

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 56.

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.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2430) to amend the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 to provide for implementation of recommendations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service contained in the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2430

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 "Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Lakes have fish and wildlife communities that are structurally and functionally changing;

(2) successful fish and wildlife management focuses on the lakes as ecosystems, and effective management requires the coordination and integration of efforts of many partners;

(3) it is in the national interest to undertake activities in the Great Lakes Basin that support sustainable fish and wildlife resources of common concern provided under the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration authorized under Executive Order 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043; relating to the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force);

(4) additional actions and better coordination are needed to protect and effectively manage the fish and wildlife resources, and the habitats upon which the resources depend, in the Great Lakes Basin;

(5) as of the date of enactment of this Act, actions are not funded that are considered essential to meet the goals and objectives in managing the fish and wildlife resources, and the habitats upon which the resources depend, in the Great Lakes Basin; and

(6) the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 941 et seq.) allows Federal agencies, States, and tribes to work in an effective partnership by providing the funding for restoration work.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1004 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941b) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1), (4), and (12);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (13), and (14) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (4) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ", and that has Great Lakes fish and wildlife management authority in the Great Lakes Basin"; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) the following:

"(8) the term 'regional project' means authorized activities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service related to fish and wildlife resource protection, restoration, maintenance, and enhancement impacting multiple States or Indian Tribes with fish and wildlife management authority in the Great Lakes basin;".

SEC. 4. IDENTIFICATION, REVIEW, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS.

Section 1005 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941c) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1005. IDENTIFICATION, REVIEW, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b)(2), the Director—

"(1) shall encourage the development and, subject to the availability of appropriations, the implementation of fish and wildlife restoration proposals and regional projects based on the results of the Report; and

"(2) in cooperation with the State Directors and Indian Tribes, shall identify, develop, and, subject to the availability of appropriations, implement regional projects in the Great Lakes Basin to be administered by Director in accordance with this section.

"(b) IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.—

"(1) REQUEST BY THE DIRECTOR.—The Director shall annually request that State Directors and Indian Tribes, in cooperation or partnership with other interested entities and in accordance with subsection (a), submit proposals or regional projects for the restoration of fish and wildlife resources.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.—A proposal or regional project under paragraph (1) shall be—

"(A) submitted in the manner and form prescribed by the Director; and

"(B) consistent with—

"(i) the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, as amended;

"(ii) the 1954 Great Lakes Fisheries Convention;

"(iii) the 1980 Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, as revised in 1997, and Fish Community Objectives for each Great Lake and connecting water as established under the Joint Strategic Plan;

"(iv) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.);

"(v) the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and joint ventures established under the plan; and

"(vi) the strategies outlined through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration authorized under Executive Order 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043; relating to the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force).

"(3) SEA LAMPREY AUTHORITY.—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission shall retain authority and responsibility to formulate and implement a comprehensive program to eradicate or minimize sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes Basin.

"(c) REVIEW OF PROPOSALS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—There is established the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee, which shall operate under the guidance of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

"(2) MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of 2 representatives of each of the State Directors and Indian Tribes, of whom—

"(i) 1 representative shall be the individual appointed by the State Director or Indian Tribe to the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; and

"(ii) 1 representative shall have expertise in wildlife management.

"(B) APPOINTMENTS.—Each representative shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing State Director or Tribal Chair.

"(C) OBSERVER.—The Great Lakes Coordinator of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall participate as an observer of the Committee.

"(D) RECUSAL.—A member of the Committee shall recuse himself or herself from consideration of proposals that the member, or the entity that the member represents, has submitted.

"(3) FUNCTIONS.—The Committee shall—

"(A) meet at least annually;

"(B) review proposals and regional projects developed in accordance with subsection (b) to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the proposals and regional projects in fulfilling the purposes of this title; and

"(C) recommend to the Director any of those proposals and regional projects that should be funded and implemented under this section.

"(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—After considering recommendations of the Committee and the goals specified in section 1006, the Director shall—

"(A) select proposals and regional projects to be implemented; and

"(B) subject to the availability of appropriations and subsection (e), fund implementation of the proposals and regional projects.

"(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting and funding proposals and regional projects, the Director shall take into account the effectiveness and appropriateness of the proposals and regional projects in fulfilling the purposes of other laws applicable to restoration of the fish and wildlife resources and habitat of the Great Lakes Basin.

"(e) COST SHARING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), not less than 25 percent of the cost of implementing a proposal selected under subsection (d) (excluding the cost of establishing sea lamprey barriers) shall be paid in cash or in-kind contributions by non-Federal sources.

"(2) REGIONAL PROJECTS.—Regional projects selected under subsection (d) shall be exempt from cost sharing if the Director determines that the authorization for the project does not require a non-Federal cost-share.

"(3) EXCLUSION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The Director may not consider the expenditure, directly or indirectly, of Federal funds received by any entity to be a contribution by a non-Federal source for purposes of this subsection.

