Union Calendar No. 39

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 873

[Report No. 103–82, Part I]

A BILL

Entitled the ''Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act of 1993''.

MAY 7, 1993

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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[Report No. 103–82, Part I]

Entitled the ''Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act of 1993''.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 1993

Mr. WILLIAMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

MAY 6, 1993

Reported with amendments and referred to the Committee on Agriculture for a period ending not later than May 7, 1993, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(a), rule X

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

MAY 7, 1993

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[For text of the introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 4, 1993]

A BILL

Entitled the ''Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act of 1993''.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act of 1993''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that:

(1) It has been the clear policy of the Federal Government since 1925 to consolidate the checkerboard lands along the Gallatin Range north of Yellowstone National Park.

(2) These lands north of Yellowstone possess outstanding natural characteristics and wildlife habitat which give them high value as lands added to the National Forest System.

(3) Although these lands have historically remained pristine up to now, failure to consolidate at this time will in the near future lead to fragmentation and development.

(4) The Federal Government has already invested a great deal in keeping the lands along the Gallatin Range protected from excess development.

SEC. 3. PLUM CREEK LAND EXCHANGE—GALLATIN AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall, subject to the provisions of sections 4(a) and 5(a) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, acquire by exchange and cash equalization in the amount of $3,400,000, certain

lands and interests in land of the Plum Creek Timber, L.P. (hereinafter in this section referred to as the ''company''), in and adjacent to the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area, the Scapegoat Wilderness Area, and other land in the Gallatin National Forest in accordance with this section.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LANDS.—(1) If the company offers to the United States the fee title, including mineral interests, to approximately 37,752 and 15/100 acres of land owned by the company which is available for exchange to the United States as depicted on a map entitled ''Plum Creek Timber and Forest Service Proposed Gallatin Land Exchange'', dated May 20, 1988, the Secretary shall accept a warranty deed to such land and, in exchange therefor, and subject to valid existing rights, upon such acceptance the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, subject to valid existing rights, by patent the fee title to approximately 12,414 and 6/100 acres of National Forest System lands available for exchange to the company as depicted on such map, subject to—

(A) the reservation of ditches and canals required by the Act entitled ''An Act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, and for other purposes'', ap-

proved August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 391; 43 U.S.C. 945);

(B) the reservation of rights under Federal Oil and Gas Lease numbers 49739, 55610, 40389, 53670, 40215, 33385, 53736, and 38684; and

(C) such other terms, conditions, reservations, and exceptions as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the company.

(2) On termination or relinquishment of the leases referred to in paragraph (1), all the rights and interests in land granted therein shall immediately vest in the company, its successors and assigns, and the Secretary shall give notice of that event by a document suitable for recording in the county wherein the leased lands are situated.

(c) EASEMENTS.—Reciprocal easements shall be exchanged at closing on the conveyances authorized by this section—

(1) in consideration of the easements conveyed by the company as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall, under authority of the Act of October 13, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 532 et seq.; commonly referred to as the ''National Forest Roads and Trails Act''), or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, execute and deliver to the company such easements or other rights-of-way authoriza-

tions over federally owned lands included in this exchange as may be agreed to by the Secretary and the company in an exchange agreement; and

(2) in consideration of the easements conveyed by the United States as provided in paragraph (1), the company shall execute and deliver to the United States such easements or other rights-of-way authorizations across company-owned lands included in this exchange as may be agreed to by the Secretary and the company in an exchange agreement.

(d) TIMING OF TRANSACTION.—Subject to the provisions of sections 4(a) and 5(a) of this Act, it is the intent of Congress that the conveyances authorized by this section be completed within 90 days after the date of enactment of an Act making the appropriation authorized by subsection (e).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section the sum of $3,400,000, which amount the Secretary shall, when appropriated, pay to the company to equalize the value of the exchange of land authorized by this section.

