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TITLE: SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ACT

SPEAKER: Mr. BOSCO; Mr. RHODES; Mr. VENTO

TEXT: [*H7669] Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4309) to establish the Smith River National Recreation Area in the State of California, and for other purposes; as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4309

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 "Smith River National Recreation Area Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that –

- (1) the Smith River, undammed and free-flowing from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean, represents one of the last wholly intact vestiges of an invaluable legacy of wild and scenic rivers;
- (2) the Smith River watershed, from the diverse conifer forests of the Siskiyou Mountains and unique botanical communities of the North Fork serpentine to the ancient redwoods along the river's lower reaches, exhibits a richness of ecological diversity unusual in a basin of its size;
- (3) the Smith River watershed's scenic beauty, renowned anadromous fisheries, exceptional water quality, and abundant wildlife combine with its ready accessibility to offer exceptional opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities, including wilderness, water sports, fishing, hunting, camping, and sightseeing;

(4) careful development and utilization at mutually compatible levels of recreation, fisheries, and timber resources on public lands will ensure the continuation of the Smith River watershed's historic role as a significant contributor to the region's local economy; and

(5) protection of the Smith River's unique values can be enhanced by a cooperative effort by Federal, State and local governments to coordinate land-use planning, management, and development of Federal and non-Federal lands throughout the watershed.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act --

(1) the term "excluded area" means one of the four areas specifically excluded from the recreation area, as generally depicted on the map referred to in section 4(b);

(2) the term "forest plan" means the land and resource management plan for the Six Rivers National Forest prepared pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland [*H7670] Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604);

(3) the term "recreation area" means the Smith River National Recreation Area established by section 4;

(4) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(5) the term "inner gorge" means the inherently unstable steep slope (65 percent gradient or more) immediately adjacent to the stream or river channel, extending from the channel or recent floodplain to the first significant break in slope (usually 15 percent or more).

SEC. 4. SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) Establishment. -- For the purpose of ensuring the preservation, protection, enhancement, and interpretation for present and future generations of the Smith River watershed's outstanding wild and scenic rivers, ecological diversity, and recreation opportunities while providing for the wise use and sustained productivity of its natural resources, there is hereby established the Smith River National Recreation Area.

(b) Boundaries. -- (1) The recreation area shall consist of those lands within the area generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Smith River National Recreation Area" and dated July 1990. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. The Secretary may, by publication of availability of a revised map and after public comment, make corrections or minor changes to the boundary of the recreation area.

(2) The exterior boundary of the recreation area, as generally depicted on the map, shall encompass the recreation area and the four excluded areas.

(c) Boundary Modification. -- The boundaries of the Six Rivers National Forest are hereby modified as generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (b). A map and legal description of the boundary of the Six Rivers National Forest as modified by this subsection shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, and the Office of the Forest Supervisor of the Six Rivers National Forest.

(d) Transfer. -- The federally owned lands within the recreation area administered by the Secretary of the Interior on the date of enactment of this Act, comprising approximately 20 acres, are hereby transferred to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and shall be managed in accordance with the laws applicable to the National Forest System and this Act.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) In General. -- The Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with this Act and the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System in furtherance of the purposes for which the recreation area was established. In administering the recreation area, the Secretary shall, consistent with the applicable area management emphasis provided under subsection (b), undertake the following:

(1) Provide for a broad range of recreation uses and provide recreational and interpretive services and facilities (including trails and campgrounds) for the public.

(2) Provide and maintain adequate public access, including vehicular roads for general recreational activities such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

(3) Improve the anadromous fishery and water quality, including (but not limited to) stabilizing landslides, improving fish spawning and rearing habitat, and placing appropriate restrictions or limitations on soil disturbing activities.

(4) Permit the use of off-road vehicles only on designated routes.

(5) Provide for public health and safety and for the protection of the recreation area in the event of fire or infestation of insects or disease.

(6) Permit programmed and other timber harvest only in those management areas where timber harvest is specifically authorized by subsection (b). Timber management in these areas shall incorporate the use of strategies to reduce habitat fragmentation and employ silvicultural prescriptions designed to maintain or enhance biological diversity and wildlife habitats (such as retention of standing green trees, snags, and other coarse woody debris) by providing for a high level of structural and compositional diversity in managed stands.

(7) Prohibit timber harvest within streamside protection zones along those rivers and river segments specified in section 11 of this Act.