"(4) EFFECT ON CERTAIN INDIAN TRIBES.—Nothing in this subsection affects an Indian tribe affected by an alternative applicable cost sharing requirement under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)."

SEC. 5. GOALS OF UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROGRAMS RELATED TO GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

Section 1006 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941d) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) Restoring and maintaining self-sustaining fish and wildlife resources."

SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES.

Section 1007 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941e) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) GREAT LAKES COORDINATION OFFICE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a centrally located facility for the coordination of all United States Fish and

Wildlife Service activities in the Great Lakes Basin, to be known as the 'Great Lakes Coordination Office'.

“(2) **FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The functional responsibilities of the Great Lakes Coordination Office shall include—

- “(A) intra- and interagency coordination;
- “(B) information distribution; and
- “(C) public outreach.

“(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Great Lakes Coordination Office shall—

“(A) ensure that information acquired under this Act is made available to the public; and

“(B) report to the Director of Region 3, Great Lakes Big Rivers.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The Director” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “The office” and inserting the following:

“(2) **NAME AND LOCATION.**—The office”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of the Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office shall include operational activities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service related to fishery resource protection, restoration, maintenance, and enhancement in the Lower Great Lakes.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The Director” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Each of the offices” and inserting the following:

“(2) **NAME AND LOCATION.**—Each of the offices”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of the Upper Great Lakes Fishery Resources Offices shall include operational activities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service related to fishery resource protection, restoration, maintenance, and enhancement in the Upper Great Lakes.”.

SEC. 7. REPORTS.

Section 1008 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941f) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1008. REPORTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than December 31, 2011, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that describes—

“(1) actions taken to solicit and review proposals under section 1005;

“(2) the results of proposals implemented under section 1005; and

“(3) progress toward the accomplishment of the goals specified in section 1006.

“(b) **PUBLIC ACCESS TO DATA.**—For each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012, the Director shall make available through a public access website of the Department information that describes—

“(1) actions taken to solicit and review proposals under section 1005;

“(2) the results of proposals implemented under section 1005;

“(3) progress toward the accomplishment of the goals specified in section 1006;

“(4) the priorities proposed for funding in the annual budget process under this title; and

“(5) actions taken in support of the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration authorized under Executive Order 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043; relating to the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force).

“(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than June 30, 2007, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the

Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives the 2002 report required under this section as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006.”.

SEC. 8. CONTINUED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service—

(1) shall continue to monitor the status, and the assessment, management, and restoration needs, of the fish and wildlife resources of the Great Lakes Basin; and

(2) may reassess and update, as necessary, the findings and recommendations of the report entitled “Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study”, submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on September 13, 1995.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1009 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941g) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1009. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012—

“(1) \$14,000,000 to implement fish and wildlife restoration proposals as selected by the Director under section 1005(e), of which—

“(A) not more than the lesser of 33½ percent or \$4,600,000 may be allocated to implement regional projects by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as selected by the Director under section 1005(e); and

“(B) the lesser of 5 percent or \$700,000 shall be allocated to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to cover costs incurred in administering the proposals by any entity; and

“(2) \$2,000,000, which shall be allocated for the activities of the Great Lakes Coordination Office in East Lansing, Michigan, of the Upper Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office, and the Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office under section 1007.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

S. 2430 is an important piece of conservation legislation which would extend the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990.

S. 2430 continues the coordination between the numerous management entities, Federal, local, regional, State and tribal, involved in the Great Lakes region. In addition, the bill will continue the efforts to improve and restore fish and wildlife resources and important habitat areas.

S. 2430 is sponsored by Senator MIKE DEWINE, and I commend the senator for his tireless leadership on behalf of the Great Lakes region and, in particular, his Ohio constituents.

I urge an “aye” vote on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the

gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), one of the real champions and leaders in the reauthorization of this Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, my good friend.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, companion legislation to the House bill introduced by myself and Congressman MARK KIRK.

The changes made by the Senate in S. 2430 are very positive, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support passage of the bill.

Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are at a tipping point. These lakes, which comprise 20 percent of the earth's fresh water and 95 percent of North America's fresh water, are nothing less than in peril. It is vital this Congress do everything we can to ensure their protection and restoration.

There are thousands of different species of fish and wildlife and 130 globally endangered or rare plants and animal species that have been identified within the Great Lakes ecosystem. S. 2430 will reauthorize and improve research and conservation programs aimed at protecting and restoring this fragile ecosystem.

Our bill is the product of a long and collaborative process, and this bipartisan legislation is supported by a wide range of groups and organizations working to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Our bill increases the authorization level for fish and wildlife restoration projects and makes legislative changes that improve upon the Act.

Madam Speaker, while I certainly support passage of S. 2430, I believe this should only be the beginning of our efforts on behalf of the Great Lakes. This Congress must fulfill its commitment by increasing appropriations for Great Lakes' restoration and other important activities.

