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A Redwood National Park Is Urgently Needed

SPEECH

OF

HON. JEFFERY COHELAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1965

Mr. COHELAN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to complete one of the items of longest standing on America's roster of unfinished conservation business. This is the establishment of a Redwood National Park on the northern coast of California.

The Secretary of the Interior first called for preservation of a representative forest of these trees—the tallest growing things in the world—in 1879. And legislation has been before Congress to accomplish this goal intermittently since 1911.

But these efforts have been uniformly frustrated. Almost two million acres along California's coast were once forested with magnificent stands of *Sequoia sempervirens*. Today, probably only 200,000 acres are still in virgin growth, and most of this is in small isolated blocks.

The depletion of this great esthetic resource has occurred mostly because the acreage of redwood land was allowed to pass into private ownership before its value to the Nation was fully recognized. Today only 485 acres of redwood forest land in the Muir Woods National Monument just north of San Francisco is administered by the National Park Service. Some 50,000 acres of virgin stands are protected in California's State parks, but this acreage, unfortunately, is badly scattered. Nowhere is a major block of virgin forest preserved where the entire growing range of the species from sea level to 2,000 feet can be represented.

IDEAL AREA FOR PARK LOCATED

The National Park Service located such an area in 1963. Working with the Na-

tional Geographic Society, it found the largest remaining concentration of virgin redwood growth to be in northern Humboldt County along what is appropriately known as Redwood Creek. Here just south of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park it confronted an unbroken panorama of the last large valley of virgin redwoods, and in this valley it discovered the world's tallest trees. On a flat 10 miles upstream from the village of Orick, it found a tree that reached skyward more than 367 feet.

In September of 1964 the National Park Service issued a report in which it framed a number of alternate proposals to designate this superlative area as a Redwood National Park. Though local timber owners have opposed these proposals to purchase their lands, opinion throughout California and the Nation has been overwhelming in its approval of preserving this last remaining area of virgin redwoods as a national park.

THE NEED IS URGENT

While some may believe, Mr. Speaker, that further study is needed to define and detail a proposal for a national park there, I would remind them and the Members of the House that we are dealing in this case with a quickly vanishing resource. The redwoods are not a static commodity which will wait for leisurely consideration by Congress. The lumber companies that own the land are logging it while we are talking about it—and at an ever-quickenening rate. Over 1,000 acres of the forest, which the National Park Service proposed only last year to be within the park, have been logged in the last 12 months alone. In the past year, the output of redwood lumber in Humboldt County has jumped 34 percent. The lumber companies apparently feel that one of the ways they can defeat this proposal for a Redwood National Park is to scar the area so badly that it would no longer be desirable.

Some experts feel this can be accomplished in 2 to 5 years.

Now that the issue has been raised, it is clear that we are in a race with the loggers for a Redwood National Park, and clearly this will be the last race we shall ever be able to run. For when this last block of virgin forest is logged, there are no others. It is imperative that we wait no longer—that we move now.

THE BILL EXPLAINED

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, the bill I have introduced today would establish a Redwood National Park of 90,000 acres in the area recommended by the National Park Service. This proposal embraces all of the land recommended by the Park Service in their first proposal, plus the drainages of Bridge Creek, Devils Creek, and Skunk Cabbage Creek, as the Sierra Club, one of the outstanding conservation organizations in our country, has recommended. Almost half of the acreage in the proposed park is forested with virgin redwoods. The balance is cutover land in varying stages of second growth that is needed to protect watersheds—and 12 are completely protected in my proposal—to provide development space, and to connect major areas of virgin forest.

Not only will the area I am proposing as a Redwood National Park include the world's tallest trees, it will also include the best surviving example of redwood forest of the slope type on the surrounding hills. And it will also include the largest hill mass completely forested, from top to bottom, with virgin redwood forest. Thus the entire growing range of the redwoods, from sea level to 2,000 feet, will be protected—providing the surest opportunity for perpetuation of the species in a spacious and complete habitat.

Mr. Speaker, the park also will afford splendid opportunities for diversified recreation. The entire coastline from the mouth of the Klamath River to the

mouth of Redwood Creek—18 miles—is included within the boundaries I have drawn. This is spectacular shoreline of high, plunging headlands; long, wide beaches; and tawny bluffs backing the beaches. Roosevelt Elk, too, roam these beaches, as well as the prairies inland. There are also 22 miles of river frontage along Redwood Creek, which is suitable for spring float trips. The valley of Redwood Creek provides a sunny sheltered area back from the beach for camping during foggy seasons.

FINANCING

Under my bill, financing for the park would come from two sources. One would be composed exclusively of Federal money derived from the land and water conservation fund and from appropriations from the Treasury. Another would be composed of money from private sources that the Federal Government would match on a 50-50 basis. It is expected that private foundations would contribute substantially to this second fund.

