

to the most accurate data to make the best decisions possible for their families and their business in the face of these conditions and provide more transparency in the markets.

For months, I have been calling for increased transparency in our cattle markets to help both producers and consumers. I was proud to introduce the bipartisan Meat Packing Special Investigator Act to take on anti-competitive practices and give producers a fair shake and strictly enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act.

I was also proud to help introduce the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, which aims to return fairness to the cattle marketplace dominated by four major meatpackers.

It is crucial for Iowa's producers that there is fairness and transparency in our cattle industry. I thank Congressmen JOHNSON and CUELLAR for their incredible work on this issue. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation, H.R. 5609.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can say it any better than the Members of Congress here who have so much firsthand experience with working ranches and farms. This is a beautiful bipartisan solution.

If you believe in the marketplace, then you understand the importance of price discovery, and you cannot have price discovery if you don't have transparency. This just provides additional leverage and additional tools to the hardworking, independent cow-calf operators and small feeders who have seen their position, their leverage, in the marketplace erode in recent years.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enthusiastically support this promarket legislation. I look forward to the Senate expeditiously taking up this issue as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

First of all, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for his dedication, hard work, and talent in putting forward this bill.

I believe that our ranchers, farmers, and those in the agriculture industry are looking at a great day for agriculture today to get these four important bills over to the Senate, where we will be working together on them.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Mr. JOHNSON, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5609.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

NATIONAL FOREST RESTORATION AND REMEDIATION ACT

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4489) to amend the Act of June 20, 1958, to require that certain amounts collected by the United States with respect to lands under the administration of the Forest Service be invested into interest bearing obligations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4489

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act".

SEC. 2. INVESTMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDS INTO INTEREST BEARING OBLIGATIONS.

Section 7 of the Act of June 20, 1958 (16 U.S.C. 579c), is amended—

(1) by striking "of any improvement, protection, or rehabilitation" and inserting "of any assessment, improvement, protection, restoration, or rehabilitation"; and

(2) by striking "Provided, That" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting: "Provided, That any monies covered into the Treasury under this section, including all monies that were previously collected by the United States in a forfeiture, judgment, compromise, or settlement, shall be invested by the Secretary of the Treasury in interest bearing obligations of the United States to the extent the amounts are not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals: *Provided further*, That any interest earned on the amounts, including any interest earned by investment, is hereby appropriated and made available until expended to cover the costs to the United States specified in this section: *Provided further*, That, for fiscal year 2021 and thereafter, the Secretary shall include in the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's annual budget request (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) for each fiscal year the proposed use of such amounts with respect to the Forest Service: *Provided further*, That any portion of the monies received or earned under this section in excess of the amount expended in performing the work necessitated by the action which led to their receipt may be used to cover the other work specified in this section."

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 4489.

This bill is an excellent example, again, of the strong bipartisan work that can be accomplished through the Agriculture Committee. First, I want to applaud and thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for working together to get this legislation to the floor for consideration today by the full House.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are significant needs for investment in restoration and recovery work on our great national forests. Our bill this morning allows the Forest Service to keep interest on settlement funds and apply these additional resources to restoration work on Forest Service land that has been damaged by mining activities and wildfires. All of us know of the devastation that these wildfires have caused to our forests.

This is one of several major responses that we here in Congress are responding to, to keep our forestry strong and to provide this much-needed financial help to keep interest on settlement funds and apply those additional resources to the restoration work and the Forest Service lands that were damaged by these terrible fires.

It will also allow for more restoration work to be done in some of the areas where it is most needed, particularly the West Coast in California. It will allow this restoration work, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), the lead Republican on H.R. 4489.

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Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. SCOTT, and I have appreciated working with Ms. SCHRIER from Washington and helping her lead this bill and letting me help do so. I am glad to be able to support this bill here today.

Of course, this bill is just common sense. It will allow the Forest Service to use the interests they gather on settlement accounts to continue the important restoration work we have in our forests, especially after so many horrific fires.

Currently, the U.S. Forest Service must transfer the interest they collect to the General Treasury accounts. Now, this feels a little bit like if my kids are out gathering aluminum cans and plastic bottles and I keep the money when we take it down to be recycled.

The Federal Government should be allowing the money generated by these settlement accounts to build up and go for the much-needed work instead of skimming that money off the top.

Now, other agencies like the Department of the Interior are allowed to retain the interest that accrues on their accounts and allows them to spend that additional money on needed restoration in their projects.

The 2021 fire season, as we know—which is getting to be every year—was devastating for the West and left millions of acres that will need to be restored, including one in my district known as the Dixie fire, which was right at a million acres. A million acres, one fire.

Without this legislation amending the Forest Service's ability to retain this interest, the value of the settlement accounts diminishes over time.

