

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop, Chairman
Markup Memorandum

January 29, 2016

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff, Terry Camp
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Markup Markup on H.R. 3371 (Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-GA), To adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes.
February 2-3, 2016 Longworth HOB

H.R. 3371 (Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-GA), “Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015”

Bill Summary

H.R. 3371, introduced by Representative Barry Loudermilk (R-GA-11), modifies the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia to include approximately eight acres identified as Wallis House and Harriston Hill. The bill authorizes the Department of the Interior to acquire land or interests, by donation or exchange, from willing sellers only.

Bill Co-sponsors

Rep. Earl L. “Buddy” Carter (R-GA-1), Rep. Lynn A. Westmoreland (R-GA-3), Rep. Tom Price (R-GA-6), Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA-8)

Background

Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield in Georgia was set aside for preservation and protection in 1917 to commemorate a Civil War battle that proved to be a major turning point for the Union Army and the eventual fall of Atlanta. In 1935, the National Park Service (NPS) was directed to manage the park site as “an important cultural property dedicated to public inspiration and interpretation of the significant historic events that occurred here.”

H.R. 3371 expands the boundary of the Battlefield and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately eight acres of land by donation or exchange as part of the park. The expanded area is associated with the historic Wallis House and Harriston Hill. Wallis House is one of the few remaining structures associated with the battle, while Harriston Hill was

strategically significant as the Union signal station. Cobb County is the current owner of the eight acres of property and expressed a desire to donate the land to NPS once the park is authorized to receive it.

In the 113th Congress, nearly identical bills were introduced as H.R. 5003 and S. 2571 by Rep. Phil Gingrey and Sen. Johnny Isakson, respectively. H.R. 5003 was amended at markup to include language requiring written consent of owners to add non-Federal property into the boundaries of the park and to prohibit the use of condemnation. The bill, as amended, was adopted and ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent, but never received a vote on the House floor. This Congress, Senator Johnny Isakson is once again sponsoring the Senate companion as S. 1930.

Major Provisions

- Modifies the boundary of the National Battlefield Park to include approximately 8 acres.
- Authorizes lands within the boundary to be acquired by donation or exchange from willing sellers only.

Administration Position

The Administration supports this bill.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office has not completed a cost estimate of this bill.