

Public Law 103-314
103d Congress

An Act

To designate certain lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia as the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area.

Aug. 26, 1994

[H.R. 2942]

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

George
Washington
National Forest
Mount Pleasant
Scenic Area Act.
Conservation.
16 USC 545 note.
16 USC 545.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act with respect to the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area are to—

- (1) ensure appropriate protection and preservation of the scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources;
- (2) protect and manage vegetation to provide wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph (1);
- (3) provide areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and
- (4) provide a variety of recreation opportunities that are not inconsistent with the preceding purposes.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MOUNT PLEASANT NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.

16 USC 545a.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established in the George Washington National Forest, Virginia, the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area (in this section referred to as the "scenic area").

(2) **LANDS INCLUDED IN SCENIC AREA.**—The scenic area shall consist of certain lands in the George Washington National Forest, Virginia, which comprise approximately seven thousand five hundred and eighty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area—Proposed", dated June 21, 1993.

(3) **MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and boundary description of the scenic area with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives. The map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary is authorized to correct clerical and typographical errors in such boundary description and map. Such map and

boundary description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage and the map described in paragraph (2), the map shall control.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

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

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the scenic area as an amendment to the Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest. Such an amendment shall conform to the provisions of this Act. Nothing in this Act shall require the Secretary to revise the Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(c) ROADS.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, no new permanent roads shall be constructed within the scenic area, except that this prohibition shall not be construed to deny access to private lands or interests therein in the scenic area.

(d) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—No timber harvest shall be allowed within the scenic area, except as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Secretary may engage in vegetation manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested for personal use along perimeter roads under such conditions as the Secretary may impose.

(e) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—

(1) AUTHORIZED ROUTES.—Motorized travel in the scenic area shall be allowed on State Route 635. Subject to such conditions as the Secretary may impose, motorized travel in the scenic area shall also be allowed on Forest Development Road 51.

(2) OTHER AREAS.—Other than as provided in paragraph (1), motorized travel shall not be permitted within the scenic area, except that the Secretary may authorize motorized travel within the scenic area as necessary for administrative use in furtherance of the purposes of this Act and on temporary routes in support of wildlife management projects.

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

(g) INSECTS AND DISEASE.—Insect and disease outbreaks may be controlled in the scenic area to maintain scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to visitors, or protect private lands.

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

(i) MINING WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all federally owned lands in the scenic area are hereby withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws of the

United States and from leasing claims under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws of the United States, including amendments to such laws.

Approved August 26, 1994.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2942:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-686 (Comm. on Agriculture).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 140 (1994):

Aug. 8, considered and passed House.

Aug. 19, considered and passed Senate.