

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1975

To designate additions to the Rich Hole Wilderness and the Rough Mountain Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2017

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To designate additions to the Rich Hole Wilderness and the Rough Mountain Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

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 “Virginia Wilderness
5 Additions Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO ROUGH MOUNTAIN AND RICH HOLE**
 2 **WILDERNESSES.**

3 Section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132
 4 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is
 5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain
 7 land in the George Washington National Forest
 8 comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally
 9 depicted as the ‘Rough Mountain Addition’ on the
 10 map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NA-
 11 TIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I –
 12 Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions –
 13 Land and Resources Management Plan Final Envi-
 14 ronmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4,
 15 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain
 16 Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).

17 “(22) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

18 “(A) DESIGNATION.—Certain land in the
 19 George Washington National Forest comprising
 20 approximately 4,600 acres, as generally de-
 21 picted as the ‘Rich Hole Addition’ on the map
 22 entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NA-
 23 TIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative
 24 I – Selected Alternative Management Prescrip-
 25 tions – Land and Resources Management Plan
 26 Final Environmental Impact Statement’ and

1 dated March 4, 2014, which shall be incor-
2 porated in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area des-
3 ignated by paragraph (2) on the earlier of—

4 “(i) the date on which the Secretary
5 of Agriculture publishes in the Federal
6 Register notice that the activities per-
7 mitted under subparagraph (C) have been
8 completed; or

9 “(ii) the date that is 5 years after the
10 date of enactment of the Rich Hole and
11 Rough Mountain Wilderness Additions Act.

12 “(B) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided
13 in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall man-
14 age the wilderness area designated under sub-
15 paragraph (A) in accordance with the Wilder-
16 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

17 “(C) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AC-
18 TIVITIES.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To enhance nat-
20 ural ecosystems within the Rich Hole Addi-
21 tion by implementing certain activities to
22 improve water quality and aquatic passage,
23 as set forth in the Forest Service docu-
24 ment entitled ‘Decision Notice for the
25 Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Man-

1 agement Project’ and dated December
2 2015, the Secretary of Agriculture may use
3 motorized equipment and mechanized
4 transport in the Rich Hole Addition under
5 subparagraph (A) until the date on which
6 the Rich Hole Addition is incorporated into
7 the Rich Hole Wilderness under that sub-
8 paragraph.

9 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out
10 clause (i), the Secretary of Agriculture, to
11 the maximum extent practicable, shall use
12 the minimum tool or administrative prac-
13 tice necessary to carry out that clause with
14 the least amount of adverse impact on wil-
15 derness character and resources.”.

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