

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4952

To provide for the conveyance of the land containing the Mount Wilson Observatory in the Angeles National Forest, California, to the Mount Wilson Institute, the nonprofit organization operating the observatory.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2002

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. HANSEN, and Mr. CANNON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for the conveyance of the land containing the Mount Wilson Observatory in the Angeles National Forest, California, to the Mount Wilson Institute, the nonprofit organization operating the observatory.

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 “Mount Wilson Observ-
5 atory Preservation and Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, MOUNT WILSON OBSERV-**
2 **ATORY, ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST, CALI-**
3 **FORNIA.**

4 (a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Ag-
5 riculture shall convey, without consideration, to the Mount
6 Wilson Institute all right, title, and interest of the United
7 States in and to a parcel of real property, including any
8 improvements thereon that are administered by the Forest
9 Service, consisting of approximately 110 acres in the An-
10 geles National Forest in the State of California and con-
11 taining the Mount Wilson Observatory and related road-
12 ways, parking lots, and public facilities that are adminis-
13 tered by the Forest Service, as depicted on the map enti-
14 tled “Mount Wilson Observatory Conveyance” and dated
15 June 17, 2002.

16 (b) PURPOSE OF CONVEYANCE.—The Mount Wilson
17 Institute operates the Mount Wilson Observatory, and the
18 land on which the observatory is situated is leased from
19 the Forest Service. The purpose of the conveyance under
20 subsection (a) is to recognize the unique qualifications of
21 the Mount Wilson Institute as the best possible steward
22 to operate, maintain, preserve, and enhance the observ-
23 atory for scientific, educational, historical, and other pub-
24 lic purposes.

25 (c) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—The conveyance
26 under subsection (a) shall be subject to the terms of the

1 existing lease between the Forest Service and the Carnegie
2 Institution of Washington regarding the land to be con-
3 veyed, and the Mount Wilson Institute shall assume the
4 obligations of the Forest Service under the lease.

5 (d) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines at any
6 time that the land conveyed under subsection (a) is not
7 being used for scientific, educational, historical, or other
8 public purposes, all right, title, and interest in and to that
9 land (including any improvements thereon that were con-
10 veyed by the United States under subsection (a)) shall re-
11 vert to the United States, and the United States shall have
12 the right of immediate entry thereon. If such a reversion
13 occurs before the termination of the lease referred to in
14 subsection (c), the lease shall continue between the Forest
15 Service and the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

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