Public Law 101-401
101st Congress

An Act

To designate certain lands in the State of Maine as wilderness.

Sept. 28, 1990
[S. 2205]

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

Maine Wilderness Act of 1990.
Environmental protection.
National Wilderness Preservation System.
National Forest System.
16 USC 1132 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Maine Wilderness Act of 1990".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), certain lands in the White Mountain National Forest, in the State of Maine—

(1) which comprise approximately twelve thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness—Proposed", dated January 1987; and

(2) which shall be known as the Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness,

are hereby designated wilderness, and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

SEC. 3. MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of the wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the United States Senate. The 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 such map and description may be made by the Secretary. The 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.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.

Subject to valid existing rights, the 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. 5. WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the Maine section of

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the White Mountain National Forest and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) DETERMINATION.—On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Maine; such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Maine;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Maine which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Maine reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Maine are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Maine for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) REVISION.—As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—The provisions of this section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Maine which are less than 5,000 acres in size.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON BUFFER ZONES.

Congress does not intend that the designation of a wilderness area in the State of Maine lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from within the wilderness area shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 7. CONTROL OF FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.

As provided in section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act, such measures may be taken within wilderness areas designated by this Act as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to applicable laws and such additional reasonable conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

SEC. 8. STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY.

As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Maine with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests in Maine.

Approved September 28, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2205 (H.R. 4145):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 101-497, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs) accompanying H.R. 4145 and No. 101-714, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Agriculture).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 101-299 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):

June 6, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 17, considered and passed House.