to consolidate lands in parts of the Lassen, Modoc, and Plumas National Forests. It will facilitate the transfer of approximately 11,804 acres of private land to the Forest Service in exchange for the 4,240 acres of Forest Service land to be transferred to private ownership. This bill has been worked out with all interested parties and is supported by the administration.

It is a good bill, introduced by the gentleman from California [Mr. HERGER], who has worked very hard on this issue. We welcome passing this legislation.

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. HERGER], the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1585. I would like to thank the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] and the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] for their strong support, and also the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] on the minority side.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial bill that completes an equal value

land exchange between the Modoc National Forest and the Bank of California. This legislation enjoys strong support from the Forest Service and local communities in the Lassen and Modoc Counties of northern California.

The land exchange was commenced by the Bank of California and the Forest Service to consolidate their respective holdings in parts of the Lassen, Modoc, and Plumas National Forests. Because the transaction would require a boundary change in the Modoc National Forest, the exchange was structured in two phases. The first phase was completed in June 1993. This legislation will help complete phase 2 of the transaction. The land that will be added to the Modoc National Forest is currently used for grazing and tree production, both of which are consistent with the current land management plan.

Mr. Speaker, this exchange will not adversely affect any existing property or land use rights, and will complete a reasonable and fair transaction. By consolidating Federal landholdings, it will reduce land management costs, increase fishery habitat, and provide additional recreational opportunities within the Modoc National Forest.

Mr. Speaker, I give this bill my full endorsement, and strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of final passage.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1585.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXCHANGE OF LANDS WITH THE
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, UT

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1838) to provide for an exchange of lands with the Water Conservancy District of Washington County, UT.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1838

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

**SECTION 1. EXCHANGE OF LANDS WITH THE
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, if within 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Water Conservancy District of Washington County, Utah, offers to transfer to the United States all right, title, and interest of the District in and to the Bulloch Site, the Secretary of the Interior shall, in exchange, transfer to the