

[117H8583]

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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STAUBER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National
Forest, Minnesota, 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 “Lake Winnibigoshish
5 Land Exchange Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) BWLT.—The term “BWLT” means Big
2 Winnie Land and Timber, LLC, a Minnesota Lim-
3 ited Liability Corporation.

4 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
5 titled “Proposed Land Exchange - Big Winnie Land
6 and Timber LLC and Chippewa National Forest”
7 and dated January 4, 2023.

8 (3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
9 means the approximately 13.8 acres of Federal land
10 in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as
11 the “Federal Parcel for Exchange” on the Map.

12 (4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-
13 eral land” means the approximately 38 acres of in
14 Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as the
15 “Private Parcel for Exchange” on the Map.

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
18 Chief of the Forest Service.

19 **SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND.**

20 (a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provi-
21 sions of this Act, if BWLT offers to convey the non-Fed-
22 eral land to the United States, the Secretary shall, not
23 later than 180 days after receiving the offer—

24 (1) accept the offer;

1 (2) convey to BWLT all right, title, and inter-
2 est of the United States in and to the Federal land;
3 and

4 (3) accept from BWLT all right, title, and in-
5 terest of BWLT in and to the non-Federal land.

6 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The exchange under sub-
7 section (a) shall be—

8 (1) subject to valid existing rights; and

9 (2) conditioned on a cash equalization payment
10 made by BWLT to the United States in accordance
11 with subsection (c) if, under the appraisals con-
12 ducted in accordance with this Act, it is determined
13 that the value of the Federal land exceeds the value
14 of the non-Federal land.

15 (c) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), the exchange under subsection (a) shall
18 be for equal value or the values shall be equalized
19 by a cash payment.

20 (2) EXCEPTION.—If the appraised value of the
21 non-Federal land conveyed to the Secretary exceeds
22 the appraised value of the Federal land, a cash
23 equalization payment by the United States to
24 BWLT is hereby waived and the amount of such

1 waived payment shall be considered a donation by
2 BWLT to the United States for all purposes of law.

3 (d) APPRAISALS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land to be
5 exchanged under this Act shall be determined by ap-
6 praisals conducted by one or more independent and
7 qualified appraisers mutually agreed to by the Sec-
8 retary and BWLT.

9 (2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The Secretary
10 shall complete an appraisal of the land to be ex-
11 changed under this Act in accordance with—

12 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
13 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

14 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional
15 Appraisal Practice.

16 (e) FORMAT.—Title to the non-Federal land to be
17 conveyed to the Secretary under this Act shall be in a for-
18 mat acceptable to the Secretary.

19 (f) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The land
20 acquired by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be—

21 (1) added to, and managed as part of, the
22 Chippewa National Forest; and

23 (2) managed in accordance with the laws, rules,
24 and regulations pertaining to National Forest Sys-
25 tem lands.

1 (g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 shall finalize a Map and legal descriptions of all land
5 to be conveyed under this Act.

6 (2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of
7 a discrepancy between the Map and a legal descrip-
8 tion, the Map shall control.

9 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and BWLT,
10 by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors
11 in the Map or in the legal descriptions, including
12 with respect to the boundaries of the Federal land
13 parcel and the non-Federal land parcel.

14 (4) MAP ON FILE.—The Map and legal descrip-
15 tions shall be on file and available for public inspec-
16 tion in appropriate offices of the Forest Service.