

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1657, With an Amendment**

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

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 1657

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

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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

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## 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 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

4           (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-  
5 titled “Heig Land Exchange” and dated December  
6 14, 2023.

7           (3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
8 means the approximately 17.5 acres of Federal land  
9 in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as  
10 the “Federal Parcel” on the Map.

11           (4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-  
12 eral land” means the approximately 36.7 acres of  
13 non-Federal land in Itasca County, Minnesota, gen-  
14 erally depicted as the “Non-Federal Parcel” on the  
15 Map.

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

19 **SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND.**

20           (a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provi-  
21 sions of this Act, if BWLT offers to convey the non-Fed-  
22 eral land to the United States, the Secretary shall, not  
23 later than 1 year after the date on which such offer is  
24 made—

25           (1) accept the offer;

1           (2) convey to BWLT all right, title, and inter-  
2           est of the United States in and to the Federal land,  
3           excepting and reserving an easement for road access  
4           to National Forest System land west of the Federal  
5           Parcel; and

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

8           (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The exchange under sub-  
9           section (a) shall be—

10           (1) conditioned on title approval for the non-  
11           Federal land by the Secretary in accordance with  
12           subsection (e);

13           (2) conditioned on a cash equalization payment  
14           made by BWLT to the United States in accordance  
15           with subsection (c) if, under the appraisals con-  
16           ducted in accordance with this Act, it is determined  
17           that the value of the Federal land exceeds the value  
18           of the non-Federal land;

19           (3) conditioned on the satisfactory completion  
20           of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment by  
21           BWLT, provided to the Secretary, in advance of the  
22           acceptance of the non-Federal parcel;

23           (4) subject to valid existing rights; and

24           (5) subject to any other terms and conditions  
25           the Secretary determines appropriate.

1 (c) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

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

6 (2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding any other  
7 provision of law, if the appraised value of the non-  
8 Federal land to be conveyed to the United States ex-  
9 ceeds the appraised value of the Federal land, a cash  
10 equalization payment by the United States to  
11 BWLT is hereby waived and the amount of such  
12 waived payment shall be considered a donation by  
13 BWLT to the United States for all purposes of law.

14 (d) APPRAISALS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land to be  
16 exchanged under this Act shall be determined by ap-  
17 praisals conducted by an independent and qualified  
18 appraiser mutually agreed to by the Secretary and  
19 BWLT.

20 (2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The Secretary  
21 shall complete appraisals of the land to be ex-  
22 changed under this Act in accordance with—

23 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for  
24 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

1 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional  
2 Appraisal Practice.

3 (e) FORMAT.—Title to the non-Federal land to be  
4 conveyed to the United States under this Act shall be  
5 found sufficient by the Secretary pursuant to section 3111  
6 of title 40, United States Code.

7 (f) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The non-  
8 Federal land acquired by the United States under sub-  
9 section (a) shall be—

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

12 (2) managed in accordance with the laws, rules,  
13 and regulations pertaining to National Forest Sys-  
14 tem lands.

15 (g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after  
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
18 shall finalize the Map and legal descriptions of all  
19 land to be conveyed under this Act.

20 (2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of  
21 a discrepancy between the Map and a legal descrip-  
22 tion, the Map shall control.

23 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and BWLT,  
24 by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors  
25 in the Map or in the legal descriptions, including

1 with respect to the boundaries of the Federal land  
2 and the non-Federal land.

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

6 (h) CLOSING COSTS.—As a condition for the ex-  
7 change under subsection (a), BWLT shall pay all closing  
8 costs associated with the exchange, including for—

9 (1) title insurance and title search;

10 (2) any applicable inspection fees, escrow fees,  
11 attorneys fees, and recording fees; and

12 (3) any environmental analysis or resource sur-  
13 vey required under Federal law, regulation, or pol-  
14 icy, including a Phase I Environmental Site Assess-  
15 ment of the non-Federal land.

16 (i) SURVEY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The exact acreages and legal  
18 descriptions of the Federal and non-Federal land to  
19 be exchanged under subsection (a) shall be deter-  
20 mined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary.

21 (2) COSTS OF SURVEY.—BWLT shall bear all  
22 costs associated with the surveys under paragraph  
23 (1).