Other provisions in my bill provide protection to owners of land used for residential and resort purposes within the proposed park. If their use of the land conforms to zoning standards for the park, their land would not be subject to condemnation. A five-man board to advise the Secretary of the Interior on administration of the park would also be established, and it would include local residents.

AID TO LOCAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that a Redwood National Park would aid the local economy, not impair it as some critics of the park proposal fear. An economic study done for the National Park Service showed that the economy would be stimulated by a new tourist industry within a very few years and that this stimulus would more than offset any losses from curtailed logging. Continued logging, furthermore, can only erode the tax base by removing the high-value, old-growth timber from the rolls, leaving only the low-value bare land to be taxed for the next 40 years or more. A Redwood National Park would provide a new source of revenue to diversify a declining lumber economy, and it would preserve a vanishing resource for the world to use and enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to take this measure under consideration at the earliest possible opportunity. The trees are going too fast for us to move slowly. The sooner hearings can be held and ac-

tion scheduled, the better is our chance of rescuing this endangered resource from its last peril. We are presented with a golden opportunity, but it will not be available to us for long.

Under unanimous consent, I include the bill to establish a Redwood National Park, which several of our colleagues are joining me in introducing, at this point in the RECORD:

H.R. 11723

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

SECTION 1. (a) In order to preserve a significant example of coastal redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) forest in association with streams and seashore for purposes of public inspiration, recreation, and scientific study, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as "the Secretary") is authorized to establish an area to be known as the Redwood National Park within that portion of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, California, which is particularly described in subsection (b).

(b) The area referred to in subsection (a) (hereinafter referred to as "the park") is the area enclosed within the following boundary:

Beginning at the point approximately three-quarters of a mile south of the mouth of the Klamath River which is the Williams Triangulation Point (51; sec. 8, T. 13 N., R. 1 E., unsurveyed);

Thence east one-quarter mile;

Thence due south to the summit of Flint Ridge;

Thence south and southeasterly along the hydrologic divide between Richardson Creek and the ocean to a point one-eighth of a mile north of the portion of Highway 101 which runs northeasterly to the town of Klamath;

Thence northeasterly paralleling said highway at a distance set back from the highway of one-eighth of a mile to a point one-eighth of a mile from the Klamath River;

Thence southeasterly across said highway at right angles to a point one-eighth of a mile on the opposite side of the road;

Thence southwesterly paralleling said highway at a distance set back from the highway of one-eighth of a mile to a point where the highway turns southerly;

Thence southerly paralleling said highway to the east at a distance set back from the highway of one-quarter of a mile to the northern boundary of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park;

Thence along the eastern boundary of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park to the southwestern corner of section 33, T. 13 N., R. 1 E. (unsurveyed);

Thence south one-eighth of a mile;

Thence east one-quarter of a mile;

Thence south one-eighth of a mile;

Thence east one-half mile;

Thence south one-quarter of a mile to the boundary of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park;

Thence southerly along the boundary of said park to a point opposite the head of the East Fork of Brown Creek;

Thence southeasterly paralleling on the east the road, which runs along the divide between Prairie Creek and the Klamath River, but set back from the centerline a distance of 100 yards as measured on the ground surface, to a point where the road leaves the crest of the divide near the head of Surpur Creek;

Thence southeasterly paralleling the divide between Surpur Creek and Lost Man Creek, at a distance 100 yards east of the divide as measured on the ground surface, to a point of juncture with Holter Ridge (which divides Tectah Creek and Lost Man Creek);

Thence southwesterly paralleling the crest of Holter Ridge, at a distance 100 yards east of the ridge as measured on the ground surface, to a point of juncture with the Bald Hills Road;

Thence paralleling the Bald Hills Road, at a distance 100 yards east of the centerline of the road, to the spur road leading to Coyote Peak and beyond (sec. 29, T. 9 N., R. 3 E., unsurveyed);

Thence southerly and later westerly paralleling that road, but set back a distance of 100 yards to the east as measured on the ground surface, out Arbor Camp Ridge to Hooker Triangulation Point (3139);

Thence southwesterly to the north (or east) bank of Redwood Creek;

Thence one mile downstream along the mean high-water line of that bank of Redwood Creek;

Thence one and a quarter miles due west;

Thence southwesterly paralleling the hydrological divide between Devils Creek and Panther Creek, at a distance 100 yards south-east of the divide as measured on the ground surface, to the road along the divide between Redwood Creek and Maple Creek;

Thence northwesterly paralleling the road, which runs near the divide between Redwood Creek and Maple Creek, but along a line 100 yards southwest of the centerline of the road, as measured on the ground surface, to a point at the head of Pitcher Creek;

