

Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 252.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of Senate 252, the Dandini Research Park Conveyance Act, which was introduced in the Senate by Senator HARRY REID and co-sponsored by Senator JOHN ENSIGN.

I was proud to introduce the companion legislation in the House, and I am pleased to be here today to champion passage of this important bill.

This legislation will direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey 467 acres of land in Washoe County, Nevada, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada.

The land is patented under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, which now prevents the Board of Regents from expanding a university-sponsored research park that provides for technology transfer, science-based economic development, and partnering among academic, governmental, and industrial sectors in Nevada.

Known as the Dandini Research Park, the land is currently used by leading research and education institutions in Nevada, including the Truckee Meadows Community College and the Desert Research Institute.

The research being done by TMCC and DRI at the Dandini Research Park benefits not only Nevada but communities across the western United States. The science park stands as a great example of a successful public/private partnership that brings the highest quality researchers to this educational facility.

For example, DRI is a world-class nonprofit research campus of the Nevada Higher Education System, and their research is driven by a special emphasis in atmospheric, Earth and ecosystem, and hydrologic sciences.

Additionally, DRI has three state-of-the-art interdisciplinary centers for arid lands, watershed and environmental sustainability, and environmental remediation and monitoring.

DRI's research has helped provide innovative and important advancements in their field and has increased demand for their expertise. The state-of-the-art research being conducted at the Dandini site has resulted in the need to expand these facilities. However, since

the University and Community College System of Nevada does not own the land of the Dandini Research Park, they are unable to obtain financing to expand the science center.

Today's bill allows for the transfer of this land to allow the Board of Regents to develop and expand the Northern Nevada Science Center. Additionally, the bill mandates that net proceeds of any future sale of this property would be returned to the Secretary of the Interior for use by the Bureau of Land Management.

The goal of much of the work being done at the Dandini Research Project is to provide innovative solutions to maintaining the vital balance between environmental protection and the development of our natural resources.

This work helps us to better understand how we can live in harmony with our environment.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to pass this noncontroversial bill that is supported by the entire Nevada delegation and which passed the Senate in July. This bill will allow Nevada's leading education and research institutes to continue to expand upon their great work on behalf of Nevada and this great country, as well as our environment.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, before I speak to S. 252, I would just like to voice my support also for S. Con. Res. 26, honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 that was just before this body.

The legislation which we are discussing now, S. 252, is technical in nature and once approved will allow the University and Community College System in Nevada to expand ongoing research activities at the Dandini facility. This is a noncontroversial measure which passed the Senate by unanimous consent in July.

The distinguished Senate minority leader is to be commended for his tireless efforts on behalf of this legislation and for his commitment to supporting important research in our Nation's academic institutions.

On the House side, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), a co-sponsor of the House companion legislation, has also taken a leadership role in making certain this legislation is approved. And we also commend the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for his work and leadership on this bill.

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker would like to voice my strong support for S. 252.

As a cosponsor of the House-introduced version of this bill, H.R. 542, I am well aware of the positive impact the transfer of this land will have on the University and Community College System of Nevada. Located in Reno,

Nevada, this tract of land, known as the Dandini Research Park, is currently restricted under the provisions and authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

If this bill were to be signed into law, the Board of Regents for the University and Community College System of Nevada would like to turn this land into a University-sponsored research park that would provide science-based economic development, technology transfer, and the furthering of intergovernmental, academic and industrial partnerships in Nevada.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this important bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 252.

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.

CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST  
ACT OF 2005

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 539) to designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 539

*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 "Caribbean National Forest Act of 2005".*

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

*In this Act:*

(1) **MAP.**—The term "map" means the map dated April 13, 2004, and entitled "El Toro Proposed Wilderness Area".

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

**SEC. 3. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

(a) **EL TORO WILDERNESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the approximately 10,000 acres of land in the Caribbean National Forest/Luquillo Experimental Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as generally depicted on the map are designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(2) **DESIGNATION.**—The land designated in paragraph (1) shall be known as the El Toro Wilderness.

(3) **WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.**—The El Toro Wilderness shall consist of the land generally depicted on the map.

