

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".

(c) **BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.**—Section 308103 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **ELIGIBLE SITE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘eligible site’—

“(1) means a site that—

“(A) is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

“(B) is identified in the Battlefield Reports as a battlefield; and

“(2) excludes sites identified in the Battlefield Reports as associated historic sites.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “State and local governments” and inserting “States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “State or local government” and inserting “State, Tribe, or local government”; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “under this section” and inserting “under this section, including by States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.”;

(d) **BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.**—Section 308105 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a battlefield restoration grant program (referred to in this section as the ‘program’) under which the Secretary may provide grants to States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations for projects that restore day-of-battle conditions on—

“(1) land preserved and protected under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

“(2) battlefield land that is—

“(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

“(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.”;

and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) **ELIGIBLE SITES.**—The Secretary may make grants under this section for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites—

“(1) eligible for assistance under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

“(2) on battlefield land that is—

“(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

“(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.”;

(e) **UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS.**—Chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports

“Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Reports to reflect—

“(1) preservation activities carried out at the battlefields in the period since the publication of the most recent Battlefield Reports update;

“(2) changes in the condition, including core and study areas, of the battlefields during that period; and

“(3) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.”;

(f) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) By amending the item relating to section 308101 to read as follows:

“308101. Definitions.”;

(2) By adding at the end the following:

“308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports.”;

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ar-

kansas (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. 3448, as amended, 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, I rise in strong support of my colleague and friend from New York, Congresswoman STEFANIK's legislation, the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023.

Our Nation's battlefields are hallowed sites that showcase the trials and triumphs that shaped our great Nation. From the American Revolution to the Civil War, battlefield sites now serve as outdoor classrooms that ensure future generations can learn about the conflicts that forged our great Nation.

Battlefields remind us of our storied, complex history. They also provide a way to honor those who fought and whose lives were lost. As we approach Veterans Day this Friday, I think it is important and appropriate that we reflect on the best ways that we can protect our Nation's military history for future generations.

Unfortunately, despite the rich history of these locations, many of these hallowed grounds have been lost or destroyed throughout the past centuries. In fact, the American Battlefield Trust estimates that 1 acre of hallowed ground is lost every hour on average. To address the loss of sacred battlefield sites, Congress created the American Battlefield Protection Program in 1996.

The program provides grants to protect sites related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. Since its conception, the American Battlefield Protection Program has helped protect more than 100 battlefields in 42 States and protect battlefield lands at 110 battlefield sites in 19 States.

Unfortunately, not all battlefields are covered by this program. One of those battlefields is Jenkins' Ferry State Park, in my home district. Representative STEFANIK's legislation would expand this program so battlefields like Jenkins' Ferry can receive restoration and interpretation assistance.

Jenkins' Ferry is one of three battlefields in south central Arkansas that make up the Red River Campaign National Historic Landmark. In 1864 Confederate soldiers attacked the Union Army during the Battle of Jenkins'

Ferry. Union soldiers were able to retreat using a ferry site that still exists within the park today. Jenkins' Ferry State Park also features many interpretive sites and memorials to soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry.

This is an important economic driver for my community and also an important recreation area. I am thankful this legislation will help improve this State park for generations to come.

H.R. 3448 would also allow educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and Tribes to receive grants directly. The American Battlefield Protection Program is a shining example of public-private partnerships and expanding the eligible list of non-Federal partners is a commonsense solution for these organizations and local communities.

Lastly, the bill directs regular updates of battlefield reports conducted by the National Park Service and focuses resources on the highest priority battlefield locations. As technology changes and advances, these updates will be crucial in identifying new battlefield areas that served as pivotal points of conflict or need additional protections.

This bipartisan bill, which is cosponsored by 50 bipartisan Members, will enhance conservation, promote recreation, spur economic growth, and help protect our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank Representative STEFANIK for her leadership, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3448, the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, reauthorizes and updates the American Battlefield Protection Program to strengthen ongoing preservation efforts of historic battlefields.

Under this program, the National Park Service provides grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for preservation planning, land acquisition, restoration, and interpretation in order to preserve these unique resources associated with this Nation's military history.

The bill will protect and preserve our historic battlefields to ensure that we do not lose this connection to our history. I support the effort to ensure the continuation of this important and meaningful program.

I note this bill sets a new precedent for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by authorizing direct grants to nonprofit organizations.

While this is a break from past practice, I want to thank the majority for their willingness to work with us on language that guarantees permanent protection of any land purchased with money provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. Any reservations we have, as it goes forward in the Senate, we hope

those discussions will continue. If any efforts are made to make the legislation better and more inclusive of the goal of the legislation, we will support that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), who is the lead sponsor of this bill.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act. I take the time to thank our chairman, BRUCE WESTERMAN, and the ranking member for their support throughout this process both in committee but also in visiting with so many communities that understand the importance of preserving and protecting these most hallowed grounds.