(8) Permit removal of trees in areas where timber harvest is not authorized only when necessary to maintain trails or existing roads, for human health and safety reasons, for the protection of the recreation area in the event of fire, for the development of recreation or other facilities, or to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

(9) Provide for the long-term viability and presence of Port-Orford-cedar and ensure its continued present economic and noneconomic uses through implementation of management strategies developed by the Forest Service.

(10) Protect, preserve, and increase old growth forest habitat in the recreation area.

(11) Provide for the restoration of landscapes damaged by past human activity consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(12) Develop a monitoring program to consistently gather water quality, air quality, wildlife, and fisheries data from representative Smith River subwaterbeds within each management area.

(13) Develop and implement a management plan to maintain, protect, and promote habitat for native resident trout species in the recreation area.

(14) Cooperate with other Federal, State, and local government agencies in coordinating planning efforts throughout the Smith River watershed.

(b) Management Areas. -- (1) The recreation area shall contain eight management areas, as generally depicted on the map referred to in section 4(b). The Secretary may, pursuant to section 4(b), make minor revisions or amendments to the boundaries of the management areas.

(2) The Secretary shall administer each management area within the recreation area in accordance with the following:

(A) The management emphasis for the North Fork management area shall be on back-country and whitewater recreation, while recognizing unique botanic communities, outstanding whitewater, and historic and scenic values.

(B) The management emphasis for the Upper Middle Fork management area shall be on providing and maintaining ecologic and biologic diversity. Timber harvest shall be permitted, consistent with subsection (a)(6), only in existing plantations.

(C) The management emphasis for the Middle Fork-Highway 199 management area shall be on maintaining wildlife values and providing for a full range of recreation uses, with

particular emphasis on the scenic and recreation values associated with the Smith River, old growth redwoods, and California State Highway 199.

(D) The management emphasis for the Upper South Fork management area shall be on wild river and roadless back-country recreation.

(E) The management emphasis for the Lower South Fork management area shall be on maintaining and protecting natural scenic values in the river canyon while providing for traditional and compatible river sports, including white water rafting, angling, sightseeing, and developed and dispersed recreation. Timber harvests based on uneven-aged management with extended rotations shall be allowed where consistent with protection of the scenic values of the recreation area.

(F) The management emphasis for the Lower Hurdygurdy Creek management area shall be on maintenance of wildlife values while providing rustic family and group recreation facilities for fishing, swimming, hunting, and camping. Timber harvests based on uneven-aged management with extended rotations shall be allowed where consistent with protection of scenic and wildlife values.

(G) The management emphasis for the prescribed timber management area shall be on providing maximum sustainable yields of wood products consistent with subsection (a)(6).

(H) The management of the Siskiyou Wilderness management area shall be pursuant to the provisions of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.). The Gasquet-Orleans Road corridor between the eastern edge of section 36, T. 14 N., R. 3 E, and the corridor's eastern terminus in the middle of section 26, T. 14 N., R. 4 E. shall be added to the Siskiyou Wilderness.

(c) Wild and Scenic Rivers. -- The river segments designated as wild and scenic rivers by the amendments made by section 8(b) of this Act shall be administered in accordance with this Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.). In case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts, the more restrictive provision shall apply.

SEC. 6. ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF LANDS AND OTHER PROPERTY.

(a) Acquisition. -- The Secretary is authorized to acquire by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise lands, waters, or interests therein (including scenic or other easements), and structures or other improvements thereon, within the boundaries of the recreation area as the Secretary determines appropriate for the purposes of this Act. In exercising this authority, the Secretary is directed to give prompt and careful consideration to any offer to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of such property made by an individual or organization. The Secretary shall not acquire any land or interest in land owned by the State of California or any of its political subdivisions within the recreation area except by donation or exchange. All lands acquired by the Secretary

pursuant to this Act shall be subject to the laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System and this Act.

(b) Transfers to Del Norte County. -- (1) Upon the adoption of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Del Norte, California, accepting title to the lands described in paragraph (2) and subject to the County of Del Norte bearing the cost of the survey of such lands, the Secretary shall transfer all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands described in paragraph (2).

(2) The lands referred to in paragraph (1) are described as follows:

(A) Lands north of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M., containing 6 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as:

Commencing at the N.E. corner of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M.; thence, northerly [*H7671] on a line continuing the eastern boundary of said tract 37 to a point where it intersects the southern boundary of the easement for State highway conveyed to the State of California, Department of Transportation, on the 17th day of May 1977, and recorded on June 22, 1977 at book 206 of Official Records, page 256; thence, southwesterly along the southern boundary of said easement to the point where it intersects the northern boundary of said tract 37; thence, easterly along the northern boundary of said tract 37 to the point of beginning.

