

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1214

To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2015

Mr. AMODEI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, to resolve minor encroachments, and for other purposes.

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 “National Forest Small
5 Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE**
2 **OF SMALL PARCELS OF NATIONAL FOREST**
3 **SYSTEM LAND.**

4 (a) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM VALUE OF SMALL PAR-
5 CELS.—Section 3 of Public Law 97–465 (commonly
6 known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521e) is
7 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
8 ing “\$150,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

9 (b) ADDITIONAL CONVEYANCE PURPOSES.—Section
10 3 of Public Law 97–465 (16 U.S.C. 521e) is further
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking “; or” at the end of paragraph

13 (2) and inserting a semicolon;

14 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
15 graph (3) and inserting a semicolon; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraphs:

18 “(4) parcels of 40 acres or less which are deter-
19 mined by the Secretary to be physically isolated, to
20 be inaccessible, or to have lost their National Forest
21 character;

22 “(5) parcels of 10 acres or less which are not
23 eligible for conveyance under paragraph (2), but
24 which are encroached upon by permanent habitable
25 improvements for which there is no evidence that the
26 encroachment was intentional or negligent; or

1 “(6) parcels used as a cemetery, a landfill, or
2 a sewage treatment plant under a special use au-
3 thorization issued by the Secretary.”.

4 (c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Section 2 of Public
5 Law 97–465 (16 U.S.C. 521d) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “The Secretary is authorized”
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY; CONSIDERATION.—
9 The Secretary is authorized”;

10 (2) by striking “The Secretary shall insert” and
11 inserting the following:

12 “(b) INCLUSION OF TERMS, COVENANTS, CONDI-
13 TIONS, AND RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary shall insert”;

14 (3) by striking “covenants” and inserting
15 “covenants”; and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
17 section:

18 “(c) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

19 “(1) DEPOSIT IN SISK FUND.—The net pro-
20 ceeds derived from any sale or exchange conducted
21 under the authority of paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of
22 section 3 shall be deposited in the fund established
23 by Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the
24 Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a).

1 “(2) USE.—Amounts deposited under para-
2 graph (1) shall be available to the Secretary, without
3 further appropriation and until expended, for—

4 “(A) the acquisition of land or interests in
5 land for administrative sites for the National
6 Forest System in the State from which the
7 amounts were derived;

8 “(B) the acquisition of land or interests in
9 land for inclusion in the National Forest Sys-
10 tem in that State, including land or interests in
11 land which enhance opportunities for rec-
12 reational access; or

13 “(C) the performance of deferred mainte-
14 nance on administrative sites for the National
15 Forest System in that State or other deferred
16 maintenance activities in that State which en-
17 hance opportunities for recreational access.”.

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