

BOUNDARY ALTERATION, TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST,
ALABAMA

JULY 31, 1995.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1874]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1874) to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF TALLADEGA NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The exterior boundaries of the Talladega National Forest is hereby modified to include the following described lands:

Huntsville Meridian, Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Section 34, NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄, and S¹/₂NW¹/₄, Cleburne County, containing 399.40 acres, more or less.

Huntsville Meridian, Township 13 South, Range 9 East, Section 28, SE¹/₄, Calhoun County, containing 160.00 acres, more or less.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands described under subsection (a) are hereby added to and shall be administered as part of the Talladega National Forest, and the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer, without reimbursement, administrative jurisdiction over such lands to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the validity of or the terms and conditions of any existing right-of-way, easement, lease, license, or permit on lands transferred by subsection (a), except that such lands shall be administered by the Forest Service. Reissuance of any authorization shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applying to the Forest Service, and the change of ju-

jurisdiction over such lands resulting from the enactment of this Act shall not constitute a ground for the denial of renewal or reissuance of such authorization.

BRIEF EXPLANATION

This legislation authorizes the Secretary of Interior to transfer 399.40 acres, more or less in Huntsville Meridian, Township 17 South Range 8 East, Section 34 NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄, and S¹/₂NW¹/₄, Cleburne County. Also this legislation authorizes the transfer of 160.00 acres more or less in Huntsville Meridian, Township 13 South Range 9 East, Section 28m SE¹/₄, Calhoun County.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Currently this land is being administered by the Forest Service, but is within the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the transfer is to make the administration of the land more efficient. It is the understanding of the Committee on Agriculture that this transfer will in no way abrogate any valid existing claims on these lands.

SECTION BY SECTION

Section 1(a).—Authorizes the expansion of the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama by incorporating 399.40 acres located in Cleburne County, and 160 acres in Calhoun County.

Section 1(b)(1).—Provides that the additional acres are to be administered as part of the Talladega National Forest, subject to valid existing rights. This section also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make the transfer.

Section 1(b)(2).—Provides that the bill does not affect the validity of terms of any existing right-of-way, easement, lease, license, permit on acres transferred, except that such acres are to be administered by the Forest Service. Reissuance of any authorization is to be in accordance with the laws and regulations applying to the Forest Service. The change of jurisdiction over these acres is not grounds for the denial of a renewal or reissuance of an authorization.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

I. Hearings

The Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry held a hearing on H.R. 1874 on July 13, 1995 to receive testimony from the bill's sponsor, the Honorable Glenn Browder from Alabama. A representative from the United States Forest Service also testified on the bill.

II. Full committee consideration

Pursuant to notice, the Committee on Agriculture met on July 18, 1995, and Chairman Roberts called the business meeting to order to consider H.R. 1874, a bill modifying the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama. Mr. Allard, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry was recognized to explain the bill.

Mr. Allard requested unanimous consent to offer a substitute bill to be considered as original text. The bill was adopted by voice vote

and ordered to be reported to the House with the recommendation that the bill, as adopted, do pass.

REPORTING THE BILL—ROLLCALL VOTES

In compliance with clause 2(l)(2) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, H.R. 1874, was reported, as amended, with a quorum actually present. There was no motion or request for a recorded vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Administration supports H.R. 1874, to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama.

BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE (SECTION 308 AND SECTION 403)

The provisions of clause 2(l)(3)(B) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (relating to estimates of new budget authority, new spending authority, or new credit authority, or increased or decreased revenues or tax expenditures) are not considered applicable. The estimate and comparison required to be prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under clause 2(l)(3)(C) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 submitted to the Committee prior to the filing of this report are as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 1995.

Hon. PAT ROBERTS,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 1874, a bill to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, Alabama, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on July 18, 1995. CBO expects that enacting this bill would result in no significant costs to the federal government and in no cost to state or local governments. Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 1874 would transfer about 460 acres from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which is within the Department of the Interior, to the Forest Service, which is within the Department of Agriculture. The two tracts of BLM land that would be transferred lie within and adjacent to existing Forest Service land. BLM has no other land in the vicinity.

The properties currently do not generate any offsetting receipts, and the Forest Service has no plans to use the transferred land in ways that would generate any additional offsetting receipts. Therefore, transfer of this land would not affect direct spending. The transfer also would not significantly affect the agencies' costs for managing lands in their jurisdiction.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Victoria V. Heid.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM
(For June E. O'Neill, *Director*).

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that enactment of H.R. 1874, as amended, will have no inflationary impact on the national economy.

OVERSIGHT STATEMENT

No summary of oversight findings and recommendations made by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight under clause 2(l)(3)(D) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives was available to the Committee with reference to the subject matter specifically addressed by H.R. 1874, as amended.

No specific oversight activities other than the hearings detailed in this report were conducted by the Committee within the definition of clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.