(B) Lands east of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M., containing 6 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as:

Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M., lying 332 feet southerly of the N.E. corner of said tract 37; thence, due east to the high water line of the Middle Fork of the Smith River; thence, southwesterly along the high water line of the Middle Fork of the Smith River to its intersection with the northern boundary of tract 38, T. 17 N., R. 3 E.; thence, westerly along the northern boundary of said tract 38 to its intersection with said tract 37; thence, northerly along the eastern boundary of said tract 37 to the point of beginning.

(c) Conditions of Transfer. -- Transfer of the lands and interests described in subsection (b)(2) of this section shall be subject to the condition that all right, title, and interest therein shall revert to the United States if the county of Del Norte, California, attempts to transfer any portion of such lands to any other entity or person or if Del Norte County permits any portion of such lands to be used for any purpose incompatible with the purposes of this Act. The Secretary shall include in any document of conveyance whereby such lands are transferred to the county of Del Norte appropriate provisions to implement this subsection.

(d) Withdrawal. -- Subject to valid existing rights, all public lands within the recreation area are hereby withdrawn from entry, sale, or other disposition under the public land

laws of the United States. This subsection shall not affect the exchange authorities of the Secretary.

SEC. 7. FISH AND GAME.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of California with respect to fish and wildlife, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping on any lands managed by the Secretary under this Act, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be permitted for reasons of protecting nongame species and their habitats, public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulation of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the fish and wildlife agency of the State of California.

SEC. 8. MINERALS.

(a) Withdrawal. -- Federal lands within the exterior boundary of the recreation area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws and from disposition under the mineral leasing laws, including all laws pertaining to geothermal leasing.

(b) Patents. -- Patents may not be issued under the mining laws of the United States after the date of enactment of this Act for locations and claims made before the date of enactment of this Act on Federal lands located within the exterior boundaries of the recreation area.

(c) Administration. -- Except for extraction of common variety minerals such as stone, sand, and gravel for use in construction and maintenance of roads and other facilities within the recreation area and the excluded areas, all other mineral development on federally owned lands within the recreation area is prohibited.

SEC. 9. MANAGEMENT PLANNING. The Secretary shall revise the document entitled "Smith River National Recreation Area Management Plan" dated February 1990 to conform to the provisions of this Act, and such revised plan shall guide management of the recreation area and shall be incorporated in its entirety into the forest plan for the Six Rivers National Forest. This incorporation shall not be deemed a revision or amendment to the forest plan for purposes of the section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. The Secretary shall make such further revisions to the management plan as are necessary in order to include more specific development and use plans for the recreation areas. Such revisions shall be made no later than 5 years after the enactment of this Act. Such revisions and any other modifications of the management plan shall be made only through the processes of revisions or amendment of the forest plan pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, including appropriate consultation with State and local government officials and provisions for full public participation considering the views of all interested parties, organization, and individuals.

SEC. 10. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

(a) Previous Designations. -- Previous designations dated January 19, 1981, by the Secretary of the Interior (46 Fed. Reg. 7483-84) under section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1273) of rivers within the exterior boundary of the recreation area are superseded by this Act.

(b) Designations. -- Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"() Smith River, California. -- The segment from the confluence of the Middle Fork Smith River and the South Fork Smith River to the Six Rivers National Forest boundary, including the following segments of the mainstem and certain tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

"(A) The segment from the confluence of the Middle Fork Smith River and the South Fork Smith River to the National Forest boundary, as a recreational river.

"(B) Rowdy Creek from the California-Oregon State line to the National Forest boundary, as a recreational river.

"() Middle Fork Smith River, California. -- The segment of the mainstem and certain tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

"(A) The segment from its headwaters about 3 miles south of Sanger Lake, as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak topographic map, to the center of section 7, T. 17 N., R. 5 E., as a wild river.

"(B) The segment from the center of section 7, T. 17N., R. 5 E., to the center of section 6, T. 17 N., R. 5 E., as a scenic river.

"(C) The segment from the center of section 6, T. 17 N., R. 5 E., to one-half mile upstream from its confluence with Knopki Creek, as a wild river.