I introduced this bipartisan legislation with my Congressional Battlefield Caucus co-chair, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, to preserve and improve the American Battlefield Protection Program, one of the most successful land preservation programs managed by the National Park Service. Since its inception, the American Battlefield Protection Program has helped protect more than 100 battlefields in 42 States, including Fort Ann in my district in upstate New York.

New York's 21st District is truly the cradle of the American Revolution, home to Fort Ticonderoga, Fort Ann, and the Bennington Battlefield. However, as people across upstate New York and the North Country will proudly tell you, Mr. Speaker, our deep military history extends beyond the American Revolution and incorporates many important battlefields from the French and Indian War through the War of 1812.

I, myself, grew up going to these historic sites, and I consider them part of the classroom of my childhood education. For years, I have been proud to lead the charge to preserve these historic battlefields in the Congress as the co-chair of the Congressional Battlefield Caucus. It is critical that we preserve and honor the places Americans gave their last full measure of devotion in order to ensure future generations of Americans learn the lessons of those sacrifices on these very hallowed grounds.

This bill also allows nonprofits and Tribes to apply to the program directly, instead of having to go through a government sponsor. Removing this burdensome hurdle cuts through bureaucracy allowing these entities to be more efficient and effective in preserving our endangered battlefields.

This legislation also clarifies the eligibility of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites for battlefield land acquisition grants to ensure the program is used to preserve battlefield land, while

also creating a process for the National Park Service to expand and update battlefield boundaries.

With emerging archeological technologies, historical boundaries of various battlefields have shifted as we learn more. Without the program improvements in my bill, portions of battlefields with newly discovered historic importance stand to be lost. We must not allow this to happen and, instead, strive to ensure these critical pieces of our history—our most hallowed history—are preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the bipartisan American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act to ensure these battlefields continue to be preserved for years and generations to come.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her excellent bipartisan work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day and in honor of the hallowed history that we have, I urge adoption of this bill which will protect the sites of sacrifice and struggle that allow us to be here today in this Chamber, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, a vital piece of legislation that I had the privilege of introducing with my fellow Congressional Battlefield Caucus co-chair Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK. This bill builds upon the success of the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which has played a crucial role in preserving our Nation's hallowed battlefields associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Since its inception in 2002, the ABPP has helped conserve over 35,000 acres of historic battlefield land across 42 States.

The American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act proposes several important improvements to further enhance the effectiveness of ABPP.

It would allow non-profit organizations and tribes to apply for ABPP grants directly. Currently, only government entities are eligible to seek these grants. This change will expedite the preservation of endangered battlefields by broadening the pool of eligible applicants and harnessing the commitment and expertise of nonprofit organizations and tribal nations.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the scope of ABPP's restoration grants. Currently, these grants can only be utilized on land preserved using ABPP program funding. This proposed change will extend the use of restoration grants to other priority battlefields identified in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report and in the 2007 Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites. This will ensure that their historical significance can be maintained and restored.

This legislation also clarifies the eligibility of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites for Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants. By codifying that these grants are solely intended for battlefield sites as identified in the Congressionally authorized reports on these two conflicts, we will uphold the original intent of

ABPP and ensure the protection of these historic battlegrounds.

Finally, the bill introduces a much-needed process for updating battlefield boundaries. Despite decades of new research and archaeological discoveries, the National Park Service currently lacks a method to modify and update the battlefield maps they use. Without a systematic process for modifying boundaries, we risk losing portions of battlefields whose importance has been revealed through ongoing research. Our bill would require the National Park Service to periodically update the battlefield reports to Congress.

The American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act is a critical step in our ongoing efforts to protect our Nation's heritage by building a rich educational experience for students and visitors alike. By allowing nonprofits and tribes to apply for ABPP grants, clarifying the scope of restoration grants, ensuring eligibility for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites, and creating a process for updating battlefield boundaries, we will better preserve and honor the memories of those who fought for our Nation's independence and unity.

I urge my esteemed colleagues to support the passage of this bill, which will strengthen the ABPP and contribute to the lasting preservation of our Nation's most storied battlefields. By doing so, we will continue to pay homage to our history and ensure that future generations can learn from the sacrifices made on these sacred grounds.

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. 3448, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT SAN GERONIMO PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 359) to establish Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 359

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 "Fort San Gerónimo Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FORT SAN GERÓNIMO DEL BOQUERÓN.—The term "Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón" (also known as "Fortín de San Gerónimo del Boquerón") means the fort and grounds listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located near Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AFFILIATED AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico is established as an affiliated area of the National Park System.