

to have to introduce legislation to get them moving. Is that correct?

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, yes, sir, I appreciate the gentleman's question. I tried before this legislation was introduced to reach some common ground with the Park Service, and quite frankly I saw no sincere interest on their part, I use the word sincere, until I introduced the bill.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, so now they are more sincere than ever.

Mr. JONES. Yes, sir.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his help, too.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON].

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I too appreciate the gentleman from North Carolina for introducing this bill. I think it is very important that we recognize that maybe these horses are not indigenous to the island but they do add and enhance the beauty and the preservation of it. I represent coastal Georgia, and we have Cumberland Island there where there is a herd of wild horses. These horses are also of Spanish descent.

The interesting thing about Cumberland Island is that the environmental community wants to eliminate the horses. Their reasoning is that it is not indigenous. Not all environmentalists feel this way, but many of them do. They come up with very specious reasons for doing so. We were told last year that the Cumberland horse population had been going up 15 percent a year for the last 10 years. Upon researching it within our office we found that the horse population on Cumberland Island had in fact been in the 250 to 260 range for about 10 years, and there was not an increase in the horse population.

We further found this year after another census was done that the horse population had in fact declined. So I think it is very important that we recognize that on wild horse populations, many times we are arguing not necessarily based on science but based on political correctness.

I believe that the gentleman from North Carolina is doing the right thing. Let the folks down there decide. Let them work with the biologists, get the emotion of the Park Service who sometimes gets involved in the politics on the politically correct politics, which says that nonindigenous animals have to go.

I think that this is a great piece of legislation, and I enthusiastically support it. I hope the day does not come when we have to have similar legislation to protect the wild horses on Cumberland Island. Right now they are being protected, but it does take a nudge to the Park Service.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER]. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 765.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 765, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

WARNER CANYON SKI HILL LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1997

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1944) to provide for a land exchange involving the Warner Canyon Ski Area and other land in the State of Oregon.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1944

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 "Warner Canyon Ski Hill Land Exchange Act of 1977".

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE INVOLVING WARNER CANYON SKI AREA AND OTHER LAND IN OREGON.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF EXCHANGE.—If title acceptable to the Secretary for non-Federal land described in subsection (b) is conveyed to the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to Lake County, Oregon, subject to valid existing rights of record, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of Federal land consisting of approximately 295 acres within the Warner Canyon Ski Area of the Fremont National Forest, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Warner Canyon Ski Hill Land Exchange", dated June 1997.

(b) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The non-Federal land referred to in subsection (a) consists of—

(1) approximately 320 acres within the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, as generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (a); and

(2) such other parcels of land owned by Lake County, Oregon, within the Refuge as are necessary to ensure that the values of the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this section are approximately equal in value, as determined by appraisals.

(c) ACCEPTABLE TITLE.—Title to the non-Federal land conveyed to the United States under subsection (a) shall be such title as is acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior, in conformance with title approval standards applicable to Federal land acquisitions.

(d) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—The conveyance shall be subject to such valid existing rights of record as may be acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior.

(e) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall process the land exchange authorized by this section in the manner provided in subpart 2200 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(f) MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for inspection in 1 or more local offices of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

(g) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyances under this section as either Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

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

H.R. 1944, introduced by the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. SMITH], provides for a land exchange involving the Warner Canyon Ski Area and other land in the State of Oregon. I commend Chairman BOB SMITH for bringing this bill before us today.

H.R. 1944 deeds approximately 290 acres of Forest Service land comprising the Warner Canyon Ski Hill to Lake County, Oregon. In exchange, Lake County will deed approximately 320 acres of land that is currently owned by Lake County within the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The specific acreage offered by Lake County will be dependent upon an appraisal of all the lands to determine what amounts to an equal value trade in this exchange.

The Warner Canyon Ski Hill has been operated by the nonprofit group, the Fremont Highlanders Ski Club, since 1938. It is one of America's last nonprofit ski hills, the kind I learned to ski on, and I love them. The Warner Canyon Ski Hill anticipates many benefits by the trade including the reduction in the cost of liability insurance as well as better management of the ski area. The Forest Service will benefit by reducing the cost of managing this recreational property.

H.R. 1944 is noncontroversial and supported by all interested parties. This legislation is good for national taxpayers as well as the local taxpayers in Oregon. I would urge support for this bill.

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