

Public Law 105-171
105th Congress

An Act

Apr. 24, 1998
[H.R. 3226]

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other lands in the George Washington National Forest and the Jefferson National Forest, and to use the value derived therefrom to acquire a replacement site and to construct on the site suitable improvements for national forest administrative purposes.

SEC. 2. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF LAND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 368 acres contained in the following tracts of land situated in the State of Virginia:

(1) Tract J-1665 (approximately 101 acres), as shown on the map titled "Natural Bridge Juvenile Corrections Center, February 4, 1998".

(2) Tract G-1312a (approximately 214 acres), Tract G-1312b (approximately 2 acres), and Tract G1312a-I (approximately 10 acres), as shown on the plat titled "George Washington National Forest, Alleghany Construction Company, (1312a, -I, b), Alleghany County, Virginia, June 1936".

(3) Tract G-1709 (approximately 23 acres), as shown on the plat titled "James C. Doyle, Alleghany County, Virginia, April 13, 1993".

(4) Tract G-1360 (consisting of Lots 31 and 32; approximately .29 acres), Tract G-1361 (consisting of Lots 29 and 30; approximately .29 acres), Tract G-1362 (consisting of Lots 22, 23, and 24; approximately .43 acres), and Tract G-1363 (consisting of Lot 21; approximately .14 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Dry River Road, George Washington National Forest, Warehouse Site, Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Virginia, July 1936".

(5) Tract G-1524 (consisting of Lot 13; approximately .13 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Vertie E. Beery Tract, Rockingham County, Virginia, February 3, 1966".

(6) Tract G-1525 (consisting of Lots 11 and 12; approximately .26 acres), as shown on the plat titled "Charles F.

Simmons Tract 1525, Rockingham County, Virginia, February 3, 1966”.

(7) Tract G-1486 (consisting of Lots 14, 15, and 16; approximately .39 acres), as shown on the plat shown at Deed Book 133, Page 341 Rockingham Virginia Records of the D.S. Thomas Inc. Addition, Town of Bridgewater.

(8) Tract N-123a (consisting of Lots 7 and 8; approximately .287 acres), as shown on the plat titled “George Washington Forest. A.M. Rucker, Tract N-123a, Buena Vista, Virginia”.

(9) Tract N-123b (consisting of Lots 5 and 6; approximately .287 acres), as shown on the plat titled “George Washington Unit, A.M. Rucker, N-123b, Rockbridge County, Virginia, city of Buena Vista, dated 1942”.

(10) Tract G-1417 (approximately 1.2 acres), as shown on the plat titled “George Washington Unit, R.A. Warren, Tracts (1417-1417a), Bath County, Virginia, May 1940”.

(11) Tract G-1520 (approximately 1 acre), as shown on the plat titled “Samuel J. Snead Tract, Bath County, Virginia, February 3, 1966”.

(12) Tract G-1522a (approximately .65 acres), as shown on the plat titled “Charles N. Loving Tract, Bath County, Virginia, February 3, 1966”.

(13) Tract G-1582 (approximately .86 acres), as shown on the plat titled “Willie I. Haynes Tract, Bath County, Virginia, January 1974”.

(14) Tract G-1582a (approximately .62 acres), as shown on the plat titled “Willie I. Haynes, Bath County, Virginia, January 1979”.

(15) Tract G-1673 (approximately 1.69 acres), as shown on the plat titled “Erwin S. Solomon Tract, Bath County, Virginia, September 15, 1970”.

(16) Tract J-1497 (approximately 2.66 acres), as shown on the plat titled “James A. Williams, Tract 1497, January 24, 1990”.

(17) Tract J-1652 (approximately 1.64 acres), as shown on the plat titled “United States of America, Tract J-1652, Buchanan Magisterial District, Botetourt County, Virginia, September 4, 1996”.

(18) Tract J-1653 (approximately 5.08 acres), as shown on the plat titled “United States of America, Tract J-1653, Peaks Magisterial District, Bedford County, Virginia, November 4, 1996”.

The Secretary may acquire land, and existing or future administrative improvements, in consideration for the conveyance of the lands designated in this subsection.

(b) **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of all or a portion of the lands designated in subsection (a) shall be subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of lands for National Forest System purposes.

(c) **CASH EQUALIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept cash equalization payments in excess of 25 percent of the total value of the lands designated in subsection (a) from any exchange authorized by subsection (a).

(d) **SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.**—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary may use public or private solicitations of offers for sale or exchange on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may

prescribe. The Secretary may reject any offer if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

SEC. 3. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

Any funds received by the Secretary through sale or by cash equalization from an exchange shall be deposited into the fund provided by the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), commonly known as the Sisk Act, and shall be available for expenditure, upon appropriation, for—

(1) the acquisition of lands, and interests in the lands, in the State of Virginia; and

(2) the acquisition or construction of administrative improvements in connection with the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

Approved April 24, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3226:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 144 (1998):

Mar. 24, considered and passed House.

Apr. 3, considered and passed Senate.