

from the National Forest System and transfer it to the Bureau of Reclamation for the development of pumped storage hydropower and the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy.

Through the transfer of this land, the proposed pumped storage project to be developed will be entirely within the authorities and footprint of the Federal reclamation project—streamlining development and maximizing Federal reclamation project benefits. Without it, the project would need to be permitted by both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, I support and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1607, introduced by my colleague from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and co-led by Representative GREG STANTON, also from Arizona.

This bill would reserve certain lands in Arizona to the United States for use as part of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project. The Salt River Project was first authorized in 1903 and provides water and power to over 2 million people in central Arizona today.

Under this legislation, the reserved lands will be used for development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy to assist the Salt River Project in expanding pumped storage hydropower facilities to meet increasing energy demands.

I thank my colleagues from Arizona, Representatives SCHWEIKERT and STANTON for introducing and promoting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is fun to have one of these where we all sort of agree on it.

Let me put in a little character—you heard some of the basic mechanisms. The Salt River Project is a waterpower quasi-municipality. It is very unique. It actually predates statehood for us. Think about that. It actually was put together before we actually became a State.

What is unique in Arizona is—many of you have heard the discussion of the thing called the duck curve. In the late afternoon you get lots of photovoltaic power and then the sun goes down, and you don't get lots of photovoltaic power, but we still run our air conditioners.

We need some ginormous batteries for those of us that live in the desert Southwest, hence, comes the concept of pumped storage. Where this is at is actually where I live. I live probably 25 minutes away from this. It is the lake I grew up on.

To try to get this visually, picture a series of lakes that are our water reservoirs for the Phoenix area, and then these cliffs that are just tremendously high—it is a very impressive area—and the concept of using gravity as a battery.

I appreciate everyone from our delegation who has been very, very helpful on this, but this is one of those occasions where it makes sense. It is environmentally sound. It actually allows us to take care of something that is somewhat unique for us in the Southwest; and that is the solar power we produce.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, I do hope all of our brothers and sisters here, later on, vote “yes” in suspension.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today does streamline the permitting process for a project that is intended to keep energy costs low, help stabilize the electric grid during peak demand, and boost affordable and reliable energy.

As Mr. SCHWEIKERT explained, this is one of the oldest forms of batteries that we have to pump water uphill when we have excess energy and then to use it to generate energy on the off-hours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1607, 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. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1722) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1722

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 “Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023”.

SEC. 2. GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 1(d) of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the “Grand Ronde Reserva-

tion Act”; 102 Stat. 1594; 108 Stat. 4566) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “lands within the State of Oregon” and inserting “the 84 acres known as the Thompson Strip”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) GAMING PROHIBITION.—Any real property obtained by the Tribes as part of a land claim settlement approved by the United States, including any real property purchased with funds granted as part of any land claim settlement, shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).”

SEC. 3. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty right of an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1722, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023, would amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to reflect that the Grand Ronde Tribe's extinguishment of land claims against the United States only applies to an 84-acre parcel of land known as the Thompson Strip.

Alongside many Tribes in western Oregon, the Grand Ronde Tribe entered into treaties with the United States in the 1850s. President James Buchanan established the Grand Ronde Reservation in 1857, which consisted of more than 60,000 acres. This solidified the Federal Government's treatment of the Grand Ronde as a single Tribe for Federal services and benefits.

However, in 1954, the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act was signed into law which severed the trust relationship between the Federal Government and the Tribe.

In 1983, the Tribe was successful in obtaining a restoration of Federal recognition through enactment of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act. This legislation also reestablished a reservation for the Tribe in Yamhill County, Oregon.

On October 31, 1988, the Bureau of Land Management discovered several

surveying errors on a parcel of land known as the Thompson Strip, which was located along the southeast boundary of the Tribe's reservation.

The BLM worked toward a resolution with the Tribe, which concluded in 1994 when Congress authorized a land transfer between the BLM and the Tribe. While that legislation corrected the survey error, the Tribe later determined that the phrase "extinguishment of claims" in the bill would include all, and potential future, land claims within the entire State of Oregon for the Tribe.

The Grand Ronde contends that this was done in error and that there was no intention to bar them from future land claims beyond the Thompson Strip.

H.R. 1722 would amend current law in order to specify that the Tribe is only barred from bringing land claims related to the 84-acre Thompson Strip parcel, not all lands within the State of Oregon.

Additionally, H.R. 1722 would add a gaming prohibition for any future land claims and prohibits the use of any money received as part of a land claim settlement from being used to purchase land for gaming purposes under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SALINAS for her work on the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Amendment Act of 2023 offered by my colleague from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

This legislation will correct a decades-old error that restricted the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in raising land claims in the State of Oregon.

During the "termination era," a shameful time for our country, the Confederated Tribes, and other Tribes in Oregon, had their Federal recognition terminated by Congress in 1954. The Grand Ronde Tribe was later restored in 1983 with the passage of the Grand Ronde Restoration Act.

However, in 1988, the Bureau of Land Management discovered a land surveying mistake on the eastern boundary of the Tribe's original reservation. The survey excluded an 84-acre piece of land known as the Thompson Strip.

To compensate the Grand Ronde Tribe for the loss incurred by that error, the Bureau of Land Management subsequently arranged a land exchange with the Tribe to be approved by Congress.

Unfortunately, through that legislation in 1994, the Grand Ronde saw their rights further restricted with language that prohibited the Tribe from making any additional land claims if new errors were delivered.

Today's bill would end this unfair restriction on the Tribe so that they may pursue recourse if additional survey errors are ever found. No other Tribe in the State of Oregon faces this kind of legal restriction.

This legislation has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, having passed out of committee by voice vote in the Senate, and unanimously here in the House.

The passage of this legislation would be immensely consequential for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS), the sponsor of this bipartisan legislation.

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023.

My district is the proud home of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde community, who, like Oregon's other indigenous peoples, were the original stewards of our land and abundant natural resources, yet they have also faced tremendous injustices at the hands of the Federal Government.

The Grand Ronde Reservation was established in 1857. In 1871, during a survey of the reservation, an 84-acre piece of land known as the Thompson Strip was mistakenly excluded. It took over 100 years for this error to be delivered, and rectifying it does require an act of Congress.

At some point in the process of drafting legislation, language was erroneously inserted that took away Grand Ronde's right to bring any further land claims in the entire State of Oregon, not just around the Thompson Strip.

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The Grand Ronde community is to this day the only Tribe in Oregon that is subject to this prohibition.

H.R. 1722 will finally correct this decades-old error and restore Grand Ronde's ability to pursue land claims. This legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

I thank my colleagues here today from the Natural Resources Committee, as well as the support of the entire Oregon delegation.

Passage of H.R. 1722 would be enormously consequential for the Grand Ronde community. It would also represent a historic step forward for indigenous peoples' rights in America. I have always believed that while we are not responsible for the ills of the past, we are responsible for remedying them today.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment to the Grand Ronde Reservation Act aligns with that important pursuit. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, this legislation clarifies the land claims of the Grand Ronde Tribe so they can pursue and ensure certainty, and it does ensure certainty regarding gaming. I appreciate the gentlewoman for bringing this legislation and Ranking Member GRIJALVA's work to move this in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1722.

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. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3448) to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3448

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 "American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 308101 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§308101. Definitions

"In this chapter:

"(1) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

"(2) BATTLEFIELD REPORTS.—The term 'Battlefield Reports' means, collectively—

"(A) the document entitled 'Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993; and

"(B) the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.".

(b) *PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.*—Section 308102(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking "Federal" and all that follows through "organizations" and inserting "Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations".