

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1596

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Gold Hill Ranch
in Coloma, California.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2009

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the
Gold Hill Ranch in Coloma, California.

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 “Gold Hill-Wakamatsu
5 Preservation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Gold Hill Ranch in Coloma, California,
9 was the location of the founding of the Wakamatsu
10 Tea and Silk Farm Colony in 1869;

1 (2) the Ranch is—

2 (A) the oldest property in North America
3 to be associated with Japanese immigration;
4 and

5 (B) the only property associated with the
6 immigration of samurai following the Meiji Res-
7 toration;

8 (3) the Ranch includes—

9 (A) an 1860s home that was occupied by
10 the Wakamatsu settlers;

11 (B) mulberry trees planted by the silk
12 farmers; and

13 (C) the grave stone of Okei Ito, which is
14 the oldest Japanese immigrant grave in the
15 United States; and

16 (4) a variety of non-Federal funds have been
17 obligated with respect to the acquisition and restora-
18 tion of the Ranch, including—

19 (A) \$485,000 from the Farm and Ranch-
20 land Protection Program and \$515,000 from
21 private donations to be applied toward acquisi-
22 tion of the Ranch; and

23 (B) \$483,750 from the California Cultural
24 and Historical Endowment to be applied toward
25 restoration of the Graner farmhouse.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
4 titled “Gold Hill-Wakamatsu Site” and dated May
5 7, 2009.

6 (2) RANCH.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Ranch”
8 means the Gold Hill Ranch in Coloma, Cali-
9 fornia (El Dorado County Assessor’s Parcel No.
10 089–010–06), comprising approximately 272
11 acres, which is more particularly described as
12 the SW¹/₄ and the SW ¹/₂ of the SE ¹/₄ of Sec.
13 29 and the N¹/₂NE¹/₄ of Sec. 32, T. 11 N., R.
14 10 E., of El Dorado County, California.

15 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “Ranch” ex-
16 cludes the small inholding of the Gold Trail
17 School District, as depicted on the map.

18 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
20 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

21 **SEC. 4. ACQUISITION OF GOLD HILL RANCH, COLOMA,**
22 **CALIFORNIA.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Sec-
24 retary may acquire the Ranch in exchange for consider-
25 ation in an amount not to exceed \$3,290,000.

1 (b) LIMITATION ON ACQUISITION.—The acquisition
2 of the Ranch under subsection (a) shall only be from will-
3 ing sellers and not through eminent domain.

4 (c) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—For the con-
5 sideration required under subsection (a), the American
6 River Conservancy and the Gold Hill Wakamatsu Colony
7 Foundation shall contribute any private funds or State or
8 Federal grants received by the Conservancy and the Foun-
9 dation for the acquisition of the Ranch.

10 (d) VISITOR CENTER.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—On acquisition of the
12 Wakamatsu Colony site, the Secretary may work
13 with the American River Conservancy and the Gold
14 Hill Wakamatsu Colony Foundation to design and
15 develop a visitor center that provides for the inter-
16 pretation of—

17 (A) the Wakamatsu Colony;

18 (B) early pioneer history; and

19 (C) the contribution of traditional Japa-
20 nese crops and practices to the extensive agri-
21 cultural economy of the State of California.

22 (2) COSTS.—To the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, the costs of constructing the visitor center
24 and conducting restoration activities at the Ranch
25 shall be leveraged by amounts received by the Amer-

1 ican River Conservancy and the Gold Hill
2 Wakamatsu Colony Foundation in the form of pri-
3 vate funds and State or Federal grants provided for
4 those purposes.

5 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
7 essary to carry out this Act.

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