

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10217

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area in the State of Kentucky, 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 “Kentucky Wildlands
5 National Heritage Area Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF KENTUCKY WILDLANDS NA-**
 2 **TIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—Section 6001(a) of the John D.
 4 Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation
 5 Act (Public Law 116–9; 133 Stat. 768; 136 Stat. 6163)
 6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(14) KENTUCKY WILDLANDS NATIONAL HER-
 8 ITAGE AREA.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established
 10 the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage
 11 Area in the State of Kentucky, to consist of
 12 Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, El-
 13 liott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson,
 14 Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie,
 15 Letcher, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary,
 16 Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell,
 17 Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley,
 18 and Wolfe Counties, Kentucky.

19 “(B) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The
 20 Center for Rural Development shall be the local
 21 coordinating entity for the National Heritage
 22 Area designated by subparagraph (A).”.

23 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—For the purposes of sec-
 24 tion 6001(c) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation,
 25 Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133
 26 Stat. 772; 136 Stat. 6173), the local coordinating entity

1 for the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area des-
2 ignated under the amendment made by subsection (a)
3 shall submit to the Secretary of the Interior for approval
4 a proposed management plan for the Kentucky Wildlands
5 National Heritage Area not later than 3 years after the
6 date of enactment of this Act.

7 (c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—For the purposes
8 of subsection (g)(4) of section 6001 of the John D. Din-
9 gell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act
10 (Public Law 116–9; 133 Stat. 776), the authority of the
11 Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance under that
12 section for the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage
13 Area designated under the amendment made by subsection
14 (a) shall terminate on the date that is 15 years after the
15 date of enactment of this Act.

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