

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD -- EXTENSIONS

111st Congress, 1st Session

155 Cong Rec E 820

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

March 31, 2009

REFERENCE: Vol. 155, No. 54

SECTION: Extension of Remarks

SPEAKER: Mr. BLUMENAUER

TEXT: [*820]

Page 820

speech of

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

of oregon

in the house of representatives

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to vote "yes" on the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. This bill will designate more than 2 million acres of **wilderness** in nine states, including 127,000 acres on Mt. Hood and in the Columbia River Gorge. It also includes **wilderness** protection for other Oregon treasures in the Cascade Siskiyou, Oregon Badlands, Spring Basin, and Copper Salmon areas.

It is worth noting that in addition to **wilderness** on Mt. Hood, the legislation contains nearly 80 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, including stretches of Fish Creek, which contains crucial habitat for endangered fish, the East Fork of the Hood River, where wildlife habitat and low impact recreation opportunities abound, and Fifteen Mile Creek, another critical area for fish and wildlife, recreation, and scenic beauty. The bill designates 34,000 acres of new National Recreation Areas in the Mt. Hood National Forest and creates a long term transportation plan to address the challenges of getting to and from the mountain. It also directs the Forest Service to participate in three land conveyances. These exchanges will provide additional protection for the North side of Mt. Hood, the Pacific Crest Trail, and a parcel of land that is critical to the community in Clackamas County.

In 2003, I worked with other members of the Oregon delegation to hold a Mt. Hood Summit at Timberline Lodge, inviting local stakeholders to share their vision for the challenges and opportunities facing the Mt. Hood National Forest. Over the past six years a committed group of citizens, organizations, Native Americans, local, state and federal jurisdictions, and private interests have spent countless hours negotiating a long term stewardship and protection plan for Mt. Hood's forests and rivers.

Oregonians have worked tirelessly and waited years to have these treasured natural areas protected. I am extremely pleased that the hard work of so many committed local stakeholders is coming to fruition, and I hope that we pass this bill today and send it swiftly to President Obama for his signature.