



## **H.R. 523 – Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 523 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA) on January 17, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources whereupon it was ordered to be reported out by unanimous consent.

H.R. 523 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on September 22, 2007.

*\*Note – Similar legislation was introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by Representative Doc Hastings (H.R. 4789). This legislation passed under suspension of the rules by voice vote on September 27, 2006. The Senate did not take any action on the legislation.*

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 523 requires the Secretary of Interior to convey a parcel of land (roughly 622 acres) to the Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington within 30 days of the offer by PUD.

The land will be appraised within 60 days of the enactment of this legislation, and within 30 days after the appraisal, PUD will pay the cost of the land to the working capital fund of the Bureau of Land Management.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Wells Hydroelectric Project, located in Azwell, Washington, on the Columbia River, provides power for Douglas and Okanogan Counties, as well as power companies in coastal Oregon and Washington. The Project also provides several recreation opportunities including: a boat ramp, park, wildlife areas, fishing piers, marinas, playgrounds, campgrounds, picnic areas, canoe launching areas and trails. Most of the land within the Project is owned by PUD.

Currently, there are approximately eight small, isolated parcels of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within or partially included in the Project boundary. Due to the isolation of these parcels, the BLM has difficulty managing the

areas and has generally deferred management, including recreation management, to the PUD. This legislation allows PUD to own the land and eliminate any confusion as to who is responsible for the up keep of the land.

**COST**

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 523 would have a negligible budgetary impact.

**STAFF CONTACT**

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