If funding were increased for projects under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, our local communities and their partners could really make a difference in reversing the downward spiral of the Great Lakes.

With just a small amount of money through this program, we were able to restore the walleye population in Saginaw Bay in my congressional district. This project was a success story, and we could have many more with increased dollars from this Congress and administration.

Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are our national treasure, and we must treat them as such. This bipartisan effort that has brought S. 2430 to the floor today shows us that many Members of Congress care about what happens to our Great Lakes.

I have enjoyed working with Representatives MARK KIRK, SHERRON BROWN, VERN EHLERS, MARCY KAPTUR, DAVID HOBSON, RAHM EMANUEL, STEVE LATOURETTE, and RON KIND, just to name a few.

Let us pass S. 2430 so we can move forward in our efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

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

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I just want to take a moment to commend my good friend from Michigan, again, for the leadership that he has shown on this piece of legislation. We just recently had another hearing in the Resources Committee, of which he was an active participant.

This has been a bipartisan effort with great collaboration from the Federal, State and local level, and obviously for those of us in the upper Midwest area, this does touch and affect us a little bit closer than perhaps the rest of the Nation.

But the legislation does mirror the companion House bill that was introduced earlier, H.R. 4953, which was sponsored by our friend Mr. KILDEE from Michigan, along with 31 other House Members that were sponsors of the legislation, including myself, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and also the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) who has been also a champion on this issue.

S. 2430 would reauthorize and improve a valuable conservation program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. KILDEE just mentioned some of the success stories that have been garnered from this original bill, but as we know all too well in this chamber that we could pass the best authorized bill in the world, but if it is not supported by adequate funding, they cannot do anything with it. Unfortunately, the history of this bill has been a lot of support in both the public and private sector but not enough funding in order to accomplish the goals and really achieve the success that I know we can make in the upper Great Lakes area.

The five Great Lakes are the crown jewels of our Nation's natural resources. They are the largest group of fresh water lakes in the entire world. This has an incredible ecosystem impact but also economic impact throughout the entire region.

That is why we feel it is important to move forward on reauthorization, hopefully to get the support for funding the reauthorized bill in future years as we try to implement its provisions. I certainly encourage its passage tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the remainder of our time.

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

We do thank not only Senator DEWINE for his work on this but also Mr. KILDEE from Michigan and also not only was our friend from Wisconsin a tremendous asset in being quarterback of the congressional team last week, but his quarterbacking this legislation

through. I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2430, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2330

OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT
OF 2006

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5690) to adjust the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest in the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5690

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 "Ouachita National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST, OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest in the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas are hereby modified as generally depicted on the following maps, all dated May 15, 2001, and more particularly delineated and described according to the final boundary adjustment maps and boundary descriptions filed in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service:

(1) The map entitled "Ouachita National Forest Boundary Extension for the Broken Bow Area".

(2) The map entitled "Ouachita National Forest Boundary Extension for the Southern Tiak Area".

(3) The map entitled "Ouachita National Forest Boundary Extension for the Northern Ouachita Area".

(4) The map entitled "Ouachita National Forest Boundary Extension for the Southern Ouachita Area".

(5) The map entitled "Ouachita National Forest Boundary Extension for the Eastern Ouachita Area".

(b) AVAILABILITY AND CORRECTION.—The maps referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service. The Secretary of Agriculture may make minor corrections to the maps.

(c) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—Any federally-owned lands that have been or hereafter may be acquired for National Forest System purposes within the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest, as modified by subsection (a), shall be managed as lands acquired under the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act), and in accordance with the other laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest pursuant to section 11 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 521).

(d) RELATION TO LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT.—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-9), the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest, as modified by subsection (a), shall be considered to be boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5690 simply makes a technical correction to section 305 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996. The Act provided for a land exchange between the Ouachita National Forest and private lands but did not establish the new boundaries for the National Forest. This bill remedies the problem by adjusting the National Forest boundary and also allowing future land management adjustments to proceed without the continuing need for future boundary adjustments.

I urge support for this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I yield at this time such time as he may consume to the chief sponsor of this important legislation, my good friend from the great State of Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN).

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I introduced the Ouachita National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act to provide a technical correction to section 305 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996.

Section 305 provided for a land exchange between the Ouachita National Forest and Weyerhaeuser Timber Company but did not fully establish the new boundaries of the forest. My legislation would make this technical correction so that the boundaries of the forest would accurately reflect the land exchange.

This correction would allow the Forest Service to better manage the land, because the boundaries of the forest would be more uniform and would allow future land management adjustments without the need to continuously adjust the boundaries.

H.R. 5690 has the support of the administration, the local Forest Service office, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Plum Creek, and the members of the Arkansas delegation whose district would be affected.

The Forest Service is a valuable partner in preserving and managing the resource for Oklahoma and Arkansas, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that will make managing the Ouachita easier for the Forest Service.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation.

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