

Sánchez, Linda	Snyder	Visclosky
T.	Solis	Walberg
Sanchez, Loretta	Souder	Walden (OR)
Barbanes	Space	Walsh (NY)
Saxton	Spratt	Walz (MN)
Schakowsky	Stark	Wamp
Schiff	Stearns	Wasserman
Schmidt	Stupak	Schultz
Schwartz	Sullivan	Waters
Scott (GA)	Sutton	Watson
Scott (VA)	Tancredo	Watt
Sensenbrenner	Tanner	Waxman
Serrano	Tauscher	Weiner
Sessions	Taylor	Welch (VT)
Sestak	Terry	Weldon (FL)
Shadegg	Thompson (CA)	Weller
Shays	Thompson (MS)	Westmoreland
Shea-Porter	Thornberry	Wexler
Shimkus	Tiahrt	Whitfield
Shuler	Tiberi	Wicker
Shuster	Tierney	Wilson (NM)
Simpson	Towns	Wilson (SC)
Sires	Tsongas	Wolf
Skelton	Turner	Wu
Slaughter	Udall (CO)	Wynn
Smith (NE)	Udall (NM)	Yarmuth
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Young (AK)
Smith (TX)	Van Hollen	Young (FL)
Smith (WA)	Velázquez	

NAYS—6

Abercrombie	Duncan	Kucinich
Costello	Flake	Rohrabacher

NOT VOTING—22

Barrett (SC)	Davis, Tom	Paul
Bilbray	Feeney	Peterson (PA)
Bishop (UT)	Hunter	Reyes
Carson	Issa	Sherman
Conyers	Jindal	Wilson (OH)
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Woolsey
Cubin	McKeon	
Davis (IL)	Moore (KS)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have less than 2 minutes to vote.

□ 1706

Mr. ABERCROMBIE changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. PENCE and Mr. LOEBSACK changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include therein extraneous material on H.R. 1011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

VIRGINIA RIDGE AND VALLEY ACT OF 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 763, I call up the bill (H.R. 1011) to designate additional National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia as wilderness or a wilderness study area, to designate the Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, to estab-

lish the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, to provide for the development of trail plans for the wilderness areas and scenic areas, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1011

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Designation of additional National Forest System lands in Jefferson National Forest, Virginia, as wilderness or a wilderness study area.

Sec. 3. Designation of Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.

Sec. 4. Designation of Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.

Sec. 5. Trail plan and development.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA, AS WILDERNESS OR A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.—Section 1 of Public Law 100-326 (102 Stat. 584; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), as amended by Public Law 106-471 (114 Stat. 2057), is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "System—" and inserting "System:";

(2) by striking "certain" at the beginning of paragraphs (1) through (8) and inserting "Certain":

(3) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraphs (1) through (6) and inserting a period;

(4) by striking ";" and" at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting a period; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(9) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,769 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East' and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Brush Mountain East Wilderness.

"(10) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 4,794 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East' and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Brush Mountain Wilderness.

"(11) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 4,223 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Seng Mountain and Raccoon Branch' and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Raccoon Branch Wilderness.

"(12) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,270 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Stone Mountain' and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Stone Mountain Wilderness.

"(13) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 8,470 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Hunting Camp Creek and Garden Mountain' and dated February 2007, and

which shall be known as the Hunting Camp Creek Wilderness.

"(14) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,291 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Hunting Camp Creek and Garden Mountain' and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Garden Mountain Wilderness.

"(15) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 5,476 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Mountain Lake Additions' and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Mountain Lake Wilderness designated by section 2(6) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105).

"(16) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 308 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Lewis Fork Addition and Little Wilson Creek Additions' and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Lewis Fork Wilderness designated by section 2(3) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105).

"(17) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 1,845 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Lewis Fork Addition and Little Wilson Creek Additions' and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Little Wilson Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(5) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105).

"(18) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 2,249 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Shawvers Run Additions' and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Shawvers Run Wilderness designated by paragraph (4).

"(19) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 1,203 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Peters Mountain Addition' and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Peters Mountain Wilderness designated by section 2(7) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105).

"(20) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 263 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Kimberling Creek Additions and Potential Wilderness Area' and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(2) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105)."

(b) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—Section 6(a) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3108) is amended—

(1) by striking "certain" at the beginning of paragraphs (1) through (4) and inserting "Certain":

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting a period;

(3) by striking ";" and" at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting a period; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,226 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area' and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area."

(c) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and

Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a map and legal description of each wilderness area designated or expanded by the amendments made by subsection (a) and of the Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area designated by the amendment made by subsection (b).

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and descriptions. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in the amendments made by subsection (a) or (b) and the corresponding map filed under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) NEW WILDERNESS AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the lands in the Jefferson National Forest designated as a new wilderness area by the amendments made by subsection (a) in accordance with this section and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that, with respect to such lands, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXPANDED WILDERNESS AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the lands in the Jefferson National Forest designated as wilderness and incorporated into an existing wilderness area by the amendments made by subsection (a) in accordance with this section, the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and other laws applicable to that wilderness area, except that, with respect to such lands, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF KIMBERLING CREEK POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 349 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Kimberling Creek Additions and Potential Wilderness Area" and dated February 2007, are designated as a potential wilderness area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(2) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105).

