

Union Calendar No. 191

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 136

[Report No. 105-328]

A BILL

To amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

OCTOBER 21, 1997

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH (for himself and Mr. GOSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

OCTOBER 21, 1997

Additional sponsors: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. SHAW, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. FOLEY

OCTOBER 21, 1997

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 7, 1997]

A BILL

To amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection

and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

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. MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS**
 4 **AND ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER, EVER-**
 5 **GLADES NATIONAL PARK.**

6 *(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:*

7 *(1) Marjory Stoneman Douglas, through her*
 8 *book, “The Everglades: River of Grass” (1947), de-*
 9 *finied the Everglades for the American people and for*
 10 *the world. Her book was the first to stimulate wide-*
 11 *spread understanding of the Everglades ecosystem and*
 12 *ultimately served to awaken the desire to restore its*
 13 *health.*

14 *(2) In her 107th year, Mrs. Douglas is the sole*
 15 *surviving member of the original group of people who*
 16 *devoted decades of selfless effort to establish Everglades*
 17 *National Park.*

18 *(3) When the water supply and ecology of the*
 19 *Everglades, both within and outside the park, became*
 20 *threatened by drainage and development, Mrs. Doug-*
 21 *las dedicated the balance of her life to the defense of*
 22 *the Everglades through extraordinary personal effort*
 23 *and by inspiring countless other people to take action.*

1 (4) *For these and many other accomplishments,*
2 *the President awarded Mrs. Douglas the Medal of*
3 *Freedom on Earth Day, 1994.*

4 (5) *Ernest F. Coe (1886–1951) was a leader in*
5 *the creation of Everglades National Park. He orga-*
6 *nized the Tropic Everglades National Park Associa-*
7 *tion in 1928 and was widely regarded as the “Father*
8 *of Everglades National Park”.*

9 (6) *As a landscape architect, Mr. Coe’s vision for*
10 *the park recognized the need to protect south Florida’s*
11 *diverse wildlife and their habitats for future genera-*
12 *tions. His original park proposal included lands and*
13 *waters subsequently protected within Everglades Na-*
14 *tional Park, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and*
15 *the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.*

16 (7) *Mr. Coe’s leadership, selfless devotion, and*
17 *commitment to achieving this vision culminated in*
18 *the authorization of Everglades National Park by*
19 *Congress in 1934. Afterwards, Mr. Coe fought tire-*
20 *lessly and lobbied strenuously for establishment of the*
21 *park, finally realizing his dream in 1947. He accom-*
22 *plished much of this work at his own expense, which*
23 *dramatically demonstrated his commitment to estab-*
24 *lishment of the park.*

1 (b) *PURPOSE.*—*It is the purpose of this section to com-*
 2 *memorate the vision, leadership, and enduring contribu-*
 3 *tions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Ernest F. Coe in*
 4 *the protection of the Everglades and the establishment of*
 5 *Everglades National Park.*

6 (c) *MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS.*—

7 (1) *REDESIGNATION.*—*Section 401(3) of the Na-*
 8 *tional Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law*
 9 *95–625; 92 Stat. 3490; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is*
 10 *amended by striking out “to be known as the Ever-*
 11 *glades Wilderness” and inserting “to be known as the*
 12 *Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness to commemo-*
 13 *rate the vision and leadership shown by Mrs. Douglas*
 14 *in the protection of the Everglades and the establish-*
 15 *ment of Everglades National Park”.*

16 (2) *NOTICE OF REDESIGNATION.*—*As part of the*
 17 *redesignation of the “Everglades Wilderness” as the*
 18 *“Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness” under para-*
 19 *graph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall provide*
 20 *such notification of the redesignation by signs, mate-*
 21 *rials, maps, markers, interpretive programs, and*
 22 *other means (including changes in existing signs, ma-*
 23 *terials, maps, and markers) as will adequately inform*
 24 *the public of the redesignation of the wilderness area*
 25 *and the reasons therefor.*

1 (3) *REFERENCES.*—Any reference in any law,
 2 regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of
 3 the United States to the “Everglades Wilderness”
 4 shall be considered to be a reference to “Marjory
 5 Stoneman Douglas Wilderness”.

6 (d) *ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.*—

7 (1) *DESIGNATION.*—Section 103 of the Ever-
 8 glades National Park Protection and Expansion Act
 9 of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r-7) is amended by adding at
 10 the end the following new subsection:

11 “(f) *ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.*—Upon comple-
 12 tion of construction of the main visitor center facility at
 13 the headquarters of Everglades National Park, the Secretary
 14 of the Interior shall designate the visitor center facility as
 15 ‘The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center’ to commemorate the vi-
 16 sion and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the establishment
 17 and protection of Everglades National Park.”.

18 (2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Subsection (e)
 19 of such section is amended by striking “VISITOR CEN-
 20 TER” and inserting “MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS
 21 VISITOR CENTER”.

22 (3) *TECHNICAL CORRECTION.*—Subsection (c)(2)
 23 of such section is amended by striking “personally-
 24 owned” and inserting “personally-owned”.