



H.R. 6159 – Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6159 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative George Miller (D-CA) on May 22, 2008. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 23, 2008.

H.R. 6159 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6159 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange 82 acres of Federal land in the Mendocino National Forest for 160 acres of land currently owned by Solano County, California. The bill requires Solano County to pay \$6,000 annually to the Forest Service for ten years after enactment, as well as administrative costs for the land exchange.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange property currently operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the City of Norfolk, Virginia, if the Secretary determines that the conveyance is in the best interests of NOAA and the Federal Government and provides prior notification to the relevant Congressional committees. In addition, the bill requires that the Federal Government receive no less than fair market value for the NOAA property.

BACKGROUND

This legislation will transfer 82 acres to Solano County, California which the county currently leases from the Federal government to run the Fouts Springs youth correctional program. In exchange, Solano County will transfer 160 acres of nearby land, known as Deafy Glade, to the U.S. Forest Service to become part of the Mendocino National Forest.

The Mendocino National Forest straddles the eastern spur of the Coastal Mountain Range in northwestern California. Some 65 miles long and 35 miles wide, the Forest includes 913,306 acres of mountains and canyons utilized for camping, hiking, backpacking, boating, fishing, hunting, and nature study.

[U.S. Forest Service – Mendocino National Forest](#)

The City of Norfolk, Virginia, has expressed interest in acquiring property currently owned and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The property includes a 700 square foot office building that houses NOAA's National Geodetic Survey Norfolk Field Operations office and consists of 3.78 acres. It was purchased by the Federal Government in 1970 to support NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic.

NOAA has been contacted about this property several times in the past by both public-private ventures and the City of Norfolk about acquiring the property. However, according to NOAA testimony given before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on April 24, 2008, "NOAA has a continuing mission that is being served at this location. The property is not excess property; and NOAA has no other property in its inventory that can meet the current NOAA mission requirements supported at this site."

NOAA and the City of Norfolk have agreed to a framework for the future sale, conveyance, or exchange of properties, which is embodied in this legislation. The bill does not mandate that the sale, conveyance, or exchange take place.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6159 "would increase net direct spending by \$15,000 over the next 10 years." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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