

In the 1980's, the tribe was given formal recognition as a federally recognized tribe entitled to all the services and protections that are given to all federally recognized Indian tribes. What was not provided or granted by BIA or the Park Service was a reservation or permanent tribal home land base. This has created innumerable problems for this tribe ranging from housing, schools, health care facilities, ineligibility for grants and contracts, deprivation from, access to, or gathering of customary natural resources, and a total lack of economic development possibilities.

S. 2102 is the product of an intense consultation and negotiation process that has taken place between the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and the U.S. Park Service and Bureau of Land Management as required by section 705(b) of the California Desert Protection Act. There have been a number of public hearings in the local communities in California and Nevada. The Tribe and the Department of the Interior have worked closely with the National Parks Conservation Association; the Sierra Club; and the Wilderness Society to address their concerns.

This bill enjoys the strong support of the department of Interior, the National Park Service and the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe. In addition, the tribe has received supporting resolutions from the three counties where the tribe's lands would be located—Inyo County, CA, and Nye and Esmeralda Counties in Nevada; the Town Board of Pahrump, NV; the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Area Council; and a number of Indian tribes and tribal organizations located in both states and nationally.

This is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I just wanted to also recognize the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER for their hard work on this bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, this is an excellent piece of legislation. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2102.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UPPER HOUSATONIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT OF 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4312) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing an Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4312

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 "Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area Study Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior ("the Secretary") shall conduct a study of the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area ("Study Area"). The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations regarding whether the Study Area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs and folklore that are a valuable part of the national story;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, and/or scenic features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the Study Area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments who are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the Federal Government, and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(7) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State Governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consult with the State historic preservation officers, State historical societies and other appropriate organizations.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARIES OF THE STUDY AREA.

The Study Area shall be comprised of—

(1) part of the Housatonic River's watershed, which extends 60 miles from Lanesboro, Massachusetts to Kent, Connecticut;

(2) the towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, and Warren in Connecticut; and

(3) the towns of Alford, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlboro, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge in Massachusetts.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first available for this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$300,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4312 introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) directs the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing an Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Housatonic River and associated valley lie in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts and the northwestern corner of Connecticut. The river flows approximately 148 miles eventually emptying into Long Island Sound. The proposed study area would consist of a 60-mile segment of the Housatonic River's watershed extending from Lanesboro, Massachusetts south to Kent, Connecticut.

H.R. 4312 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine whether the area has an assemblage of resources that represent distinctive assets of American heritage, reflects traditions and customs that are valuable national history, provides conservation and recreational opportunities, and contains important resources important to the identity of the area.

The study would include demonstrated local support for the heritage area, identifies a lead management entity and has a conceptual boundary map supported by the public. This is a bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4312.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4312 sponsored by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of creating the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area. The study would cover a 60-mile stretch of the Upper Housatonic River's watershed, including 9 towns in Connecticut and 18 towns in Massachusetts, as the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) has laid out.

While no statutory standards exist for national heritage areas, the National Park Service has developed a list of resources all NHAs should exhibit, and H.R. 4312 includes each of the MPS requirements as a component of the study. As one who has canoed portions of the Housatonic, I personally support this legislation and we in the minority also urge passage of this study legislation.

It should be noted that the companion legislation, S. 2421 sponsored by Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut passed the Senate in July and is currently pending in the House. Had we approved that bill today, we could be sending completed legislation to the President rather than sending this House companion over to the Senate so late in the session, but I will accept the assurances of my colleagues on the majority side that politics played no part in setting aside Senator LIEBERMAN's bill and advancing this particular bill.

We regret the decision, but we certainly support H.R. 4312 on its merits.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman JAMES HANSEN and Chairman DON YOUNG for their support of my proposal and for bringing it before the House for consideration. H.R. 4312 will authorize a feasibility study to determine if part of my district, and our colleague JOHN OLVER's district, qualify for designation as a National Heritage Area.

The Park Service defines a National Heritage Area as an area in which natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a distinctive, national landscape and reflect patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These areas present our national experience through physical features and the traditions they birthed, demonstrating the deep tie between natural history and cultural history.

The people of my district believe this small section of New England is more than qualified to be a National Heritage Area. It is an area rich in history and environmental significance consisting largely of the watershed of the Housatonic. From the 1730s to the 1920s, it was home to many of the nation's earliest iron industries. The first blast furnace was built in 1862 by Ethan Allen and supplied the iron for the cannons that helped George Washington's army to win the American Revolutionary War. The Beckley Furnace in Canaan, Connecticut has been designated an official project by the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures.

