

Union Calendar No. 54110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 886****[Report No. 110-89]**

To enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. DICKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

APRIL 17, 2007

Additional sponsors: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. BAIRD

APRIL 17, 2007

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wild Sky Wilderness
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRES-**
7 **ERVATION SYSTEM.**

8 (a) ADDITIONS.—The following Federal lands in the
9 State of Washington are hereby designated as wilderness
10 and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness
11 Preservation System: certain lands which comprise ap-
12 proximately 106,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map
13 entitled “Wild Sky Wilderness Proposal” and dated Feb-
14 ruary 6, 2007, which shall be known as the “Wild Sky
15 Wilderness”.

16 (b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as
17 practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the
18 Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal de-
19 scription for the wilderness area designated under this Act
20 with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
21 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of
22 the House of Representatives. The map and description
23 shall have the same force and effect as if included in this
24 Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct
25 clerical and typographical errors in the legal description

1 and map. The map and legal description shall be on file
2 and available for public inspection in the office of the
3 Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

4 **SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) Subject to valid existing rights, lands des-
7 igned as wilderness by this Act shall be managed
8 by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with
9 the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and
10 this Act, except that, with respect to any wilderness
11 areas designated by this Act, any reference in the
12 Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilder-
13 ness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the
14 date of enactment of this Act.

15 (2) To fulfill the purposes of this Act and the
16 Wilderness Act and to achieve administrative effi-
17 ciencies, the Secretary of Agriculture may manage
18 the area designated by this Act as a comprehensive
19 part of the larger complex of adjacent and nearby
20 wilderness areas.

21 (b) NEW TRAILS.—

22 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult
23 with interested parties and shall establish a trail
24 plan for Forest Service lands in order to develop—

1 (A) a system of hiking and equestrian
2 trails within the wilderness designated by this
3 Act in a manner consistent with the Wilderness
4 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

5 (B) a system of trails adjacent to or to
6 provide access to the wilderness designated by
7 this Act.

8 (2) Within two years after the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
10 complete a report on the implementation of the trail
11 plan required under this Act. This report shall in-
12 clude the identification of priority trails for develop-
13 ment.

14 (c) REPEATER SITE.—Within the Wild Sky Wilder-
15 ness, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use heli-
16 copter access to construct and maintain a joint Forest
17 Service and Snohomish County telecommunications re-
18 peater site, in compliance with a Forest Service approved
19 communications site plan, for the purposes of improving
20 communications for safety, health, and emergency serv-
21 ices.

22 (d) FLOAT PLANE ACCESS.—As provided by section
23 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the
24 use of floatplanes on Lake Isabel, where such use has al-
25 ready become established, shall be permitted to continue

1 subject to such reasonable restrictions as the Secretary of
2 Agriculture determines to be desirable.

3 (e) EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.—The des-
4 ignation under this Act shall not preclude the operation
5 and maintenance of the existing Evergreen Mountain
6 Lookout in the same manner and degree in which the op-
7 eration and maintenance of such lookout was occurring
8 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR LAND ACQUISITION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture is
11 authorized to acquire lands and interests therein, by pur-
12 chase, donation, or exchange, and shall give priority con-
13 sideration to those lands identified as “Priority Acquisi-
14 tion Lands” on the map described in section 2(a). The
15 boundaries of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
16 and the Wild Sky Wilderness shall be adjusted to encom-
17 pass any lands acquired pursuant to this section.

18 (b) ACCESS.—Consistent with section 5(a) of the Wil-
19 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary of Agri-
20 culture shall ensure adequate access to private inholdings
21 within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

22 (c) APPRAISAL.—Valuation of private lands shall be
23 determined without reference to any restrictions on access
24 or use which arise out of designation as a wilderness area
25 as a result of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. LAND EXCHANGES.**

2 The Secretary of Agriculture shall exchange lands
3 and interests in lands, as generally depicted on a map enti-
4 tled “Chelan County Public Utility District Exchange”
5 and dated May 22, 2002, with the Chelan County Public
6 Utility District in accordance with the following provi-
7 sions:

8 (1) If the Chelan County Public Utility District,
9 within ninety days after the date of enactment of
10 this Act, offers to the Secretary of Agriculture ap-
11 proximately 371.8 acres within the Mt. Baker-
12 Snoqualmie National Forest in the State of Wash-
13 ington, the Secretary shall accept such lands.

14 (2) Upon acceptance of title by the Secretary of
15 Agriculture to such lands and interests therein, the
16 Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Chelan
17 County Public Utility District a permanent ease-
18 ment, including helicopter access, consistent with
19 such levels as used as of date of enactment, to main-
20 tain an existing telemetry site to monitor snow pack
21 on 1.82 acres on the Wenatchee National Forest in
22 the State of Washington.

23 (3) The exchange directed by this Act shall be
24 consummated if Chelan County Public Utility Dis-
25 trict conveys title acceptable to the Secretary and

1 provided there is no hazardous material on the site,
2 which is objectionable to the Secretary.

3 (4) In the event Chelan County Public Utility
4 District determines there is no longer a need to
5 maintain a telemetry site to monitor the snow pack
6 for calculating expected runoff into the Lake Chelan
7 hydroelectric project and the hydroelectric projects
8 in the Columbia River Basin, the Secretary shall be
9 notified in writing and the easement shall be extin-
10 guished and all rights conveyed by this exchange
11 shall revert to the United States.

Union Calendar No. 54

110TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

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