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news release

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COMMITTEE APPROVES FOREST LAND PROTECTION BILLS

For immediate release, Thursday, July 14, 1994

WASHINGTON -- The House Agriculture Committee approved by voice vote three forest land protection bills on Wednesday, announced Committee Chairman Kika de la Garza, D-Texas. Those bills are:

H.R. 2866, Headwaters Forest Act: The original bill was introduced by Rep. Dan Hamburg, D-Calif. The Committee-approved bill authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to purchase up to 44,000 acres in northern California for addition to the Six Rivers National Forest. Included in this acreage is the 4,488-acre grove of old-growth redwood forest, known as the Headwaters Forest, the largest remaining privately-owned stand of old-growth redwood in the world.

Upon acquisition, the Committee bill will permanently ban logging and other commercial development on 5,200 acres, including the Headwaters Forest, by designating it a Federally-protected wilderness. The bill directs the Forest Service to manage the remaining acreage for multiple-use management, including timber harvest. Although the purchase of any lands is subject to appropriations, the bill also allows USDA to use non-cash alternatives to acquire land. Acquisition authority expires at the end of 10 years following enactment.

H.R. 3905, Opal Creek Forest Preserve Act: The original bill was introduced by Rep. Mike Kopetski, D-Ore. The Committee-approved bill would end commercial logging on approximately 21,000 acres of old-growth forest in the Willamette and Mt. Hood National Forests in Oregon.

H.R. 2942, Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area Act: The original bill was introduced by Rep. Bob Goodlatte, D-Va. The Committee-approved bill designates 7,580-acre tract within the George Washington National Forest located in Amherst County, Va., as a national scenic area. The Committee bill prohibits commercial logging and new road construction in the area.