

Public Law 102-217
102d Congress

An Act

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Georgia as wilderness, and for other purposes.

Dec. 11, 1991
[H.R. 3245]

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

Chattahoochee
National Forest
Protection Act of
1991.
Conservation.
16 USC 460ggg
note.
16 USC 460ggg.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chattahoochee National Forest Protection Act of 1991".

SEC. 2. WILDERNESS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the State of Georgia are hereby designated as wilderness and therefore as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

16 USC 1132
note.

(1) Certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 7,800 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Blood Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated October 1991, and which shall be known as Blood Mountain Wilderness.

(2) Certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 16,880 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Chattahoochee Headwaters Wilderness—Proposed", dated July 1991, and which shall be known as Mark Trail Wilderness.

16 USC 1132
note.

(3) Certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 1,160 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Brasstown Wilderness Addition—Proposed", dated July 1991, and which is hereby incorporated in and shall be part of the Brasstown Wilderness as designated by section 2(2) of the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 3129).

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.

16 USC
460ggg-1.

(a) DESIGNATION AND PURPOSES.—For the purposes of protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, special ecological features, watershed integrity, mature-forest habitat, scenic recreation opportunities and other distinctive values of certain lands in Georgia, the lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 7,100 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Coosa Bald Scenic Area—Proposed", dated July 1991, are designated as a national scenic area and shall be known as the

Coosa Bald National Scenic Area (hereafter in this section referred to as the "scenic area").

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the scenic area in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System in such a way as to further the purposes of this section.

(2) The Secretary may permit additional road construction in the scenic area in furtherance of the purposes for which the scenic area is established. Except as provided in this section, the Secretary may not conduct timber harvesting in the scenic area. The Secretary may remove timber in the scenic area in furtherance of this section, but only in a manner which does not impair the purposes for which the scenic area is established. Salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other catastrophe, or are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack, is authorized to maintain forest health. Timber harvesting is authorized to provide for visitor safety.

(3) By virtue of this designation alone, the Secretary need not change patterns of public access or closure on existing permanent national forest development roads. At his discretion, however, the Secretary may open or close such existing roads for public use for reasons of sound resource management.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent the completion of existing timber sales under contract.

(5) The scenic area is hereby withdrawn from the operation of all laws pertaining to mineral leasing.

(6) The Secretary may also permit, in his discretion, the continued maintenance of existing wildlife openings, in cooperation with the State of Georgia and other Federal, State, and private cooperators, and may permit new wildlife openings in furtherance of the purposes for which the scenic area is established.

(7) The Secretary shall protect, enhance, and promote the public's opportunities for primitive and semiprimitive experiences in the scenic area.

SEC. 4. RECREATION AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION AND PURPOSES.—For the purposes of ensuring the protection of certain natural, scenic, fish and wildlife, historic and archaeological, wildland and watershed values, and providing for the enhancement of the recreation opportunities associated with these values, certain lands in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, which comprise approximately 23,330 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Springer Mountain National Recreation Area—Proposed", dated October 1991, are hereby designated as a national recreation area and shall be known as Springer Mountain National Recreation Area (hereafter in this section referred to as the "recreation area").

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the national forests in such a way as to further the purposes of this section. Except as provided in this section, the Secretary may not conduct timber harvesting in the recreation area. The Secretary may remove timber in the recreation area in furtherance of this section, but only in a manner which does not impair the purposes for which the recreation area is established. Salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by fire, windthrow or other

catastrophe, or are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack, is authorized to maintain forest health. Timber harvesting is authorized to provide for visitor safety.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prevent the completion of existing timber sales under contract. The Secretary may permit additional road construction in the area in furtherance of the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

(3) By virtue of the designation under this section, the Secretary need not change patterns of public access or closure on existing permanent national forest development roads. At his discretion, however, the Secretary may open or close such existing roads to public use for reasons of sound resource management.

(4) Lands within the recreation area are hereby withdrawn from the operation of all laws pertaining to mineral leasing.

(5) The Secretary may permit, in his discretion, the continued maintenance of existing wildlife openings, in cooperation with the State of Georgia and other Federal, State, and private cooperators, and may permit new wildlife openings in furtherance of the purposes for which the recreation area is established.

(6) The Secretary shall protect, enhance, and promote the public's opportunities for primitive and semiprimitive recreation in the recreation area.

(7) Designation by this section shall not interfere with rights of access to privately held lands.

SEC. 5. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

16 USC
460ggg-3.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

16 USC 460ggg
note.

SEC. 6. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Privately held lands within the areas designated by this Act will not be administered as wilderness, a national scenic area, or a national recreation area, as appropriate, unless such lands are acquired by the Secretary.

Approved December 11, 1991.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3245:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 102-345, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs) and Pt. 2 (Comm. on Agriculture).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 137 (1991):

Nov. 23, considered and passed House.

Nov. 27, considered and passed Senate.