

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1657

To provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2023

Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. HUFFMAN,
and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National
Forest, Minnesota, 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 “Lake Winnibigoshish
5 Land Exchange Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) BWLT.—The term “BWLT” means Big
9 Winnie Land and Timber, LLC, a Minnesota Lim-
10 ited Liability Corporation.

1 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
2 titled “Proposed Land Exchange - Big Winnie Land
3 and Timber LLC and Chippewa National Forest”
4 and dated January 4, 2023.

5 (3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
6 means the approximately 13.8 acres of Federal land
7 in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as
8 the “Federal Parcel for Exchange” on the Map.

9 (4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-
10 eral land” means the approximately 38 acres of non-
11 Federal land in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally
12 depicted as the “Private Parcel for Exchange” on
13 the Map.

14 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
16 Chief of the Forest Service.

17 **SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND.**

18 (a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provi-
19 sions of this Act, if BWLT offers to convey the non-Fed-
20 eral land to the United States, the Secretary shall, not
21 later than 180 days after receiving the offer—

22 (1) accept the offer;

23 (2) convey to BWLT all right, title, and inter-
24 est of the United States in and to the Federal land;
25 and

1 (3) accept from BWLT all right, title, and in-
2 terest of BWLT in and to the non-Federal land.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The exchange under sub-
4 section (a) shall be—

5 (1) subject to valid existing rights; and

6 (2) conditioned on a cash equalization payment
7 made by BWLT to the United States in accordance
8 with subsection (c) if, under the appraisals con-
9 ducted in accordance with this Act, it is determined
10 that the value of the Federal land exceeds the value
11 of the non-Federal land.

12 (c) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), the exchange under subsection (a) shall
15 be for equal value or the values shall be equalized
16 by a cash payment.

17 (2) EXCEPTION.—If the appraised value of the
18 non-Federal land conveyed to the Secretary exceeds
19 the appraised value of the Federal land, a cash
20 equalization payment by the United States to
21 BWLT is hereby waived and the amount of such
22 waived payment shall be considered a donation by
23 BWLT to the United States for all purposes of law.

24 (d) APPRAISALS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land to be
2 exchanged under this Act shall be determined by ap-
3 praisals conducted by one or more independent and
4 qualified appraisers mutually agreed to by the Sec-
5 retary and BWLT.

6 (2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The Secretary
7 shall complete an appraisal of the land to be ex-
8 changed under this Act in accordance with—

9 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
10 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

11 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional
12 Appraisal Practice.

13 (e) FORMAT.—Title to the non-Federal land to be
14 conveyed to the Secretary under this Act shall be in a for-
15 mat acceptable to the Secretary.

16 (f) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The land
17 acquired by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be—

18 (1) added to, and managed as part of, the
19 Chippewa National Forest; and

20 (2) managed in accordance with the laws, rules,
21 and regulations pertaining to National Forest Sys-
22 tem lands.

23 (g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall finalize a Map and legal descriptions of all land
2 to be conveyed under this Act.

3 (2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of
4 a discrepancy between the Map and a legal descrip-
5 tion, the Map shall control.

6 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and BWLT,
7 by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors
8 in the Map or in the legal descriptions, including
9 with respect to the boundaries of the Federal land
10 parcel and the non-Federal land parcel.

11 (4) MAP ON FILE.—The Map and legal descrip-
12 tions shall be on file and available for public inspec-
13 tion in appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

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