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a map and legal description of potential wilderness area.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description referred to in paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and description. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in subsection (a) and the map filed under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (d) and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the potential wilderness area as wilderness pending its incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness.

(d) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of ecological restoration (including the elimination of non-native species, removal of illegal, unused, or decommissioned roads, and any other activities necessary to restore the natural ecosystems in the potential wilderness area), the Secretary of Agriculture may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the potential wilderness area until its incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness.

(2) LIMITATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to accomplish ecological restoration with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

(e) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness area shall be designated as wilderness and incorporated in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture publishes in the Federal Register notice that the conditions in the potential wilderness area that are incompatible with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have been removed; or

(2) the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, upon incorporation of the lands designated as wilderness under subsection (e) in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the lands in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other laws applicable to that wilderness area, except that, with respect to such lands, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date on which the lands are designated as wilderness under subsection (e).

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF SENG MOUNTAIN AND BEAR CREEK SCENIC AREAS, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The following National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia are hereby designated as National Scenic Areas (in this section referred to as the "scenic areas"):

(1) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 6,455 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Seng Mountain and Raccoon Branch" and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Seng Mountain National Scenic Area.

(2) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 5,128 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Bear Creek" and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Bear Creek National Scenic Area.

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a map and legal description of each of the scenic areas.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall

have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and descriptions. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in subsection (a) and the corresponding map filed under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) PURPOSES OF SCENIC AREAS.—The scenic areas are established for the purposes of—

(1) ensuring the protection and preservation of scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources;

(2) protecting wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph (1);

(3) protecting areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and

(4) providing a variety of recreation opportunities, consistent with the preceding paragraphs.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the scenic areas in accordance with this section and the laws and regulations generally applicable to the National Forest System. In the event of conflict between this section and other laws and regulations, this section shall take precedence.

(2) CONSISTENT USE.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the scenic areas as the Secretary finds will further the purposes for which the scenic areas are established.

(e) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop a management plan for the scenic areas consistent with this section. The management plan shall be developed as an amendment to the land and resource management plan for the Jefferson National Forest, except that nothing in this section requires the Secretary to revise the land and resource management plan for the Jefferson National Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(f) ROADS.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, no roads shall be established or constructed within the scenic areas, except that this prohibition shall not be construed to deny access to private lands or interests therein in the scenic areas.

(g) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—No timber harvest shall be allowed within the scenic areas, except as the Secretary of Agriculture finds necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Secretary may engage in vegetation manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested for personal use along perimeter roads under such conditions as the Secretary may impose.

(h) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—Motorized travel shall not be permitted within the scenic areas, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize motorized travel within the scenic areas—

(1) as necessary for administrative use in furtherance of the purposes of this section;

(2) in support of wildlife management projects in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(3) on Forest Development Road 9410 and 84b during deer and bear hunting seasons.

(i) FIRE.—Wildfires in the scenic area shall be suppressed in a manner consistent with the purposes of this section, using such means as the Secretary of Agriculture considers appropriate.

(j) INSECTS AND DISEASE.—Insect and disease outbreaks may be controlled in the scenic areas to maintain scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to visitors, or protect private lands.

(k) WATER.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the scenic areas so as to maintain and enhance water quality.

(l) MINING WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all federally owned lands in the scenic areas are withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws of the United States and from leasing claims under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws of the United States, including amendments to such laws.

SEC. 5. TRAIL PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TRAIL PLAN.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a trail plan for National Forest System lands described in this subsection in order to develop the following:

(1) Hiking and equestrian trails on the lands in the Jefferson National Forest designated as wilderness by the amendments made by section 2(a), in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(2) Nonmotorized recreation trails within the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas designated by section 4.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the trail plan in consultation with interested parties.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the trail plan, including the identification of priority trails for development.

(d) TRAIL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall develop a sustainable trail, using a contour curvilinear alignment, to provide a continuous connection for non-motorized travel between County Route 650 and Forest Development Road 4018 in Smyth County, Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 763, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1011

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Designation of additional National Forest System lands in Jefferson National Forest, Virginia, as wilderness or a wilderness study area.

Sec. 3. Designation of Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.

Sec. 4. Designation of Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.

Sec. 5. Trail plan and development.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA, AS WILDERNESS OR A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.—Section 1 of Public Law 100-326 (102 Stat. 584; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), as amended by Public Law 106-471 (114 Stat. 2057), is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “System—” and inserting “System:”;

(2) by striking “certain” at the beginning of paragraphs (1) through (8) and inserting “Certain”;

(3) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraphs (1) through (6) and inserting a period;

(4) by striking “; and” at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting a period; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(9) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,769 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Brush Mountain East Wilderness.”

