

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) today applauded the passage of H.R. 2578, the Conservation and Economic Growth Act, by a 232-188 margin. The measure included a seven year extension of the bipartisan Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act, which initially passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 429 to 1 on July 9, 1997. The Act came about as a result of a locally-driven effort by community leaders, industry and local environmentalists (named the "Quincy Library Group" because of their meetings in the Quincy, California, library) to address the declining forest health and rural economies in Northern California after the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl under the Endangered Species Act. Monitoring of the pilot project area demonstrates that treated units have significantly reduced fire behavior and environmental impacts from fire compared to untreated areas, while producing merchantable forest material. Congressman Herger issued the following statement for the record, which you can watch [here](#) :

I rise in support of H.R. 2578, the Conservation and Economic Growth Act, which would extend the bipartisan Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act for seven more years, ensuring that the Forest Service has a stable and consistent period to fully implement it. At the discretion of the Forest Service, the bill would also allow for its expansion to all National Forest system lands within parts of California and Nevada. The expansion of the pilot project will enable the Forest Service to use the effective QLG approach in additional forest communities.

The Northern California Congressional District I represent includes all or part of seven national forests. The rural forest communities near to them have been devastated by years of mismanagement of our national forests. Nearly twenty-years ago a group of local environmentalists and citizens formed the Quincy Library Group to develop a collaborative and locally-driven solution to bring health and stability to our communities and the forests they live in. The QLG's efforts brought about the bipartisan Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act.

Mr. Speaker, we need commonsense forest management that allows communities to utilize their natural resources and create jobs, while also restoring the health of our forests. The Quincy Library Group Pilot Project can provide a model for achieving these critical goals. In 2007, the 64 thousand-acre Moonlight fire occurred in Plumas National Forest. That fire came to an abrupt halt when it reached Antelope, a QLG-constructed defensible fuel profile zone. It saved tens of thousands of acres of Spotted Owl habitat from burning. This is the solution to our catastrophic wildfire problem that can and should be replicated across the West. But, we have to give it a chance to fully be implemented. I would like to thank Chairman Hastings for his continued support of the project. I urge my colleagues to extend and expand this balanced and collaborative project.