Among the other historic sites in the area is the Sloane-Stanley Museum of Early American Tools. As you may know, Stanley Tools is one of the few remaining manufacturers in Connecticut and is one of the nation's oldest tool makers. Further, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Mount (home of Edith Wharton) and Arrowhead (the home of Herman Melville) are all in what would be the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. It is also home to over 30 sites on the National Register of Historic Places. The iron furnaces, pre-revolution farms and its many historic structures reflect the deep historical tie between natural resources, culture and American's history, epitomizing some of our earliest and most enduring accomplishments.

The Housatonic Valley is also rich with environmental and recreational treasures. The Housatonic River, just below Falls Village, Connecticut, is one of the prized fly-fishing centers in the Northeast and is enjoyed by fishermen from not only Connecticut and Massachusetts but the entire eastern seaboard. Olympic rowers have trained in this river as children have learned to swim, boat and fish and value its ecosystem.

New England often brings to mind grand colonial farmhouses scattered between small

towns which still revolve around the local town hall and the annual town meeting on the budget. While much of the farmland and open space are now lost to development, elected and volunteer land trusts are working hard to preserve the scenic and historic resources that are so much a part of Connecticut's and our country's heritage.

However, a coordinated and strong investment is essential to enable this preservation effort to succeed. A National Heritage Designation will enable us to save remaining farmhouses, furnaces and historic and natural wonders and advance the states' aggressive new initiative to preserve these historic open spaces. I believe the Park Service will find this area to be the embodiment of what Congress intended when it created the National Heritage Area. This small region of New England is deserving of at least a feasibility study.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, 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. CALVERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4312.

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.

BEND PINE NURSERY LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1936) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other National Forest System land in the State of Oregon and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1936

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 "Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Oregon.

SEC. 3. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following National Forest System land and improvements:

(1) Tract A, Bend Pine Nursery, comprising approximately 210 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Bend Pine Nursery Administrative Site, May 13, 1999".

(2) Tract B, the Federal Government owned structures located at Shelter Cove Resort, Deschutes National Forest, buildings only, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Shelter Cove Resort, November 3, 1997".

(3) Tract C, portions of isolated parcels of National Forest Land located in Township 20 south, Range 10 East section 25 and Township 20 South, Range 11 East sections 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, and 21 consisting of approximately 1,260 acres, as depicted on map entitled "Deschutes National Forest Isolated Parcels, January 1, 2000".

(4) Tract D, Alsea Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 24 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Alsea Administrative Site, May 14, 1999".

(5) Tract F, Springdale Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 3.6 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Site Development Plan, Columbia Gorge Ranger Station, April 22, 1964".

(6) Tract G, Dale Administrative Site, consisting of approximately 37 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Dale Compound, February 1999".

(7) Tract H, Crescent Butte Site, consisting of approximately .8 acres, as depicted on site plan map entitled "Crescent Butte Communication Site, January 1, 2000".

(b) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for a sale or exchange of land under subsection (a) may include the acquisition of land, existing improvements, or improvements constructed to the specifications of the Secretary.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of National Forest System land under subsection (a) shall be subject to the laws (including regulations) applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for the National Forest System.

(d) CASH EQUALIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the value of land exchanged under subsection (a).

(e) SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may solicit offers for sale or exchange of land under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

(2) REJECTION OF OFFERS.—The Secretary may reject any offer made under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

(3) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The Bend Metro Park and Recreation District in Deschutes County, Oregon, shall be given the right of first refusal to purchase the Bend Pine Nursery described in subsection (a)(1).

(f) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any public land order withdrawing land described in subsection (a) from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws is revoked with respect to any portion of the land conveyed by the Secretary under this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of any revocation under paragraph (1) shall be the date of the patent or deed conveying the land.

SEC. 4. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

(a) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of a sale or exchange under section 3(a) in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a) (commonly known as the "Sisk Act").

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Funds deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary, without further Act of appropriation, for—

(1) the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative and visitor facilities and associated land in connection with the Deschutes National Forest;

(2) the construction of a bunkhouse facility in the Umatilla National Forest; and

(3) to the extent the funds are not necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) and (2), the acquisition of land and interests in land in the State.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage any land acquired by purchase or exchange under this Act in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (16