

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 1947
OFFERED BY MR. PIERLUISI OF PUERTO RICO**

At the end of title VIII, add the following new section:

1 SEC. 8408. TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION.

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
4 ing given the term in section 6(f) of the Forest and
5 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of
6 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1645(f)).

7 (2) TROPICAL FOREST.—The term “tropical
8 forest” means any area of forest land that is located
9 between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

10 (b) TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of tropical for-
12 est conservation, rehabilitation, reforestation, and
13 research, the Secretary may—

14 (A) acquire tropical forest land, rights,
15 title, and interests in tropical forest land in any
16 State by purchase, donation, exchange, transfer,
17 or interchange; and

1 (B) designate the land, rights, title, and
2 interests in land as National Forest System
3 land for national tropical research forests.

4 (2) CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES.—The Sec-
5 retary shall manage each national tropical research
6 forest designated under this section in a manner
7 that protects and conserves indigenous flora and
8 fauna, water quality, streams and aquifers, and the
9 geological, ecological and other natural values.

10 (3) RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PRAC-
11 TICES.—Research and land management practices
12 conducted in a national tropical research forest may
13 include—

14 (A) silvicultural practices for restoration
15 purposes; and

16 (B) the control of ungulates and invasive
17 species.

18 (4) OTHER USES.—Public recreation and other
19 multiple uses may be allowed in a national tropical
20 research forest if the uses are compatible, and do
21 not interfere, with conservation objectives and re-
22 search and management practices.

23 (5) APPLICABLE LAWS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—A national tropical re-
25 search forest shall be managed in accordance

1 with the laws (including regulations) applicable
2 to the National Forest System and this section.

3 (B) HAWAII.—The Secretary may des-
4 ignate a national tropical research forest ac-
5 quired in Hawaii as a unit of the National For-
6 est System as a Hawaii Experimental Tropical
7 Forest in furtherance of the purposes of the
8 Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Act (Public
9 Law 102–574; 106 Stat. 4593) and the amend-
10 ments made by that Act.

11 (C) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICABILITY.—This
12 section shall be considered supplemental to, and
13 not in derogation of—

14 (i) the Forest and Rangeland Renew-
15 able Resources Research Act of 1978 (16
16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.);

17 (ii) title XXIV of Public Law 101–
18 624 (7 U.S.C. 6701 et seq.); and

19 (iii) the Hawaii Tropical Forest Re-
20 covery Act (Public Law 102–574; 106
21 Stat. 4593) and amendments made by that
22 Act.

23 (c) REALTY MANAGEMENT.—

1 (1) WILLING SELLERS.—Land and interests in
2 land acquired under this section shall be from will-
3 ing sellers only.

4 (2) LAND VALUATION.—Land and interests in
5 land acquired under this section shall be valued—

6 (A) in accordance with appraisals prepared
7 in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal
8 Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions devel-
9 oped by the Interagency Land Acquisition Con-
10 ference; or

11 (B) for areas of land for which elements of
12 value (such as physical characteristics and
13 other amenities) are readily apparent and sub-
14 stantially similar, in accordance with market
15 surveys or mass appraisal techniques approved
16 by the Chief Appraiser of the Forest Service.

17 (3) COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.—The Sec-
18 retary may allow a unit of State or local govern-
19 ment, an institution of higher education, or a non-
20 profit organization to cooperate in the management
21 of a national tropical research forest in accordance
22 with such terms and conditions as the Secretary may
23 establish.

1 (4) FUNDING.—For the acquisition of land and
2 interests in land under this section, the Secretary
3 may use amounts—

4 (A) donated for research purposes;

5 (B) derived and available from payments
6 under any Federal permitting program for the
7 mitigation or offset of environmental impacts;
8 and

9 (C) derived and available from the sale or
10 disposition of land pursuant to the Federal
11 Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C.
12 2301 et seq.).

13 (5) PUERTO RICO.—

14 (A) REVENUES FROM EL YUNQUE NA-
15 TIONAL FOREST.—To fund land acquisition
16 solely in Puerto Rico that is authorized by sub-
17 section (b)(1), in addition to the amounts other-
18 wise made available under paragraph (4), the
19 Secretary may use all amounts generated from
20 El Yunque National Forest that are deposited
21 in the National Forest Fund, other than those
22 amounts required by law to be paid to Puerto
23 Rico.

24 (B) EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST
25 BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that
2 the Secretary acquires land that abuts the
3 boundaries of El Yunque National Forest,
4 the Secretary shall adjust the boundaries
5 of El Yunque National Forest to include
6 the acquired land.

7 (ii) RELATION TO OTHER LAW.—For
8 purposes of section 7 of the Land and
9 Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16
10 U.S.C. 4601–9), the boundaries of El
11 Yunque National Forest, as adjusted pur-
12 suant to this subparagraph, shall be con-
13 sidered to be boundaries of the National
14 Forest as of January 1, 1965.

15 (d) INSTITUTES OF TROPICAL FORESTRY.—Section
16 2407 of title XXIV of Public Law 101–624 (7 U.S.C.
17 6701 et seq.) (7 U.S.C. 6706) is amended—

18 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Sec-
19 retary” and inserting the following:

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

21 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “The In-
22 stitutes” and inserting the following:

23 “(b) ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND.—
24 The Institutes may—

1 “(1) acquire and manage land, rights, title, and
2 interests in land for tropical forest conservation pur-
3 poses and research; and

4 “(2) provide public outreach and educational
5 opportunities consistent with research and conserva-
6 tion objectives, including, to the maximum extent
7 practicable, to international partners and allies.

8 “(c) RESEARCH.—The Institutes”.