Thence due north to the summit of Peak 2745 (south of Rodgers Peak);

Thence generally northerly, 100 yards west and southwest as measured on the ground surface of the hydrological divide between the drainages flowing into Redwood Creek and those flowing directly into the ocean, to Stone Triangulation Point (1070; southwest corner of sec. 8, T. 10 N., R. 1 E., unsurveyed);

Thence generally in a northerly direction paralleling the road, running north to Highway 101 from Stone, but 100 yards generally to the west, as measured on the ground surface, for approximately one mile to a point one-half mile south of Highway 101;

Thence east one mile;

Thence northeast one mile;

Thence due north for approximately one mile to a point of junction with Highway 101 where the Bald Hills Road begins;

Thence two and one-quarter miles due west to a point immediately north of Hufford Triangulation Point (415);

Thence south to the summit of Hufford Triangulation Point;

Thence southwesterly to the summit of Orick Triangulation Point;

Thence south to the north bank of Redwood Creek;

Thence southerly and westerly along the mean high-water line of said creek to its mouth;

Thence northerly along the mean low-tide line of the ocean to a point due west of the point of beginning;

Thence due east to the point of beginning.

Sec. 2. (a) As rapidly as funds become available for the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift, condemnation, transfer from any Federal agency, exchange, or otherwise, the land, waters, and other property, and improvements thereon and any interests therein, within the area described in subsection (b) of section 1 of this Act: *Provided*, That no property which has been improved and in use for residential purposes or for commercial resort purposes, for at least two years prior to the enactment of this Act, shall be subject to condemnation if the property continues to be so used and conforms to zoning bylaws established by the county in which the property is situated. Zoning bylaws must conform to standards set by the Secretary for this proviso to apply. Such standards shall be designed: (1) to permit only such minor property improvements as are compatible with the purposes of the park; (2) to promote the purposes of the park by establishing acreage limits, frontage and setback requirements, and procedures for public notice of zoning, variance, and exceptions.

(b) No private property within the area described in subsection (b) of section 1 of this Act which is used for residential or

resort purposes shall be acquired by condemnation for one year following the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal property located within the area described in subsection (b) of section 1 may, with the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for use by him in carrying out the provisions of sections of this Act.

(d) In exercising his authority to acquire property in accordance with the provisions of this section, the Secretary may enter into contracts requiring the expenditure, when appropriated, of funds authorized by the sections of this Act, but the liability of the United States under any such contract shall be contingent on the appropriation of funds sufficient to fulfill the obligations thereby incurred.

(e) When the Secretary determines that lands and water or interests therein have been acquired by the United States in sufficient quantity to provide an administrative unit, he shall declare the establishment of the Redwood National Park by publication of notice in the Federal Register.

(f) The Secretary is also authorized to define and acquire, by purchase, donation, or otherwise, easements on lands within any watersheds tributary to the park for the purpose of regulating land-treatment practices thereon to improve the supply, quality, and reliability of water in the park and to protect the park from flooding, channel erosion, and gravel movement.

(g) Furthermore, the Secretary is authorized to define and acquire, by purchase, donation, or otherwise, scenic easements near or adjacent to the park boundaries and along Highway 101 north from Patricks Point State Park to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

Sec. 3. The administration, protection, and development of the Redwood National Park shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National

Park Service, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 and the following), entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," as amended and supplemented, and in accordance with laws of general application relating to the National Park System as defined by the Act of August 8, 1953 (67 Stat. 496; 16 U.S.C. 1c): *Provided*, That no tolls nor entry fees shall be levied by the National Park Service for public use of and access to Highway 101 and other through roadways within the area described in subsection (b) of section 1 of this Act, and nothing herein shall affect the concurrent police jurisdiction of the State of California over such roadways.

Sec. 4. A general advisory board to be known as the "Redwood National Park Advisory Board" is established to advise the Secretary of the Interior on any matters relating to the management of the park, including standards for regulations relating to zoning. The Advisory Board shall be composed of five residents of the State of California, two of whom shall be residents of the counties in which the park is situated. The Governor of the State of California shall appoint these two members of the Board, and the Secretary shall appoint the remainder. The Board shall meet not less than twice yearly upon the call of the member designated as Chairman by the Secretary, or additionally upon request of the Secretary.

Sec. 5. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, except that no more than \$100 million shall be appropriated to pay for the acquisition of land, waters, and improvements thereon and interests therein, and incidental costs relating thereto, by the United States acting alone: *Provided*, That additional sums not to exceed \$50 million are authorized to be appropriated as matching funds for the acquisition of land, and interests therein, to the extent of the value of sums or property which non-Federal sources donate to carry out the purposes of this Act.