(f) QUALITY OF TITLE.—Title to the properties referenced in this section to be offered to the United States by Big Sky Lumber Company, its assignees or successors in interest, shall include both the entire surface and sub-

surface estates without reservation or exception. The owner shall be required to acquire any outstanding interest in mineral or mineral rights, timber or timber rights, water or water rights, or any other outstanding interest in the property, except reservations by the United States or the State of Montana by patent, in order to assure that title to the property is transferred as described in this section and sections 4, 5, and 6. Title to land to be conveyed to the United States shall be acceptable to the Secretary and shall otherwise be in conformity with title standards for Federal land acquisitions.

(g) REFERENCES.—The reference and authorities of this section referring to Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P., shall also refer to its successors and assigns.

SEC. 4. LAND CONSOLIDATION; PORCUPINE AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The exchange described in section 3 of this Act shall not be consummated by the Secretary until the Secretary or a not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter in this section referred to as the ''conservation entity'') exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 acting for later dispositions to the United States, shall have acquired, by purchase or option to acquire, or exchange, all of the Porcupine property for its fair market value, determined at the time of acquisition in accordance with appraisal standards acceptable to

the Secretary by an appraiser acceptable to the Secretary and the owner. And further that, if said acquisition or option to acquire has been consummated by a conservation entity, said entity shall have notified the Secretary that the quality of title in fact secured meets applicable Forest Service standards with respect to surface and subsurface estates or is otherwise acceptable to the Secretary.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITION.—The Secretary is authorized and directed to acquire by purchase or exchange the lands and interests therein as depicted on a map entitled ''Porcupine Area'', dated September, 1992.

(c) LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—Acquisitions pursuant to this section shall be under existing authorities available to the Secretary.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Funds necessary for land acquisition are authorized to be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

(e) REFERENCES.—The reference and authorities of this section referring to the owner shall mean the Big Sky Lumber Company, and its successors and assigns.

SEC. 5. LAND CONSOLIDATION—TAYLOR FORK AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The exchange described in section 3 of this Act shall not be consummated by the Secretary

until the Secretary or a not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter in this section referred to as the ''conservation entity'') exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 acting for later disposition to the United States, shall have acquired, by purchase or option to acquire, or exchange, all of the Taylor Fork property for its fair market value, determined at the time of acquisition in accordance with appraisal standards acceptable to the Secretary by an appraiser acceptable to the Secretary and the owner. And further that, if said acquisition or option to acquire has been consummated by a conservation entity, said entity shall have notified the Secretary that the quality of title in fact secured meets applicable Forest Service standards with respect to surface and subsurface estates or is otherwise acceptable to the Secretary.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR ACQUISITION.—The Secretary is authorized and directed to acquire by purchase or exchange the lands and interests therein as depicted on a map entitled ''Taylor Fork Area'', dated September, 1992.

(c) LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—Acquisition pursuant to this section shall be under existing authorities available to the Secretary, except that notwithstanding any other provision of law, exchanges authorized in this section shall not be restricted within the same State.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Funds necessary for land acquisition are authorized to be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

(e) REFERENCES.—The reference and authorities of this section referring to the owner shall mean the Big Sky Lumber Company, and its successors and assigns.

(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—For a period of 2 years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, on the status of the negotiations with the company or its successors in interest to effect the land consolidation authorized by this section.

SEC. 6. LAND CONSOLIDATION—GALLATIN AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the Congress that the Secretary shall attempt to acquire by purchase or exchange all lands within what is generally known as the Gallatin Range owned by Big Sky Lumber Company, its assignees or successors in interest, not otherwise acquired, purchased, or exchanged pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR ACQUISITION.—The Secretary is authorized and directed to acquire by purchase

or exchange the lands and interests therein as depicted on a map entitled ''Gallatin Area'', dated September 1992.

(c) LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—Acquisitions pursuant to this section shall be under existing authorities available to the Secretary, except that notwithstanding any other law, exchanges authorized in this section shall not be restricted within the same State.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Funds necessary for land acquisition are authorized to be appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

(e) QUALITY OF TITLE.—The quality of title to the properties references in this section in fact secured shall meet applicable Forest Service standards with respect to surface and subsurface estates or shall otherwise be acceptable to the Forest Service.

(f) REFERENCES.—The references and authorities of this section referring to the Big Sky Lumber Company, shall also refer to its successors and assigns.

