Public Law 98-515
98th Congress

An Act

Oct. 19, 1984
[S. 2808]

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Mississippi as wilderness, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Mississippi National Forest Wilderness Act of 1984".

Mississippi National Forest Wilderness Act of 1984.

DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

National Wilderness Preservation System.
National Forest System.
16 USC 1132 note.

SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the State of Mississippi are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) certain lands in the De Soto National Forest, Mississippi, which comprise approximately four thousand five hundred and sixty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Proposed Black Creek Wilderness", dated January 1979, and which shall be known as the Black Creek Wilderness; and

16 USC 1132 note.

(2) certain lands in the De Soto National Forest, Mississippi, which comprise approximately nine hundred and forty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Proposed Leaf Wilderness", dated January 1979, and which shall be known as the Leaf Wilderness.

MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of each 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. Each such 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 each such map and description may be made by the Secretary. Each such 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.

Public availability.

ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS

SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each 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.

16 USC 1131 note.

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EFFECT OF RARE II

SEC. 5. (a) The Congress finds that— Conservation.

(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 State of Mississippi, and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

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

(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 States other than Mississippi, such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Mississippi;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Mississippi 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; 16 USC 1600 note.

(3) areas in the State of Mississippi 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; 16 USC 1604.

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Mississippi 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 16 USC 1604.

16 USC 1600 note.

Prohibition.

(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 Mississippi for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) 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.

16 USC 1604.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to—

(1) those National Forest System roadless lands which were evaluated in the Delta unit plan dated February 1976; and

(2) National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Mississippi which are less than five thousand acres in size.

Approved October 19, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2808:

SENATE REPORT No. 98-613 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):
Oct. 2, considered and passed Senate.
Oct. 4, considered and passed House.