

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4092

To establish the Mountaintown National Scenic Area in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

Mr. DEAL of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Mountaintown National Scenic Area in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mountaintown Na-
5 tional Scenic Area Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. MOUNTAINTOWN NATIONAL SCENIC AREA, CHAT-**
7 **TAHOOCHEE NATIONAL FOREST, GEORGIA.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in
9 the Chattahoochee National Forest in the State of Georgia

1 the Mountaintown National Scenic Area (in this section
2 referred to as the “scenic area”) consisting of approxi-
3 mately 13,382 acres, as generally depicted on the map en-
4 titled “Mountaintown Proposed Scenic Area—Chattahoo-
5 chee National Forest, Georgia” and dated May 3, 2006.

6 (b) MAP AND DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as prac-
7 ticable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a final
9 map and boundary description of the scenic area. The map
10 and description shall have the same force and effect as
11 if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may cor-
12 rect clerical and typographical errors in the map and
13 boundary description. The map and boundary description
14 shall be on file and available for public inspection in the
15 Office of the Chief of the Forest Service. In the case of
16 any discrepancy between the acreage and the map referred
17 to in subsection (a) and the map and boundary description
18 required by this subsection, the map and boundary de-
19 scription required by this subsection shall control.

20 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

21 (1) PURPOSES.—The Secretary shall manage
22 the scenic area for the purposes of—

23 (A) ensuring the appropriate protection
24 and preservation of the scenic quality, water

1 quality, natural characteristics, and water re-
2 sources of the area;

3 (B) protecting and managing vegetation in
4 the area to provide wildlife and fish habitat,
5 consistent with subparagraph (A);

6 (C) providing parcels within the area that
7 may develop characteristics of old-growth for-
8 ests; and

9 (D) providing a variety of recreation op-
10 portunities, consistent with the preceding pur-
11 poses.

12 (2) PRIORITY.—In the case of a conflict be-
13 tween the management purposes specified in para-
14 graph (1) and the laws and regulations generally ap-
15 plicable to the National Forest System, the manage-
16 ment purposes shall take precedence.

17 (d) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than three years
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall develop a management plan for the scenic area as
20 an amendment to the land and resource management plan
21 for the Chattahoochee National Forest. The amendment
22 shall conform to the requirements of this section. Nothing
23 in this section shall require the Secretary to revise the
24 land and resource management plan for the Chattahoo-
25 chee National Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest

1 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of
2 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

3 (e) ROADS.—After the date of the enactment of this
4 Act, no new roads shall be constructed or established with-
5 in the scenic area, except that this prohibition shall not
6 be construed to deny access to private lands or interests
7 therein in the scenic area.

8 (f) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—No timber harvest
9 shall be allowed within the scenic area, except as may be
10 necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and
11 to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwith-
12 standing the foregoing, the Secretary may engage in vege-
13 tation manipulation practices for maintenance of existing
14 wildlife clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be har-
15 vested for personal use along perimeter roads under such
16 conditions as the Secretary may impose.

17 (g) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—Motorized travel shall not
18 be permitted within the scenic area, except that the Sec-
19 retary may authorize motorized travel within the scenic
20 area as necessary for administrative use in furtherance of
21 the management purposes specified in subsection (c)(1)
22 and in support of wildlife management projects in exist-
23 ence as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

24 (h) FIRE.—Wildfires in the scenic area shall be sup-
25 pressed in a manner consistent with the management pur-

1 poses specified in subsection (c)(1), using such means as
2 the Secretary considers appropriate.

3 (i) INSECTS AND DISEASE.—Insect and disease out-
4 breaks may be controlled in the scenic area to maintain
5 scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to
6 visitors, or protect private lands.

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

9 (k) MINING WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing
10 rights, all federally owned lands in the scenic area are
11 hereby withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under
12 the mining laws of the United States and from leasing
13 claims under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws of
14 the United States, including amendments to such laws.

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