(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—For a period of 3 years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the status of the

negotiations with the company or its successors in interest to effect the land consolidation authorized by this section.

SEC. 7. SEVERED MINERALS EXCHANGE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) underlying certain areas in Montana described in subsection (b) are mineral rights owned by subsidiaries of Burlington Resources, Incorporated, its successors and assigns (referred to in this section as the ''company'');

(2) there are federally-owned minerals underlying lands of the company lying outside those areas;

(3) the company has agreed in principle with the Department of Agriculture to an exchange of mineral rights to consolidate surface and subsurface ownerships and to avoid potential conflicts with the surface management of such areas; and

(4) it is desirable that an exchange be completed within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF MINERAL INTERESTS.—(1) Pursuant to an exchange agreement between the Secretary and the company, the Secretary may acquire mineral interests owned by the company or an affiliate of the company thereof underlying surface lands owned by the United States located in the areas depicted on the maps entitled ''Severed Minerals Exchange, Clearwater-Monture Area'', dated Sep-

tember 1988 and ''Severed Minerals Exchanges, Gallatin Area'', dated September 1988, or in fractional sections adjacent to those areas.

(2) In exchange for the minerals interests conveyed to the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, subject to valid existing rights, such federally owned mineral interests as the Secretary and the company may agree upon.

(c) EQUAL VALUE.—(1) The value of mineral interests exchanged pursuant to this section shall be approximately equal based on available information.

(2) To ensure that the wilderness or other natural values of the areas are not affected, a formal appraisal based upon drilling or other surface disturbing activities shall not be required for any mineral interest proposed for exchange, but the Secretary and the company shall fully share all available information on the quality and quantity of mineral interests proposed for exchange.

(3) In the absence of adequate information regarding values of minerals proposed for exchange, the Secretary and the company may agree to an exchange on the basis of mineral interests of similar development potential, geologic character, and similar factors.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF FEDERALLY OWNED MINERAL INTERESTS.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), mineral inter-

ests conveyed by the United States pursuant to this section shall underlie lands the surface of which are owned by the company.

(2) If there are not sufficient federally owned mineral interests of approximately equal value underlying lands, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior may identify for exchange any other federally owned mineral interest in land in the State of Montana of which the surface estate is in private ownership.

(e) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—(1) The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior in the negotiation of the exchange agreement authorized by subsection (b), particularly with respect to the inclusion in such an agreement of a provision calling for the exchange of federally owned mineral interests lying outside the boundaries of units of the National Forest System.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey the federally owned mineral interests identified in a final exchange agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and the company and its affiliates.

(f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''mineral interests'' includes all locatable and leasable minerals, including oil and gas, geothermal resources, and all other subsurface rights.

SEC. 8. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) MAPS.—The maps referred to in sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are subject to such minor corrections as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the company. The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives of any corrections made pursuant to the subsection. The maps shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(b) TITLE OF LANDS CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES.—The rights, title and interests to any lands conveyed to the United States in furtherance of section 4 in the Porcupine Area, section 5 in the Taylor Fork Area, and section 6 in the Gallatin Area shall, at a minimum, consist of the surface estate and all the subsurface rights except that the Secretary may accept title subject to outstanding or reserved oil and gas and geothermal rights, except that there shall be no surface occupancy permitted on such Federal lands for any access to reserved or outstanding rights or any exploration or development thereof. Notwithstanding any provision of State law, section 1323(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3210(a)), or similar law pertaining to access over federally owned land, no portion of lands acquired by the United

States in furtherance of this Act shall be available for access to, or exploration or development of, any reserved or outstanding oil, gas, geothermal or other non-Federal property interest.

(c) NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.—All lands conveyed to the United States in furtherance of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the National Forest System lands by the Secretary in accordance with the laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System. Until Congress determines otherwise, lands acquired within the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area shall be managed so as to maintain the present wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System in accordance with Public Law 95–150. Other lands acquired shall be subject to the Gallatin National Forest planning process under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to provide for the consolidation and protection of the Gallatin Range.''.

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