"(D) The segment from one-half mile upstream of its confluence with Knopki Creek to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(E) Myrtle Creek from its headwaters in section 9, T. 17 N., R. 1 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15 degrees Crescent City topographic map, to the middle of section 28, T., 17 N., R. 1 E., as scenic river.

"(F) Myrtle Creek from the middle of section 28, T. 17 N., R. 1 E., to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"(G) Shelly Creek from its headwaters in section 1, T. 18 N., R., 3 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with Patrick Creek, as a recreational river.

"(H) Kelly Creek from its headwaters in section 32, T. 17 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the Middle Ford Smith River, as a scenic river.

"(I) Packsaddle Creek from its headwaters about 0.8 miles southwest of Broken Rib Mountain, as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak topographic map, to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a scenic river.

"(J) East Fork Patrick Creek from its headwaters in section 10, T. 18 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the West Fork of Patrick Creek, as a recreational river.

"(K) West Fork Patrick Creek from its headwaters in section 18, T. 18 N., R. 3E., as depicted on the 1951 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map to its confluence with the East Fork Patrick Creek, as a recreational river.

"(L) Little Jones Creek from its headwaters in section 34, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(M) Griffin Creek from its headwaters about 0.2 miles southwest of Hazel View Summit, as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak topographic map, to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(N) Knopki Creek from its headwaters about 0.4 mile west of Sanger Peak, as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak topographic map, to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(O) Monkey Creek from its headwaters in the northeast quadrant of section 12, T. 18 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(P) Patrick Creek from the junction of East and West Forks of Patrick Creek to its confluence with Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(Q) Hardscrabble Creek from its headwaters in the northeast quarter of section 2, T. 17 N., R. 1 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15 degrees Crescent City topographic map, to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"() North Fork Smith River, California. -- The segment from the California-Oregon State line to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, including the following

segments of the mainstream and certain tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

"(A) The segment from the California-Oregon State line to its confluence with an unnamed tributary in the northeast quarter of section 5, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, as a wild river.

"(B) The segment from its confluence with an unnamed tributary in the northeast quarter of section 5, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., to its southern-most intersection with the eastern section line of section 5, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as [*H7672] depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, as a scenic river.

"(C) The segment from its southern-most intersection with the eastern section line of section 5, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with Stony Creek, as a wild river.

"(D) The segment from its confluence with Stony Creek to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(E) Diamond Creek from California-Oregon State line to its confluence with Bear Creek, as a recreational river.

"(F) Diamond Creek from its confluence with Bear Creek to its confluence with the North Fork Smith River, as a scenic river.

"(G) Bear Creek from its headwaters in section 24, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with Diamond Creek, as a scenic river.

"(H) Still Creek from its headwaters in section 11, T. 18 N., R. 1 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15 degrees Crescent City topographic map, to its confluence with with the North Fork Smith River, as scenic river.

"(I) North Fork Diamond Creek from the California-Oregon State line to its confluence with Diamond Creek, as a recreational river.

"(J) High Plateau Creek from its headwaters in section 26, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with Diamond Creek, as a scenic river.

"(K) Stony Creek from its headwaters in section 25, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the North Fork Smith River, as a scenic river.

"(L) Peridotite Creek from its headwaters in section 34, T. 18 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15 degrees Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the North Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"() Siskiyou Fork Smith River, California. -- The segment from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, and the following tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

"(A) The segment from its headwaters about 0.7 miles southeast of Broken Rib Mountain, as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak Topographic map, to its confluence with the South Siskiyou Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"(B) The segment from its confluence with South Siskiyou Fork Smith River to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(C) South Siskiyou Fork Smith River from its headwaters about 0.6 miles southwest of Buck Lake, as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak topographic map, to its confluence with the Siskiyou Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"() South Fork Smith River, California. -- The segment from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, and the following tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classes:

"(A) The segment from its headwaters about 0.5 miles southwest of Bear Mountain, as depicted on 1956 USGS 15 degrees Preston Peak topographic map, to Blackhawk Bar, as a wild river.

"(B) The segment from Blackhawk Bar to its confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(C) William Creek from its headwaters in section 31, T. 14 N., R. 4 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15 degrees Sip Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with Eight Mile Creek, as a wild river.