There already isn't enough money to replant and restore to get our forests growing again after devastating fires, so why are we skimming this interest off the top and thinking we are doing something by putting it back in the Treasury? Why wouldn't we want the focus to be on restoring and replanting our forests after so many devastating fires year after year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. SCHRIER for stepping forward and sponsoring this bill, and I look forward to hearing her comments on this. Somehow, I got ahead of her in order here. I also look forward to working with Ms. SCHRIER.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank Mr. LAMALFA for his kind words and for cosponsoring this bill with me.

My bill, the National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act will help the Forest Service fund the cleanup of damaged public lands.

This bipartisan legislation, which passed unanimously out of the Committee on Agriculture would allow the Forest Service to collect and keep interest earned on settlement funds, much like other Federal agencies do, in order to supplement their already strained restoration efforts.

The Forest Service is responsible for overseeing the remediation and restoration of lands damaged by mining activities and human-caused wildfires.

And when the negligent actions of companies or individuals result in damages to Forest Service property, officials enter a settlement agreement with the responsible parties to hold them accountable. The Forest Service then uses the settlement funds to restore the affected lands.

At the moment, the Forest Service does not have the authority to retain interest on those settlement funds like other Federal agencies, like the Department of the Interior and the EPA do. The National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act would simply allow the Forest Service to retain interest on settlement funds and apply those additional resources to restoration work that is abundantly needed. Without this additional funding, the value of settlement funds diminishes over time, and the Forest Service can face long-term budget shortfalls for environmental cleanup. If this bill had been in effect between fiscal years 2015 and 2019, the Forest Service would have received more than \$7.5 million to supplement their environmental restoration work.

So as we confront another potentially devastating wildfire season, it is so important to ensure that the Forest Service can use accrued interest to protect and remediate our forests.

The Forest Service provides many important environmental services in Washington State, including mitigating wildfires and improving forest health. This is especially critical in places like Chelan County in my district where 82 percent of the land is owned by the Forest Service.

According to the National Inter-agency Fire Center, there were over 50,000 human-caused wildfires last year burning nearly six million acres nationwide. And over half of the wildfires on Forest Service lands are started by humans.

My bill will ensure that when we hold bad actors accountable for negligent behavior, the Forest Service can fully use the fines and the interest to rehabilitate the land.

I was so proud to introduce this bill with my colleagues Representatives LAMALFA, ROSENDALE, and NEGUSE. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to protect our Federal public lands.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE), another leader in this effort.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota for yielding to me. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who helped bring this bill to the floor today.

I am proud to rise in support of this bipartisan bill with Congresswoman SCHRIER, H.R. 4489, the National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act, which would allow the Forest Service to use accumulated interest on settlement agreements to restore our national forestlands.

Montana is blessed with an abundance of public lands with well over 20 million acres available to all for recreation, hunting, fishing, camping, and more. It is part of who we are as Montanans and an important aspect of our Montana way of life.

These public lands are a patchwork of land managed by the State as well as the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. If these Federal lands are damaged, an agency will reach a settlement agreement with the responsible party to support restoration and cleanup efforts.

And while the Department of the Interior, which houses the National Park Service, and the BLM has the authority to retain interest from these settlement funds, the Forest Service does not.

This commonsense bill would rectify that by allowing the Forest Service to use the interests on settlement funds to restore damaged public lands, which improves forest health and supports conservation. It merely will mirror the policy that is already utilized by these other agencies.

When the Forest Service enters into a settlement agreement, the funds are deposited into the Treasury account that is used to remediate the damaged land. However, these accounts do not allow the Forest Service to take advantage of the interest generated in them, leading to the value of funds available for forest restoration to diminish over time creating the potential for years-long delays and budget shortfalls from remediation efforts.

The National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act would ensure the Forest Service has adequate funding for restoration work by unlocking this additional funding without additional expenses to taxpayers.

I, again, urge my colleagues to support Congresswoman SCHRIER and my bill and I thank all those involved in this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I think it has been said very well. Mr. ROSENDALE just reminded us that this only mirrors the authority that other agencies have to be able to gather up the interest from those interest-bearing accounts.

Ms. SCHRIER did a good job of reminding us that had this been in place in recent years, it would have been \$7 million more that could have been invested in forest management and in forest health. And I just want to echo all of those findings.

This is absolutely a commonsense, bipartisan bill, and I am looking forward to its passage.

But I can't let the passage of this bill, which would be a big success, go by without calling attention to how much more needs to be done with regard to forest health.

I remain disappointed, as so many do, of the fact that this Congress, this administration has not prioritized highly enough forest management.

Mr. Speaker, here is what I know from the Black Hills of South Dakota: A managed forest is a healthy forest. And I want to say that one more time because there will be no truer statement spoken on the House floor on this day: A managed forest is a healthy forest.

Today, millions of acres in this country are at risk of severe wildfire with potentially catastrophic impacts to our communities. Six of the worst fire seasons on record have occurred just over a period in the last few years.

