

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1214

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1214

To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2015

Mr. AMODEI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Forest Small
3 Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE**
5 **OF SMALL PARCELS OF NATIONAL FOREST**
6 **SYSTEM LAND.**

7 (a) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM VALUE OF SMALL PAR-
8 CELS.—Section 3 of Public Law 97–465 (commonly
9 known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521e) is
10 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
11 ing “\$150,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

12 (b) ADDITIONAL CONVEYANCE PURPOSES.—Section
13 3 of Public Law 97–465 (16 U.S.C. 521e) is further
14 amended—

15 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
16 striking “which are—” and inserting “which involve
17 any one of the following:”;

18 (2) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) by striking “parcels” and inserting
20 “Parcels”; and

21 (B) by striking the semicolon at the end
22 and inserting a period;

23 (3) in paragraph (2)—

24 (A) by striking “parcels” the first place it
25 appears and inserting “Parcels”; and

1 (B) by striking “; or” at the end and in-
2 serting a period;

3 (4) in paragraph (3), by striking “road” and in-
4 serting “Road”; and

5 (5) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraphs:

7 “(4) Parcels of 40 acres or less which are deter-
8 mined by the Secretary to be physically isolated, to
9 be inaccessible, or to have lost their National Forest
10 character.

11 “(5) Parcels of 10 acres or less which are not
12 eligible for conveyance under paragraph (2), but
13 which are encroached upon by permanent habitable
14 improvements for which there is no evidence that the
15 encroachment was intentional or negligent.

16 “(6) Parcels used as a cemetery, a landfill, or
17 a sewage treatment plant under a special use au-
18 thorization issued by the Secretary. In the case of a
19 cemetery expected to reach capacity within 10 years,
20 the sale, exchange, or interchange may include, in
21 the sole discretion of the Secretary, up to one addi-
22 tional acre abutting the permit area to facilitate ex-
23 pansion of the cemetery.”.

24 (c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Section 2 of Public
25 Law 97–465 (16 U.S.C. 521d) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “The Secretary is authorized”
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY; CONSIDERATION.—
4 The Secretary is authorized”;

5 (2) by striking “The Secretary shall insert” and
6 inserting the following:

7 “(b) INCLUSION OF TERMS, COVENANTS, CONDI-
8 TIONS, AND RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary shall insert”;

9 (3) by striking “covenants” and inserting
10 “covenants”; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

14 “(1) DEPOSIT IN SISK FUND.—The net pro-
15 ceeds derived from any sale or exchange conducted
16 under the authority of paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of
17 section 3 shall be deposited in the fund established
18 by Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the
19 Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

20 “(2) USE.—Amounts deposited under para-
21 graph (1) shall be available to the Secretary until
22 expended, without further appropriation, for—

23 “(A) the acquisition of land or interests in
24 land for administrative sites for the National

1 Forest System in the State from which the
2 amounts were derived;

3 “(B) the acquisition of land or interests in
4 land for inclusion in the National Forest Sys-
5 tem in that State, including land or interests in
6 land which enhance opportunities for rec-
7 reational access;

8 “(C) the performance of deferred mainte-
9 nance on administrative sites for the National
10 Forest System in that State or other deferred
11 maintenance activities in that State which en-
12 hance opportunities for recreational access; or

13 “(D) the reimbursement of the Secretary
14 for costs incurred in preparing a sale conducted
15 under the authority of section 3 if the sale is
16 a competitive sale.”.