

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4793

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of flood damage reduction and water storage, treatment, and conveyance purposes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2016

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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 authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, for the purpose of flood damage reduction and water storage, treatment, and conveyance purposes, 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 “Everglades Land Ac-
5 quisition Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. LAND ACQUISITION, SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE,**
2 **FLORIDA.**

3 (a) LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORIZED.—The Sec-
4 retary of the Interior shall carry out land acquisition
5 projects south of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, for flood
6 damage reduction and water storage, treatment, and con-
7 veyance purposes. Not later than December 31, 2016, the
8 Secretary shall identify all of the land proposed to be ac-
9 quired under the authority of this subsection.

10 (b) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the ac-
11 quisition of land under subsection (a), the Secretary of
12 the Interior may not pay more than the fair market value
13 of the land. The Secretary may accept donations of land
14 under such subsection.

15 (c) RESTORATION AND USE.—Upon acquisition of
16 land under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior,
17 in consultation with the Chief of Engineers of the Army
18 Corps of Engineers, shall provide for—

19 (1) restoration of the acquired land for flood
20 damage reduction and water storage, treatment, and
21 conveyance purposes; and

22 (2) utilization of the acquired land in conjunc-
23 tion with projects implementing the Comprehensive
24 Everglades Restoration Plan.

25 (d) LAND TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
2 rior may transfer or sell the land acquired under
3 subsection (a) to the Army Corps of Engineers, the
4 State of the Florida, a political subdivision of the
5 State, or a nonprofit conservation organization.

6 (2) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—If the
7 Secretary transfers or sells the land under this sec-
8 tion, the Secretary of the Interior and the entity
9 that receives or purchases the land shall execute a
10 written agreement relating to the operation and
11 maintenance of the land and any improvements to
12 the land.

13 (e) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.—For an addi-
14 tional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available
15 until December 31, 2019, there is hereby appropriated,
16 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
17 priated, \$500,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior for
18 the purpose of purchasing and restoring land south of
19 Lake Okeechobee, Florida, for flood damage reduction and
20 water storage, treatment, and conveyance purposes: *Pro-*
21 *vided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress
22 as an emergency requirement pursuant to section
23 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
24 Deficit Control Act of 1985.

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