

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3855

To raise funds necessary to respond to Hurricane Katrina and future disasters by selling a portion of the lands administered by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. POE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. OTTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To raise funds necessary to respond to Hurricane Katrina and future disasters by selling a portion of the lands administered by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SALE OF NATIONAL FOREST AND DEPARTMENT**
2 **OF THE INTERIOR LANDS TO RAISE FUNDS**
3 **FOR DISASTER RELIEF.**

4 (a) SALE OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.—The Sec-
5 retary of Agriculture shall select 15 percent of the lands
6 included in the National Forest System (as defined in sec-
7 tion 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
8 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) and
9 convey all right, title, and interest of the United States
10 in and to the selected lands by public sale.

11 (b) SALE OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
12 LANDS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall identify 15
13 percent of the lands managed by agencies of the Depart-
14 ment of the Interior (excluding lands in units of the Na-
15 tional Park System established by Act of Congress and
16 lands held for the benefit of an Indian tribe) and convey
17 all right, title, and interest of the United States in and
18 to the identified lands by public sale.

19 (c) PRIORITY LOCATIONS.—The Secretary of Agri-
20 culture and the Secretary of the Interior shall place an
21 emphasis on identifying lands for sale under this section
22 in those States where the United States owns more than
23 15 percent of the total land area.

24 (d) COMMENCEMENT OF SALES.—The Secretary of
25 Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall com-
26 plete the identification of Federal lands under this section

1 and commence the sale of such lands not later than Octo-
2 ber 1, 2006. The land sales shall proceed without regard
3 to any other provision of law.

4 (e) TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS.—All proceeds from
5 the sale of Federal lands under this section (other than
6 amounts retained to cover the administrative costs in-
7 curred solely to conduct the sales) shall be deposited in
8 the special account established under subsection (f).

9 (f) DISASTER RESPONSE AND RELIEF FUND.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
11 the Treasury a special account to be known as the
12 “Disaster Response and Relief Fund”.

13 (2) INVESTMENT.—Pending the need to use the
14 special account for the purposes specified in sub-
15 section (g), the Secretary of the Treasury shall man-
16 age amounts in the special account to maximize the
17 return to the United States. Interest on investments
18 shall also be deposited in the special account.

19 (g) USE OF FUND FOR DISASTER RELIEF.—
20 Amounts in the special account shall be available only for
21 appropriation to cover or defray the costs of responding
22 to a natural disaster or terrorist attack in an area covered
23 by a disaster declaration made by the President under the
24 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
25 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

1 (h) MORATORIUM ON FEDERAL LAND ACQUI-
2 TION.—Until the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
3 retary of the Interior comply with the duties imposed on
4 the Secretaries by this section, an interest in land may
5 not be acquired by the Forest Service or an agency of the
6 Department of the Interior unless the acquisition of that
7 land is specifically authorized by an Act of Congress en-
8 acted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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