"(D) Eight Mile Creek from its headwaters in section 29, T. 14 N., R. 4 E., as depicted on the 1955 USGS 15< degrees > Dillon Mtn. topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"(E) Harrington Creek from its source to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"(F) Prescott Fork of the Smith River from its headwaters about 0.5 miles southeast of Island Lake, as depicted on the 1955 USGS 15< degrees > Dillon Mtn. topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"(G) Quartz Creek from its headwaters in section 31, T. 16 N., R. 4 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(H) Jones Creek from its headquarters in section 36, T. 16 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(I) Hurdygurdy Creek from its headwaters about 0.4 miles southwest of Bear Basin Butte as depicted on the 1956 USGS 15< degrees > Preston Peak topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(J) Gordon Creek from its headwaters in section 18, T. 16 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on 1951 USGS 15< degrees > Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(K) Coon Creek from the junction of its two headwaters tributaries in the southeast quadrant of section 31, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15< degrees > Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(L) Craigs Creek from its headwaters in section 36, T. 17 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1951 USGS 15< degrees > Gasquet topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(M) Goose Creek from its headwaters in section 13, T. 13 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Shop Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(N) East Fork Goose Creek from its headwaters in section 18, T. 13 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with Goose Creek, as a recreational river.

"(O) Buck Creek from its headwaters at Cedar Camp Spring, as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to the northeast corner of section 8, T. 14 N., R. 3 E., as a scenic river.

"(P) Buck Creek from the northeast corner of section 8, T. 14 N., R. 3 E., to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a wild river.

"(Q) Muzzleloador Creek from its headwaters in section 2, T. 15 N., R. 3 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with Jones Creek, as a recreational river.

"(R) Canthook Creek from its headwaters in section 2, T. 15 N., 2 E., as depicted in the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(S) Rock Creek from the national forest boundary in section 6, T. 15 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river.

"(T) Blackhawk Creek from its headwaters in section 21, T. 15 N., R. 2 E., as depicted on the 1952 USGS 15< degrees > Ship Mountain topographic map, to its confluence with the South Fork Smith River, as a recreational river."

(c) Management. -- The management plan prepared under section 9 of this Act shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement for a comprehensive management plan required under section 3(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

SEC. 11. STREAMSIDE PROTECTION ZONES.

(a) For each of the rivers and river segments specified in this subsection, there is hereby established a streamside protection zone in which timber harvesting shall be prohibited. Such zone shall extend 300 feet from each bank of the rivers and river segments, or 100 feet from the inner gorge of said rivers and river segments, or within the limit of high and extreme landslide hazards on said rivers and river segments, whichever is greater. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to the following rivers and river segments:

(1) Rowdy Creek (from California-Oregon border to NRA boundary).

(2) Shelly Creek (from its headwaters to Patrick Creek).

(3) East Fork Patrick Creek (from its headwaters to Patrick Creek).

(4) West Fork Patrick Creek (from its headwaters to Patrick Creek).

(5) Little Jones Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(6) Patrick Creek (from the confluence of the East and West forks of Patrick Creek to the Middle Fork of the Smith River).

(7) Monkey Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).

(8) Hardscrabble Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).

(9) Quartz Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(10) Jones Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(11) Upper Hurdygurdy Creek (from its headwaters to Dry Lake).

(12) Gordon Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(13) Coon Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(14) Craigs Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(15) Goose Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(16) East Fork of Goose Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with Goose Creek).

(17) Muzzleloader Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with Jones Creek).

(18) Canthook Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(19) Rock Creek (from the NRA boundary to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(20) Blackhawk Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(b) For each of the rivers and river segments specified in this subsection there is established a streamside protection zone in which timber harvesting shall be prohibited. Such zone shall extend on the average of one quarter mile on either side of said rivers and river segments, or 100 feet from the inner gorge of said rivers and river segments, or within the limit of high and extreme landslide hazards on said rivers and [*H7673] river segments, whichever is greater. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to the following rivers and river segments:

(1) Main stem Smith (from the South Fork to the NRA boundary).

(2) Middle Fork Smith (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).

- (3) Myrtle Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (4) Kelly Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (5) Packsaddle Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (6) Griffin Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (7) Knopti Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (8) North Fork of the Smith River (from the California/Oregon border to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (9) Diamond Creek (from the California/Oregon border to its confluence with the North Fork of the Smith River).
- (10) Bear Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with Diamond Creek).
- (11) Still Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the North Fork of the Smith River).
- (12) North Fork of Diamond Creek (from the California/Oregon border to its confluence with Diamond Creek).
- (13) High Plateau Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with Diamond Creek).
- (14) Stony Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the North Fork of the Smith River).
- (15) Peridotite Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the North Fork of the Smith River).
- (16) Siskiyou Fork, Smith River (from its headwaters to the Middle Fork of the Smith River).
- (17) South Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Siskiyou Fork of the Smith River).
- (18) South Fork Smith River (from its headwaters to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Smith River).

