

of the Klamath Project facilities while improving water quality, consistent with the protection of fish and wildlife.

It is important to note that there were severe shortages of water in the Basin this year. However, this was not a drought year. The shortages are symptoms of a much larger problem in the Basin. If a solution is not found soon, a drought could have devastating effects on farmers in the area and on the wildlife that depends upon certain flow levels.

S. 2882 is an extremely important bill to people of the Klamath Basin. I support this measure and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2882.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

#### STUDY OF RESOURCES IN SALMON CREEK WATERSHED

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2951) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to investigate opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek watershed of the upper Columbia River.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2951

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SALMON CREEK WATERSHED, WASHINGTON, WATER MANAGEMENT STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may conduct a study to investigate the opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek Watershed, a tributary to the Upper Columbia River system, Okanogan County, Washington, so as to restore and enhance fishery resources (especially the endangered Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead), while maintaining or improving the availability of water supplies for irrigation practices vital to the economic well-being of the county.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the study under subsection (a) shall be to derive the benefits of and further the objectives of the comprehensive, independent study commissioned by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Okanogan Irrigation District, which provides a credible basis for pursuing a course of action to simultaneously achieve fish restoration and improved irrigation conservation and efficiency.

(c) COST SHARE.—The Federal Government's cost share for the feasibility study shall not exceed 50 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2951, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to investigate opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek watershed of the upper Columbia River.

The study would allow the Secretary of the Interior to build on an independent study commissioned by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the local irrigation district to restore and enhance fishery resources, especially the endangered Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead, while maintaining or improving the availability of water supplies for irrigation practices.

S. 2951 passed the Senate on October 13. I urge an aye vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2951. This legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to investigate opportunities to better manage the water resources in the Salmon Creek watershed of the upper Columbia River. The purpose of the study is to explore ways to improve salmon migration while maintaining irrigation for area farms.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is very similar to my legislation passed by the House and Senate earlier this year to study the potential benefits of replacing water currently removed from the Yakima River with water drawn from the Columbia River in order to benefit salmon. These two pieces of legislation highlight our commitment to saving the salmon in Central Washington without tearing down our dams and destroying our way of life. This common sense legislation is a locally derived solution that will greatly improve habitat and salmon survival while respecting historic water rights in my district.

Salmon Creek is a tributary of the Okanogan River in my district in Central Washington. During irrigation season, water is released from the reservoirs to provide water needed by local farms. However, the diversion of the creek waters causes approximately 4.3 miles of Salmon Creek to dry up during the later months of the irrigation season. This creek has historically provided habitat for several threatened and endangered salmon species.

The Okanogan Irrigation District in Okanogan County, Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have worked together to study and develop a series of projects to restore natural fish runs in Salmon Creek while protecting irrigation for over 5000 acres of orchards and farms. As a result of this collaborative effort, the Okanogan Irrigation District and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have developed a proposal that would move the intake system for the Okanogan Irrigation District from Salm-

on Creek to the Okanogan River. These projects, which are frequently referred to as "pump exchanges," allow irrigation districts to terminate withdrawals from over appropriated rivers and streams and secure water from more abundant rivers further downstream from the initial intake point.

This legislation authorizes the study of both the pump exchange and other irrigation improvements that could return as much as 11,000 acre feet of water to Salmon Creek. The bill would limit the federal government's share of the total cost of the feasibility study to 50 percent, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing S. 2951 would cost about \$250,000 in fiscal year 2001. The Administration testified in favor of this legislation during a hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.

This feasibility study offers Okanogan County residents hope for the protection and improvement of what is left of their hard-hit economy. More than 262 jobs have been lost in the Okanogan Basin in recent months due to declines in the forest products industry. Additionally, falling apple prices have resulted in the loss of 80 jobs from the recent closure of an apple packing facility in Tonasket, Washington. This is compounded by the possibility that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will shut down irrigation facilities, as they have elsewhere in my district, due to inadequate stream flow in local rivers and creeks for endangered fish species. As more than 5000 acres of orchards and fields are served by the Okanogan Irrigation District, an irrigation shutdown would be devastating.

Once again, I thank you for this opportunity to express my support for authorizing this essential fish restoration study provided in S. 2951. I commend the Okanogan Irrigation District and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for their proactive approach to restoring salmon and steelhead populations and maintaining water deliveries to irrigators. I urge my colleagues to support this common sense local solution to improve the water resources in Salmon Creek.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2951.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

#### AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE RECLAMATION SAFETY OF DAMS ACT OF 1978

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3595) to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Reclamation of Safety of Dams Act of 1978, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows: