

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1680

To designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2025

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, 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 “Virginia Wilderness
5 Additions Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO ROUGH MOUNTAIN AND RICH HOLE**
7 **WILDERNESSES.**

8 (a) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Section 1 of
9 Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat.

1 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is amended by add-
 2 ing at the end the following:

3 “(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain
 4 land in the George Washington National Forest
 5 comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally
 6 depicted as the ‘Rough Mountain Addition’ on the
 7 map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NA-
 8 TIONAL FOREST—South half—Alternative I—
 9 Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions—
 10 Land and Resources Management Plan Final Envi-
 11 ronmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4,
 12 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain
 13 Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).”.

14 (b) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

15 (1) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—
 16 In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act
 17 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the George
 18 Washington National Forest comprising approxi-
 19 mately 4,600 acres, as generally depicted as the
 20 “Rich Hole Addition” on the map entitled
 21 “GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOR-
 22 EST—South half—Alternative I—Selected Alter-
 23 native Management Prescriptions—Land and Re-
 24 sources Management Plan Final Environmental Im-
 25 pact Statement” and dated March 4, 2014, is des-

1 ignated as a potential wilderness area for incorpora-
2 tion in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by
3 section 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C.
4 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584).

5 (2) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential
6 wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) shall be
7 designated as wilderness and incorporated in the
8 Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section
9 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;
10 102 Stat. 584) on the earlier of—

11 (A) the date on which the Secretary of Ag-
12 riculture (referred to in this section as the
13 “Secretary”) publishes in the Federal Register
14 notice that the activities permitted under para-
15 graph (4) have been completed; or

16 (B) the date that is 5 years after the date
17 of enactment of this Act.

18 (3) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in
19 paragraph (4), the Secretary shall manage the po-
20 tential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1)
21 in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
22 1131 et seq.).

23 (4) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVI-
24 TIES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—To enhance natural
2 ecosystems within the potential wilderness area
3 designated by paragraph (1) by implementing
4 certain activities to improve water quality and
5 aquatic passage, as set forth in the Forest
6 Service document entitled “Decision Notice for
7 the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Man-
8 agement Project” and dated December 2015,
9 the Secretary may use motorized equipment
10 and mechanized transport in the potential wil-
11 derness area until the date on which the poten-
12 tial wilderness area is incorporated into the
13 Rich Hole Wilderness Area under paragraph
14 (2).

15 (B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out sub-
16 paragraph (A), the Secretary, to the maximum
17 extent practicable, shall use the minimum tool
18 or administrative practice necessary to carry
19 out that subparagraph with the least amount of
20 adverse impact on wilderness character and re-
21 sources.

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