(19) Williams Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(20) Eight Mile Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(21) Harrington Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(22) Prescott Fork of the Smith River (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(23) Buck Creek (from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River).

(c) For the Lower Hurdygurdy Creek (from Dry Lake to its confluence with the South Fork of the Smith River) there is established a streamside protection zone in which timber harvesting shall be prohibited. Such zone shall extend one-eighth mile on either side of said Lower Hurdygurdy Creek.

(d) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any restrictions on timber harvesting or other activities applicable to the streamside protection zones established by this section under any other applicable provision of this Act.

SEC. 12. STATE AND LOCAL JURISDICTION AND ASSISTANCE.

(a) State and Local Jurisdiction. -- Nothing in this Act shall diminish, enlarge, or modify any right of the State of California or any political subdivision thereof, to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction or to carry out State fish and game laws, rules, and regulations within the recreation area, or to tax persons, franchise, or private property on the lands and waters included in the recreation area, or to regulate the private lands within the recreation area.

(b) Cooperative Agreements. -- The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to enter into cooperative agreements with the State of California or its political subdivisions for --

(1) the rendering on a reimbursable basis, of rescue, firefighting, and law enforcement services and cooperative assistance by nearby law enforcement and fire prevention agencies; and

(2) the planning for use, management, and development of non-Federal lands within the recreation area and elsewhere in the Smith River watershed in the furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

(c) Technical Assistance. -- To enable the State of California and its political subdivisions to develop and implement programs compatible with the purposes of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Interior, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development, shall consider upon request such technical assistance to the State and its political subdivisions as is necessary to fulfill the purposes of this section. Such assistance may include payments or grants, within existing programs, for technical aid and program development.

(d) Land Information System. -- The Secretary of Agriculture shall assist the county of Del Norte in developing a land information system that will be compatible with the Forest Service and National Park Service systems for the Federal lands in Del Norte County and such non-Federal systems as may be appropriate and that will be made available to Federal and non-Federal entities for use in coordinating planning for the recreation area and other lands in the Smith River watershed.

SEC. 13. SAVING PROVISIONS.

(a) Activities on Lands Outside of Recreation Area. -- Nothing in this Act shall limit, restrict, or require specific management practices on lands outside the recreation area boundary. The fact that activities or uses outside the recreation area can be seen, heard, or otherwise perceived within the recreation area shall not, of itself, limit, restrict, or preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the recreation area.

(b) Prior Rights. -- (1) Nothing in this Act shall limit, restrict, or preclude the implementation of valid timber sale contracts or other contracts or agreements executed by the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Except as specifically provided herein nothing in this Act shall be construed as diminishing or relinquishing any right, title, or interest of the United States in any lands, waters, or interests therein within the boundaries of the recreation area designated by this Act.

(C) Road Easements. -- Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the responsibilities of the State of California or any of its political subdivisions with respect to road easements, including maintenance and improvement of State Highway 199 and County Route 427.

(d) Rights of Access. -- Existing rights provided by Federal law for access by private landowners across National Forest System lands shall not be affected by this Act.

(e) Entitlement Moneys. -- Annually for the first five full fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pay for use by units of local government within the recreation area an amount equal to the difference between the amounts payable for such purposes pursuant to the Act of May 23, 1908 (chapter 193; 35 Stat. 251; 16 U.S.C. 500) and the average amount paid for such purpose under such Act during the five fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of this Act. The amount payable under this

subsection shall be reduced by 10 percent annually commencing the sixth fiscal year and 10 percent annually thereafter for each succeeding fiscal year until the amount payable shall be reduced 100 percent by the end of the fifteenth fiscal year after the date of enactment. This subsection shall expire 14 years after the first payment pursuant to this subsection.

SEC. 14. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a second demanded?

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, I demand a second.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, a second will be considered as ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Vento] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. Rhodes] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Vento].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill presently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4309 as reported from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

This bill would provide for designation of the Smith River National Recreation Area within the Six Rivers National Forest in Del Norte County, CA. It would also statutorily designate a number of segments of the Smith River and its tributaries for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Mr. Speaker, the area covered by this bill is in extreme northwestern California. The Smith River is the last major undammed river in the State, and is characterized by exceptionally clear water, a vigorous anadromous fishery, and steep, forested mountains. The area exhibits tremendous diversity, including lush coastal redwood forests, dense stands of mixed conifers and hardwoods, sparsely vegetated high elevation plateaus, and high mountain peaks and meadows.

