

Union Calendar No. 376

103D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2942

[Report No. 103-686]

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a National Scenic Area for protection of the watershed and scenic values, recreation use, protection of wildlife and their habitat, and for other purposes.

AUGUST 8, 1994

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1993

Mr. GOODLATTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AUGUST 8, 1994

Additional sponsors: Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEWIS of Florida, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. EWING, Mr. GUNDERSON, Mr. BATEMAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. SISISKY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. PAYNE of Virginia, Mrs. BYRNE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BAESLER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. LONG, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. VOLKMER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. DIXON, Mr. BROWN of California, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. MINGE, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. POMBO, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. CANADY, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota

AUGUST 8, 1994

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on August 6, 1993]

A BILL

To designate certain lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a National Scenic Area for protection of the watershed and scenic values, recreation use, protection of wildlife and their habitat, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Mount Pleasant Na-*
5 *tional Scenic Area Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 *The purposes of this Act with respect to the Mount*
8 *Pleasant National Scenic Area are to—*

9 *(1) ensure appropriate protection and preserva-*
10 *tion of the scenic quality, water quality, natural*
11 *characteristics, and water resources;*

12 *(2) protect and manage vegetation to provide*
13 *wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph*
14 *(1);*

15 *(3) provide areas that may develop characteris-*
16 *tics of old-growth forests; and*

17 *(4) provide a variety of recreation opportunities*
18 *that are not inconsistent with the preceding purposes.*

19 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MOUNT PLEASANT NATIONAL**
20 **SCENIC AREA.**

21 *(a) IN GENERAL.—*

1 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*There is hereby estab-*
2 *lished in the George Washington National Forest, Vir-*
3 *ginia, the Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area (in*
4 *this section referred to as the “scenic area”).*

5 (2) *LANDS INCLUDED IN SCENIC AREA.*—*The sce-*
6 *nic area shall consist of certain lands in the George*
7 *Washington National Forest, Virginia, which com-*
8 *prise approximately seven thousand five hundred and*
9 *eighty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled*
10 *“Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area—Proposed”,*
11 *dated June 21, 1993.*

12 (3) *MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.*—*As soon as prac-*
13 *ticable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the*
14 *Secretary shall file a map and boundary description*
15 *of the scenic area with the Committee on Agriculture,*
16 *Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-*
17 *mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.*
18 *The map and description shall have the same force*
19 *and effect as if included in this Act, except that the*
20 *Secretary is authorized to correct clerical and typo-*
21 *graphical errors in such boundary description and*
22 *map. Such map and boundary description shall be on*
23 *file and available for public inspection in the Office*
24 *of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agri-*
25 *culture. In the case of any discrepancy between the*

1 *acreage and the map described in paragraph (2), the*
2 *map shall control.*

3 *(b) ADMINISTRATION.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture*
5 *(in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall*
6 *administer the scenic area in accordance with this*
7 *Act and the laws and regulations generally applicable*
8 *to the National Forest System. In the event of conflict*
9 *between this Act and other laws and regulations, this*
10 *Act shall take precedence.*

11 *(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within three years*
12 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-*
13 *retary shall develop a management plan for the scenic*
14 *area as an amendment to the Land and Resource*
15 *Management Plan for the George Washington Na-*
16 *tional Forest. Such an amendment shall conform to*
17 *the provisions of this Act. Nothing in this Act shall*
18 *require the Secretary to revise the Land and Resource*
19 *Management Plan for the George Washington Na-*
20 *tional Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and*
21 *Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of*
22 *1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).*

23 *(c) ROADS.—After the date of the enactment of this*
24 *Act, no new permanent roads shall be constructed within*
25 *the scenic area, except that this prohibition shall not be con-*

1 *strued to deny access to private lands or interests therein*
2 *in the scenic area.*

3 (d) *VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.*—*No timber harvest*
4 *shall be allowed within the scenic area, except as may be*
5 *necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and*
6 *to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstand-*
7 *ing the foregoing, the Secretary may engage in vegetation*
8 *manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife*
9 *clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested*
10 *for personal use along perimeter roads under such condi-*
11 *tions as the Secretary may impose.*

12 (e) *MOTORIZED TRAVEL.*—

13 (1) *AUTHORIZED ROUTES.*—*Motorized travel in*
14 *the scenic area shall be allowed on State Route 635.*
15 *Subject to such conditions as the Secretary may im-*
16 *pose, motorized travel in the scenic area shall also be*
17 *allowed on Forest Development Road 51.*

18 (2) *OTHER AREAS.*—*Other than as provided in*
19 *paragraph (1), motorized travel shall not be per-*
20 *mitted within the scenic area, except that the Sec-*
21 *retary may authorize motorized travel within the sce-*
22 *nic area as necessary for administrative use in fur-*
23 *therance of the purposes of this Act and on temporary*
24 *routes in support of wildlife management projects.*

1 (f) *FIRE.*—Wildfires shall be suppressed in a manner
2 consistent with the purposes of this Act, using such means
3 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

4 (g) *INSECTS AND DISEASE.*—Insect and disease out-
5 breaks may be controlled in the scenic area to maintain
6 scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to
7 visitors, or protect private lands.

8 (h) *WATER.*—The scenic area shall be administered so
9 as to maintain or enhance existing water quality.

10 (i) *MINING WITHDRAWAL.*—Subject to valid existing
11 rights, all federally owned lands in the scenic area are here-
12 by withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the
13 mining laws of the United States and from leasing claims
14 under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws of the
15 United States, including amendments to such laws.