(b) **MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) prepare a boundary description of the El Toro Wilderness; and

(B) submit the map and the boundary description to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) PUBLIC INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.—The map and the boundary description prepared under paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act.

(3) ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and the boundary description prepared under paragraph (1)(A).

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the El Toro Wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to the El Toro Wilderness, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.—Consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), nothing in this Act precludes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorological, climatological, or atmospheric data collection and remote transmission facilities, or any combination of those facilities, in any case in which the Secretary determines that the facilities are essential to the scientific research purposes of the Luquillo Experimental Forest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO).

□ 1445

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 539, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Puerto Rico?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 539 would designate approximately 10,000 acres in the Caribbean National Forest as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

This bipartisan proposal is supported by the people of Puerto Rico, the administration and a number of national organizations. The legislation will ensure that this special land will be available for my children and for all the children of Puerto Rico for generations to come.

The El Toro Wilderness will be one of our Nation's most significant wilderness areas. Located 25 miles east of San Juan, the forest is biologically rich and diverse. The Caribbean National Forest ranks number one among all national

forests in the number of species of native trees with 240. In addition, the Caribbean National Forest has a wide variety of orchids and over 150 species of ferns. There are over 100 species of vertebrates in the forest.

Of particular note is the endangered Puerto Rican parrot. At the time Columbus set sail for the New World, there were approximately one million of these distinctive parrots. Today, there are under 50. This rich diversity will be protected through wilderness designation, and El Toro will be the only tropical rainforest wilderness in our national forest system.

The future of the Caribbean National Forest is of the utmost importance to my constituents. For Puerto Ricans, the Caribbean National Forest is more than a national forest. It is an integral part of our lives. The Spanish Crown proclaimed much of the current Caribbean National Forest as a forest reserve in 1824. President Theodore Roosevelt reasserted the protection of the Caribbean National Forest by designating the area as a forest reserve over 100 years ago. The real history of the Caribbean National Forest, however, predates those recent actions. The prehistoric Taino Indians considered the area a holy place and named it after an Indian spirit, Yuquiye, which means "Forest of Clouds." Today, it is called, "El Yunque."

The importance of El Yunque continues to modern times. The forest is a key component of Puerto Rico's everyday life and economic vitality.

El Yunque and the proposed El Toro wilderness area are a crucial source for the lifeblood of Puerto Rico, fresh water. The forest receives up to 240 inches of rainfall each year, more than 100 billion gallons of it. This water is crucial for our people and our future. It provides clean drinking water to over 800,000 residents and ensures adequate water for our economic viability.

In closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the gentleman from West Virginia (Ranking Member RAHALL) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the committee staff for their support and fine work on this measure. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting the passage of H.R. 539.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as the majority has explained, H.R. 539 would designate approximately 10,000 acres of land in the Caribbean National Forest in Puerto Rico as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System to be named the El Toro Wilderness.

The Caribbean National Forest is the only tropical rainforest in the National Forest System. It is home to one of the most endangered birds in the world, the Puerto Rican parrot.

The El Toro Wilderness would become the first tropical forest in the National Forest Wilderness System, as well as the first wilderness area in Puerto Rico. It is, in a host of respects, a natural treasure and a national treasure that merits a designation befitting its unique status in America.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO), my colleague and neighbor, for his work in securing the passage of this bill. We support adoption of H.R. 539, and I would add that the gentleman from West Virginia (Ranking Member RAHALL) has personally also advocated the consideration of this measure.

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

Mr. FORTUÑO. 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 Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 539, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION ACT OF 2005

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 276) to revise the boundary of the Wind Cave National Park in the State of South Dakota.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 276

*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 "Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act of 2005".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision", numbered 108/80,030, and dated June 2002.

(2) PARK.—The term "Park" means the Wind Cave National Park in the State.

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

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of South Dakota.

#### SEC. 3. LAND ACQUISITION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire the land or interest in land described in subsection (b)(1) for addition to the Park.

(2) MEANS.—An acquisition of land under paragraph (1) may be made by donation, purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(b) BOUNDARY.—