

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT
ACT OF 1996

SEPTEMBER 23, 1996.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3497]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3497) to expand the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment (stated in terms of the page and line number of the introduced bill) is as follows:

Page 3, line 4, insert “July 1,” before “1996.”.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 3497 is to expand the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The “Snoqualmie National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 1996” modifies the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to facilitate a land exchange. This bipartisan legislation is needed to complete the exchange because 6,278 acres of land that would be added to the Snoqualmie National Forest is outside the Forest boundary.

The land exchange involves approximately 7,200 acres of national forest land and 33,000 acres of private lands owned by the Weyerhaeuser Company, including 6,278 acres which are outside the present boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest. All of the land in the agreement area is west of the Cascade Crest in King

and Pierce Counties, Washington. In addition to the exchange, the agreement includes a substantial donation of land from Weyerhaeuser to the Forest Service. The donated lands (approximately 1,900 acres) are located in King County and include an addition of approximately 900 acres to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

By consolidating ownership, an additional connecting corridor of wildlife habitat between the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and the Mount Si Conservation Area will be created. The exchange will also add substantial acreage to the I-90 freeway viewshed (the area visible to the public from Interstate 90) to support the objectives of the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust. The Trust is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to create and permanently protect a multipurpose greenway along Interstate 90 from the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains across Snoqualmie Pass to Puget Sound.

In July, 1996, the Forest Service completed a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the land exchange and to requested public comment on the proposal. Three public meetings have been held to discuss the land exchange and the draft EIS. The Forest Service expects to complete a final EIS and Record of Decision by the end of the year. To give the Forest Service authority to administer the lands it will acquire outside the current Forest boundary, passage of legislation modifying the boundary is needed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3497 was introduced on May 21, 1996, by Mrs. Jennifer Dunn (R-WA) and the entire Washington delegation. The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands. On July 25, 1996, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 3497, where the Administration supported the bill. The Full Committee on Resources met on September 18, 1996, to consider H.R. 3497. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands was discharged from further consideration of the bill. Congressman Joel Hefley (R-CO) offered a unanimous consent motion to amend the bill to insert a date in a map reference; no objections were heard. The bill, as amended, was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

This section designates the short title of the bill, the "Snoqualmie National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 1996."

Section 2. Findings

This section explains that certain private lands in Washington are logical extensions of the Snoqualmie National Forest; the boundary adjustment will facilitate a land exchange of 7,200 acres of national forest land for 33,000 acres of private land, including 6,278 acres outside the present forest boundary; and Weyerhaeuser Company (the private owner) and the U.S. Forest Service are prepared to exchange these lands to consolidate their respective land-

ownership holdings, reduce each party's management costs, and increase recreation opportunities for the public.

Section 3. Boundary modification

This section directs the Secretary of Agriculture to modify the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to include an additional 10,589.47 acres, as described on a map. It also specifies that for the purposes of Section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the modified boundary shall be considered to be the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With respect to the requirements of clause 2(1)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(1)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that the enactment of H.R. 3497 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Clause 7(a) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out H.R. 3497. However, clause 7(d) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XI

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(B) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, H.R. 3497 does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in tax expenditures. Enactment of H.R. 3497 could decrease offsetting receipts by less than \$100,000 a year, but also reduce discretionary spending by less than \$500,000 a year.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has received no report of oversight findings and recommendations from the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight on the subject of H.R. 3497.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the

following cost estimate for H.R. 3497 from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 20, 1996.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 3497, the Snoqualmie National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 1996, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 18, 1996. Enacting H.R. 3497 would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but the bill would have no significant budgetary impact.

H.R. 3497 would expand the boundary of the Snoqualmie National Forest to encompass an additional 10,589 acres, thereby allowing the U.S. Forest Service to carry out a land exchange with the Weyerhaeuser Company. If the boundary is expanded as proposed, then the Forest Service would likely exchange about 7,200 acres of federal land for about 33,000 acres of Weyerhaeuser land. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO estimates that enacting the bill could increase direct spending by reducing offsetting receipts from timber harvesting over the 1997–2002 period, but we estimate that any such change would total less than \$100,000 a year. Implementing the land exchanges could also reduce discretionary spending by the agency by minimizing the checkerboard pattern of land ownership, but we estimate that any such savings would be less than \$500,000 a year.

H.R. 3497 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4). The state of Washington could lose a small amount of income because it receives 25 percent of the receipts from timber harvesting within its borders. The bill would impose no other costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Victoria V. Heid (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact).

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director.*

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104–4

H.R. 3497 contains no unfunded mandates.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, H.R. 3497 would make no changes in existing law.