The area includes one of the best salmon and steelhead fisheries on the [*H7674] west coast, with 176 miles of anadromous fish habitat and 114 miles available to anglers seeking quiet and solitude while fishing for native trout. The six lakes in the NRA range in size from 0.7 to 6.1 acres, and are stocked with rainbow or brook trout by the California Department of Fish and Game. In addition, 300 species of wildlife occur in the area.

The provisions of this bill designating a Smith River National Recreation Area and designating a number of river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System generally correspond to proposals documented in a forest service management plan in February 1990.

The river segments that the bill would designate include the three main forks of the Smith River, numerous tributaries, and a short segment of the main stem. These rivers and tributaries were listed in the nationwide rivers inventory conducted by the National Park Service. These same rivers are part of the California Wild and Scenic River System.

In July 1980, the Governor of California petitioned the Secretary of the Interior to include these rivers and tributaries in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under section 2(A)(II) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. A decision on January 19, 1981, by the Secretary of the Interior added the rivers and tributaries to the national system. The bill would give that status a statutory confirmation.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the bill would establish streamside protection zones, where timber harvest would be prohibited, for certain specified streams within the Smith River Basin, and would adjust the boundaries of the Six Rivers National Forest so as to exclude certain private lands now within those boundaries. The bill also includes provisions dealing with the status of some Federal lands that for many years have been used by the county for public purposes, and imposes restrictions on mineral development within the national recreation area.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill provides for a transitional period during which local governments in the area would be given assurance against possible reductions in payments under existing laws that tie such payments to Federal timber receipts. This provision would supplement such payments, to bring them up to an amount based on the average payment made during the last 5 years, should that be necessary.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, and one that reflects great credit on the gentleman from California [Mr. Bosco], who has worked so long and hard and has exercised such

leadership in putting together a proposal that enjoys such well-deserved support. I want to highly commend him for this achievement, which deserves the overwhelming approval of the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Smith River is clearly one of the crown jewels of Western rivers. In fact, it is the last major river in California that is completely free of dams and diversions. This area is rich in spectacular scenery and abounds in fish and wildlife. It has long been one of California's prime recreation attractions.

There has been considerable controversy concerning the proper approach for protecting the Smith River. Some have suggested that some sort of designation managed by the National Park Service might be most appropriate. However, because of the sharp increase in tourism promised by supporters of an expanded Redwood National Park that never materialized, local residents were not enthralled with the idea of having an additional unit of the National Park Service in their backyard.

As a result, Congressman Doug Bosco took it upon himself to work with a broad cross section of local people and groups to design a protection plan for the Smith River that everyone could live with comfortably. H.R. 4309 is the final product of a long and perhaps painful process at times that included the Forest Service, local government, conservationists, and the timber industry.

I know that during the relatively short time between the hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands and markup by the full Interior Committee, we saw a number of different versions of the bill. As a result, I can only imagine that numerous changes took place in this bill during months Mr. Bosco and his constituents have worked on it.

H.R. 4309 would create a national recreation area of about 300,000 acres to be managed by the Forest Service. Although most of this area will be managed primarily for non-commodity uses such as recreation and fish and wildlife habitat, a significant area is dedicated for timber harvest under prudent management.

Moreover, this legislation would add several important tributaries of the Smith River as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that were not included in the original designations made nearly 10 years ago. It also upgrades the classification of several other rivers that were previously designated.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that although the administration generally supports this bill, they have three major objections.

They are the prohibition on most timber harvest within the corridors of designated wild and scenic rivers and making Federal payments to local counties totaling \$10 million.

However, perhaps the greatest objection the administration has deals with prohibiting mining on valid existing claims. The statements on administration policy regarding this provision states:

The Secretary of Agriculture would be required to compensate existing claimants for this taking of their private property rights. There are over 5,000 claims within the boundary of the proposed national recreation area. One firm alone has spent approximately \$20 million just on mineral documentation. While the Department of Agriculture does not have an estimate of the value of these mining claims, such compensation would be very costly.

