

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3057

To authorize an exchange of lands among the Secretary of Agriculture,
Secretary of the Interior, and the Big Sky Lumber Company.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

Mr. HILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Resources

A BILL

To authorize an exchange of lands among the Secretary
of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the Big
Sky Lumber Company.

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 “Gallatin Range Con-
5 solidation Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the land north of Yellowstone National Park
9 possess outstanding natural characteristics and wild-

1 life habitats that would make the land a highly valu-
2 able addition to the National Forest System; and

3 (2) it is in the interest of the United States for
4 the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into an option
5 agreement with Big Sky Company for the acquisi-
6 tion of land by the Secretary to meet the intent of
7 the directive made in the Gallatin Range Consolida-
8 tion and Protection Act of 1993 (107 Stat. 987).

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) **BIG SKY.**—The term “Big Sky” means the
12 Big Sky Lumber Company, a corporation, and its
13 successors and assigns.

14 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
16 Chief of the Forest Service.

17 **SEC. 4. BIG SKY LUMBER LAND EXCHANGE.**

18 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—If Big Sky offers to the United
19 States acceptable fee title, including mineral interests, to
20 the land described in subsection (b)(1)—

21 (1) the Secretary shall accept a warranty deed
22 to the land;

23 (2) the Secretary shall convey to Big Sky, sub-
24 ject to valid existing rights and to such other terms,
25 conditions, reservations, and exceptions as may be

1 agreed on by the Secretary and Big Sky, the lands
2 described in subsection (b)(2); and

3 (3) the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to
4 Big Sky, by patent, subject to valid existing rights
5 and to such other terms, conditions, reservations,
6 and exceptions as may be agreed on by the Secretary
7 of the Interior and Big Sky, fee title to the lands de-
8 scribed in subsection (b)(3).

9 (b) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—

10 (1) LAND TO BE CONVEYED BY BIG SKY.—The
11 land described in this paragraph is the land compris-
12 ing approximately 54,720 acres of land owned by
13 Big Sky.

14 (2) LANDS TO BE CONVEYED BY THE SEC-
15 RETARY.—The lands described in this paragraph are
16 national forest lands that shall be determined by the
17 Secretary.

18 (3) LANDS TO BE CONVEYED BY THE SEC-
19 RETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The lands described in
20 this paragraph are public lands that shall be deter-
21 mined by the Secretary of the Interior comprising
22 approximately 24,627 acres.

23 (c) EASEMENTS.—As a part of the land exchange
24 under subsection (a)—

1 (1) the Secretary, under the authority of sec-
2 tion 2 of Public Law 88–257, commonly known as
3 the National Forest Roads and Trails Act (16
4 U.S.C. 533), and the Federal Land Policy and Man-
5 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), shall
6 convey to Big Sky such easements in or other rights-
7 of-way over federally owned land as may be agreed
8 to by the Secretary and Big Sky; and

9 (3) Big Sky shall convey to the United States
10 such easements in or rights-of-way over land con-
11 veyed to Big Sky under subsection (a) as may be
12 agreed to by the Secretary and Big Sky.

13 **SEC. 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

14 (a) **LANDS.**—Lands to be exchanged under this Act
15 shall be determined in an agreement among the Secretary,
16 the Secretary of the Interior, and Big Sky.

17 (b) **INCLUSION IN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.**—All
18 land conveyed to the United States under this Act shall
19 be added to and administered as part of the Gallatin Na-
20 tional Forest in accordance with the laws pertaining to
21 the National Forest System.

22 (c) **HISTORICAL RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND USE.**—
23 The Secretary shall ensure that any management plan
24 governing land conveyed to the United States under this

- 1 Act shall maintain and maximize historical recreational
- 2 access to and use of the land.

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