Our agencies, Federal partners, communities, and our States need more tools to proactively manage and mitigate this threat. Again, a managed forest is a healthy forest.

And so, yes, by all means, let's celebrate this bill. It is an important technical fix that will improve in a narrow way the funding needs of the Forest Service. But let us keep in mind, to an even greater extent, in the days that follow that the resiliency of our forests remains a critically important national priority, and one that deserves greater attention from this body.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. I encourage the Members to vote "aye," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for the time he has put into this bill. The people of this country are very grateful, and we hope they realize how we here in Congress are really responding to the challenges facing our forestry, particularly with these wildfires.

A while back I recognized some of my staff, but we have had an addition that I would like to recognize because he really worked feverishly on this bill all the way up until this morning, I understand, and that is Mr. Paul Babbitt. I would ask Paul to stand. Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his work.

So much has already been said about this, but I am so proud of the efforts of our full House committee because once we really began to get into the ravages of these wildfires out West about a year back, we made a commitment that we were going to make sure that we did everything we can to save and prosper our great forestry industry, and we have done it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this great bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4489, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5608) to support research and state management efforts on chronic wasting disease.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5608

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Chronic wasting disease, the fatal neurological disease found in cervids, is a fundamental threat to the health and vibrancy of deer, elk, and moose populations, and the increased occurrence of chronic wasting disease in regionally diverse locations necessitates an escalation in research, surveillance, monitoring, and management activities focused on containing and managing chronic wasting disease.

(2) A focus on research into the transmission of, resistance to, diagnosis of, and epidemiology of chronic wasting disease is needed to inform future policies to combat the disease and ensure the health of cervid populations.

(3) Because States and Tribes have diverse policies for addressing chronic wasting disease, the Federal Government, in consultation with the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force established by section 104 of America's Conservation Enhancement Act (Public Law 116-188), should coordinate financial and technical support to States and Tribes, State and Tribal departments of agriculture, State and Tribal wildlife agencies, institutions of higher education, and research centers conducting scientific research on chronic wasting disease.

(4) Pursuant to State and Federal law, the States retain primacy and policymaking authority with regard to wildlife management.

(5) Under current policies, chronic wasting disease remains a systemic threat to cervids.

(6) Scientific advances that lead to the ability to stop transmission of chronic wasting disease are needed to ensure the long-term viability of cervids.

SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program under which the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements or other legal instruments, as authorized under 10413 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8312), with eligible entities to conduct research on the transmission of, resistance to, and diagnosis of chronic wasting disease.

(2) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—In entering into cooperative agreements or other legal instruments pursuant to paragraph (1), the

Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that shall conduct research relating to—

(A)(i) methods and products to effectively detect infectious chronic wasting disease prions in live cervids, cervid excreta, the environment, and inorganic surfaces, and to decontaminate such infectious prions; or

(ii) testing methods that significantly improve sensitivity and accelerate timelines for test results on non-live cervids;

(B) the long-term suppression or eradication of chronic wasting disease; or

(C) determination markers for genetic resistance to chronic wasting disease and strategies for using genetic resistance to combat the spread of the disease;

(D) sustainable cervid harvest management practices to reduce chronic wasting disease occurrence and to prevent or limit spatial spread of chronic wasting disease; or

(E) factors contributing to local emergence of chronic wasting disease, increased prevalence of chronic wasting disease, and distribution of chronic wasting disease, including mechanisms of disease transmission and effective barriers to transmission.

(3) SIZE OF AWARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, individual cooperative agreements or other legal instruments entered into under paragraph (1) shall be not less than two percent and not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this section.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BY ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Of the amount of a cooperative agreement or other legal instrument entered into with an eligible entity under paragraph (1), the eligible entity may use not more than 10 percent of such amounts for administrative costs incurred by the eligible entity in carrying out the research described in such paragraph.

(b) SUPPORT FOR STATE EFFORTS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall offer to enter into cooperative agreements or other legal instruments, as authorized under section 10413 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8312), with State or Tribal wildlife agencies and departments of agriculture to provide direct financial assistance to support the efforts of such State or Tribal wildlife agencies and departments of agriculture to develop and implement management strategies to address chronic wasting disease within their respective jurisdiction.

(2) APPLICATION.—A State or Tribal wildlife agency or department of agriculture seeking direct financial assistance under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time and manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In allocating funds made available to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year among State and Tribal wildlife agencies or departments of agriculture that submit an application for direct financial assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to States and Indian tribes that have—

(A) within their respective jurisdictions, the highest incidence of chronic wasting disease;

(B) shown the greatest financial commitment to managing, monitoring, surveying, and researching chronic wasting disease;

(C) comprehensive policies and programs focused on chronic wasting disease management that have integrated the programs and policies of all involved agencies related to chronic wasting disease management;

(D) the greatest risk of an initial occurrence of chronic wasting disease originating from surrounding areas; or