I am optimistic that all three of these concerns can be ironed out in the Senate during the remaining days of the 101st Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. Bosco], the architect of this bill.

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

Mr. BOSCO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 4309, my legislation that would establish a National Recreation Area encompassing the national forest lands in the Smith River watershed in California.

H.R. 4309 will establish a 300,000-acre National Recreation Area in the heart of the Six Rivers National Forest in Del Norte County. The bill is the product of many months of painstaking work with the Forest Service, representatives of local government, environmental groups and the timber industry, to produce a proposal that will provide permanent protection for the "crown jewel" of California's wild and scenic rivers. I particularly want to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, Mr. Vento, and his staff, for their assistance and support in developing the bill before the House today.

The Smith River and its tributaries comprise the only remaining watershed in California that is completely free of dams and diversions. Its clear waters, spectacular scenery and abundant fish and wildlife have long made it one of the California's premiere recreation attractions. Its rich forests have produced more than a billion board feet of timber over the past four decades. But the resources that make the Smith River such a uniquely valuable part of our natural heritage have also made it a magnet for controversy. Proposals that have been advanced in recent years run the gamut from large-scale strip mining and increased logging to creation of a national park. After the bitter battles over expansion of Redwood National Park in 1978 and the California Wilderness Act in 1984, I think we're all ready to end this controversy.

This legislation represents our best efforts to produce a plan that will [*H7675] guarantee the protection of the values that make the Smith River such a special place while enhancing its recreational potential and ensuring the sustained productivity of its renewable resources.

In many ways, the challenges we faced in developing this proposal mirror the challenges facing the national forest system as a whole. To the extent we are successful, I believe it could provide a model for responding to the conflicts confronting us in the future management of highly sensitive lands throughout the national forests.

Although the general effect and intent of this bill is to shift the overall management emphasis of Six Rivers National Forest's Gasquet Ranger District more toward recreation, the underlying land allocations and prescriptions have largely been determined by the physical character of the watershed itself and the ecological systems it supports.

The result is a comprehensive, ecologically based management strategy that will provide for a wide range of uses in the Smith River watershed with a minimum of conflicts.

The heaviest recreation use has been and will continue to be focused along the river's Middle Fork adjacent to Highway 199, along the Lower South Fork and in the lower Hurdygurdy Creek areas. The Forest Service's draft management plan calls for additional camping facilities and trails, improved boating and fishing access and expanded information and interpretive services in these areas.

More primitive recreation opportunities are available in the Siskiyou Wilderness and the truly wild rivers of the North Fork and Upper South Fork. Those areas will remain much the way they are today, with the exception of river access and trail improvements.

The primary emphasis in the Upper Middle Fork area will be on maintaining ecological diversity through preservation of remaining old growth timber and sensitive management of existing young plantations.

Future timber harvests will for the most part be limited to the Prescribed Timber Management Area, which primarily includes lands in the higher central part of the watershed where extensive logging has already occurred and road systems are in place. This area includes substantial acreage in private ownership which I believe the Forest Service should be encouraged to acquire from willing sellers either by purchase or exchange to enhance the NRA's long-term timber production potential.

The bill specifically requires the use of "new forestry" techniques and maintenance of biological diversity in areas subject to timber management. I believe this is one of the crucial challenges facing public land managers today, and I hope the Forest Service will take advantage of this opportunity to make this a model for testing and development of alternative silvicultural strategies.

Wildlife considerations, including the needs of spotted owls and other sensitive species, have been integrated into the plan throughout the NRA through the protection of large blocks of habitat and connecting corridors. I believe this plan provides a biologically sound framework for future management of the spotted owl, and I hope that consideration will be given to modifications to the boundaries of the proposed Habitat Conservation Area that would more closely reflect the land allocations contained in this bill.

The measure also adds to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System several important tributaries that were left out of former Secretary Andrus' original designation and upgrades the classification of several other streams that are already protected.

The legislation would prohibit mining on Federal lands within the recreation area.

The bill also contains several important provisions intended to address Del Norte County's concerns about the impact of the NRA's establishment on local government finances, correct a historic survey error and ensure coordination of planning efforts throughout the watershed.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there are those in the environmental community and the timber industry who will say that this bill goes too far or not far enough in protecting the Smith River. But I believe this is a responsible legislative solution that all parties can live with and one that enjoys broad support among the general public. I would appreciate my colleagues' support in helping to enact H.R. 4309 into law this year.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Mazzoli). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. Vento] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4309, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.