

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 826

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 6, 1995

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To extend the deadline for the completion of certain land exchanges involving the Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) under the Big Thicket National Preserve
6 Addition Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–46), Con-

1 gress increased the size of the Big Thicket National
2 Preserve through authorized land exchanges;

3 (2) such land exchanges were not consummated
4 by July 1, 1995, as required by Public Law 103–46;
5 and

6 (3) failure to consummate such land exchanges
7 by the end of the three-year extension provided by
8 this Act will necessitate further intervention and di-
9 rection from Congress concerning such land ex-
10 changes.

11 **SEC. 2. TIME PERIOD FOR LAND EXCHANGE.**

12 (a) EXTENSION.—The last sentence of subsection (d)
13 of the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize
14 the establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve
15 in the State of Texas, and for other purposes”, approved
16 October 11, 1974 (16 U.S.C. 698(d)), is amended by
17 striking out “two years after date of enactment” and in-
18 serting “five years after the date of enactment”.

19 (b) INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL.—Subsection (d) of
20 the first section of such Act (16 U.S.C. 698(d)) is further
21 amended by adding at the end the following: “The Sec-
22 retary, in considering the values of the private lands to
23 be exchanged under this subsection, shall consider inde-
24 pendent appraisals submitted by the owners of the private
25 lands.”.

1 (c) LIMITATION.—Subsection (d) of the first section
2 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 698(d)), as amended by subsection
3 (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:
4 “The authority to exchange lands under this subsection
5 shall expire on July 1, 1998.”.

6 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

7 Not later than six months after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act and every six months thereafter until the
9 earlier of the consummation of the exchange or July 1,
10 1998, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of
11 Agriculture shall each submit a report to the Committee
12 on Resources of the House of Representatives and the
13 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
14 ate concerning the progress in consummating the land ex-
15 change authorized by the amendments made by Big Thicket
16 National Preserve Addition Act of 1993 (Public Law
17 103–46).

18 **SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE IN LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS.**

19 If, within one year after the date of the enactment
20 of this Act—

21 (1) the owners of the private lands described in
22 subsection (b)(1) offer to transfer all their right,
23 title, and interest in and to such lands to the Sec-
24 retary of the Interior, and

1 (2) Liberty County, Texas, agrees to accept the
2 transfer of the Federal lands described in subsection
3 (b)(2),
4 the Secretary shall accept such offer of private lands and,
5 in exchange and without additional consideration, transfer
6 to Liberty County, Texas, all right, title, and interest of
7 the United States in and to the Federal lands described
8 in subsection (b)(2).

9 (b) LANDS DESCRIBED.—

10 (1) PRIVATE LANDS.—The private lands de-
11 scribed in this paragraph are approximately 3.76
12 acres of lands located in Liberty County, Texas, as
13 generally depicted on the map entitled “Big Thicket
14 Lake Estates Access—Proposed”.

15 (2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The Federal lands de-
16 scribed in this paragraph are approximately 2.38
17 acres of lands located in Menard Creek Corridor
18 Unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve, as gen-
19 erally depicted on the map referred to in paragraph
20 (1).

21 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS ACQUIRED BY THE
22 UNITED STATES.—The lands acquired by the Secretary
23 under this section shall be added to and administered as

1 part of the Menard Creek Corridor Unit of the Big Thick-
2 et National Preserve.

Passed the House of Representatives December 5,
1995.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.

By LINDA NAVE,

Deputy Clerk.