

# Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop, Chairman  
Markup Memorandum

July 24, 2017

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff, Terry Camp  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Mark-up: **H.R. 2615 (Rep. Steven Palazzo)**, To authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes.  
**July 25 & 26, 2017; 1324 Longworth HOB**

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**H.R. 2615 (Rep. Palazzo), “Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act of 2017”**

## **Summary of the Bill**

H.R. 2615, introduced by Representative Steven Palazzo (R-MS-4), authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to convey to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5699 an approximately 1.54-acre parcel located within the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Jackson County, Mississippi, in exchange for a parcel of approximately 2.16 acres owned by the VFW Post.

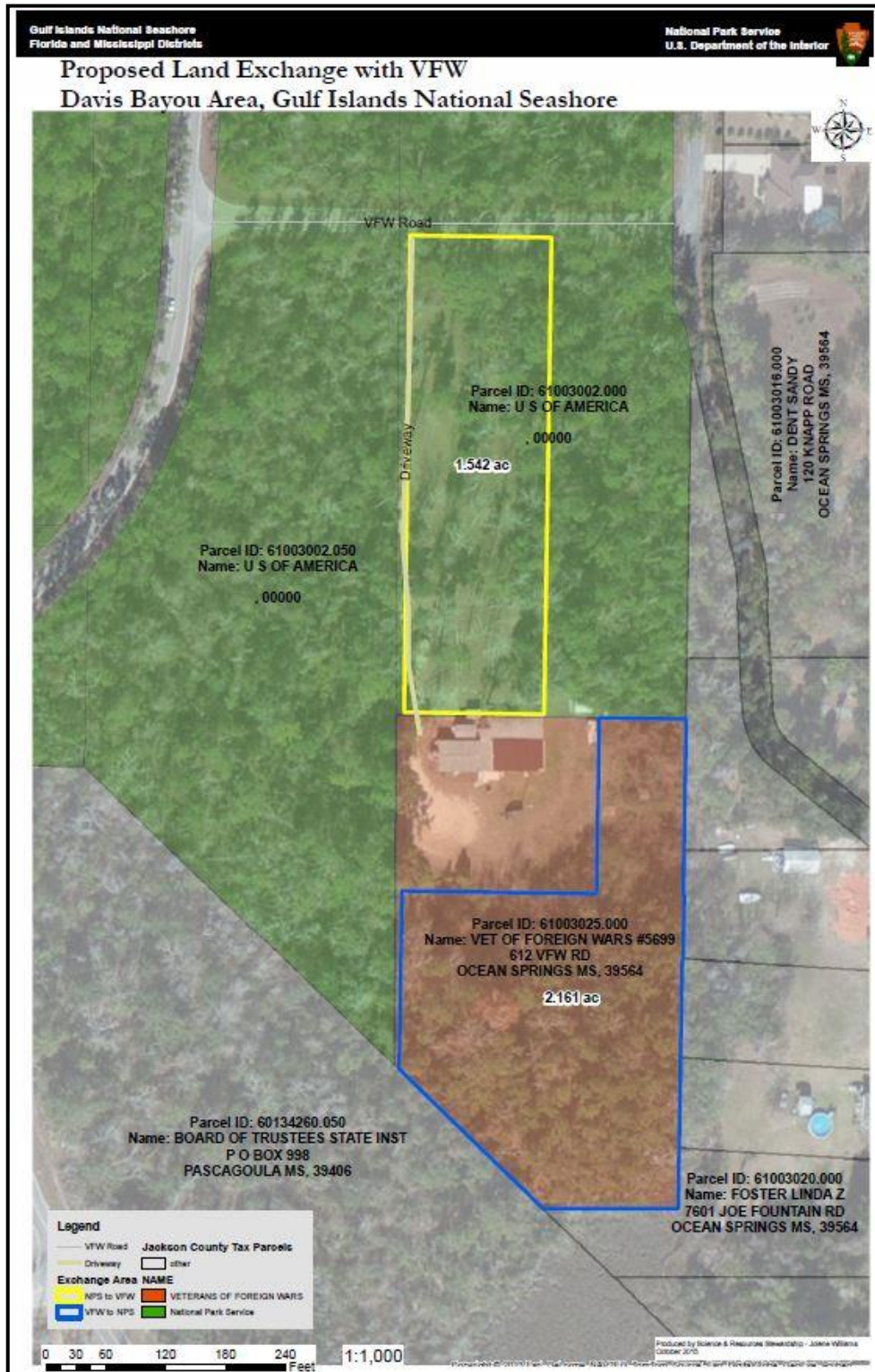
## **Background**

VFW Post 5699, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, owns an approximately 3.3-acre lot adjacent to Gulf Islands National Seashore's Davis Bayou Area. The Post's property is essentially landlocked, with the only reasonable access via a long driveway across NPS property from VFW Road. The VFW post proposed a land swap of an approximately 2.16-acre parcel owned by the Post in exchange for an approximately 1.54-acre parcel owned by the federal government containing an existing driveway.

## **Major Provisions**

- Authorizes a land exchange between the Secretary of the Interior and VFW Post 5699.
- Requires the exchanged parcels to be of equal value as determined by a qualified independent appraisal with equalization occurring through a cash payment or by adjustments to the acreage of the parcels of real property to be exchanged.
- Requires the Post to cover costs incurred by the Secretary or to reimburse costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the land exchange.

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to modify the boundary of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to incorporate the exchanged land.



## **Cost**

The CBO has not completed a cost estimate of this bill. However, in the 114th Congress, a CBO estimate was prepared for nearly identical legislation, H.R. 4119, the Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act of 2016. The CBO estimated that implementing H.R. 4119 would not affect direct spending or revenues, and would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.<sup>1</sup>

## **Administration Position**

The Administration position is unknown at this time.

## **Anticipated Amendments**

None.

## **Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

None.

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<sup>1</sup> CBO Cost Estimate for H.R. 4119, Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act of 2016. August 9, 2016. Accessed July 20, 2017. <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/51884>