“(10) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 4,794 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Brush Mountain Wilderness.”

“(11) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 4,223 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Seng Mountain and Raccoon Branch’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Raccoon Branch Wilderness.”

“(12) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,270 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Stone Mountain’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Stone Mountain Wilderness.”

“(13) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 8,470 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Hunting Camp Creek and Garden Mountain’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Hunting Camp Creek Wilderness.”

“(14) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,291 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Hunting Camp Creek and Garden Mountain’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Garden Mountain Wilderness.”

“(15) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 5,476 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Mountain Lake Additions’ and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Mountain Lake Wilderness designated by section 2(6) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105). ”

“(16) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 308 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Lewis Fork Addition and Little Wilson Creek Additions’ and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Lewis Fork Wilderness designated by section 2(3) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105). ”

“(17) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 1,845 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Lewis Fork Addition and Little Wilson Creek Additions’ and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Little Wilson Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(5) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105). ”

“(18) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 2,249 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Shawvers Run Additions’ and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Shawvers Run Wilderness designated by paragraph (4). ”

“(19) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 1,203 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Peters Mountain Addition’ and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Peters Mountain Wilderness designated by section 2(7) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105). ”

“(20) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 263 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Kimberling Creek Additions and Potential Wilderness Area’ and dated February 2007, and which are hereby incorporated in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(2) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105). ”

(b) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—Section 6(a) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3108) is amended—

(1) by striking “certain” at the beginning of paragraphs (1) through (4) and inserting “Certain”;

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting a period;

(3) by striking “; and” at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting a period; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 3,226 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled ‘Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area’ and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area.”

(c) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a map and legal description of each wilderness area designated or expanded by the amendments made by subsection (a) and of the Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area designated by the amendment made by subsection (b).

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and descriptions. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in the amendments made by subsection (a) or (b) and the corresponding map filed under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) NEW WILDERNESS AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the lands in the Jefferson National Forest designated as a new wilderness area by the amendments made by subsection (a) in accordance with this section and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that, with respect to such lands, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXPANDED WILDERNESS AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the lands in the Jefferson National Forest designated as wilderness and incorporated into an existing wilderness area by the amendments made by subsection (a) in accordance with this section, the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and other laws applicable to that wilderness area, except that, with respect to such lands, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF KIMBERLING CREEK POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain lands in the Jefferson National

Forest, which comprise approximately 349 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Kimberling Creek Additions and Potential Wilderness Area" and dated February 2007, are designated as a potential wilderness area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(2) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-586; 98 Stat. 3105).

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a map and legal description of potential wilderness area.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description referred to in paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and description. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in subsection (a) and the map filed under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (d) and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall manage the potential wilderness area as wilderness pending its incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness.

(d) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of ecological restoration (including the elimination of non-native species, removal of illegal, unused, or decommissioned roads, and any other activities necessary to restore the natural ecosystems in the potential wilderness area), the Secretary of Agriculture may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the potential wilderness area until its incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness.

(2) LIMITATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to accomplish ecological restoration with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

(e) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness area shall be designated as wilderness and incorporated in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness on the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture publishes in the Federal Register notice that the conditions in the potential wilderness area that are incompatible with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have been removed; or

(2) the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, upon incorporation of the lands designated as wilderness under subsection (e) in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the lands in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other laws applicable to that wilderness area, except that, with respect to such lands, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date on which the lands are designated as wilderness under subsection (e).

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF SENG MOUNTAIN AND BEAR CREEK SCENIC AREAS, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The following National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia are hereby designated as National Scenic Areas (in this section referred to as the "scenic areas"):

(1) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 6,455

acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Seng Mountain and Raccoon Branch" and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Seng Mountain National Scenic Area.

(2) Certain lands in the Jefferson National Forest, which comprise approximately 5,128 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Bear Creek" and dated February 2007, and which shall be known as the Bear Creek National Scenic Area.

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a map and legal description of each of the scenic areas.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and descriptions. In the case of any discrepancy between the acreage specified in subsection (a) and the corresponding map filed under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) PURPOSES OF SCENIC AREAS.—The scenic areas are established for the purposes of—

(1) ensuring the protection and preservation of scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources;

(2) protecting wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph (1);

(3) protecting areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and

(4) providing a variety of recreation opportunities, consistent with the preceding paragraphs.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the scenic areas in accordance with this section and the laws and regulations generally applicable to the National Forest System. In the event of conflict between this section and other laws and regulations, this section shall take precedence.

(2) CONSISTENT USE.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the scenic areas as the Secretary finds will further the purposes for which the scenic areas are established.

(e) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop a management plan for the scenic areas consistent with this section. The management plan shall be developed as an amendment to the land and resource management plan for the Jefferson National Forest, except that nothing in this section requires the Secretary to revise the land and resource management plan for the Jefferson National Forest pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(f) ROADS.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, no roads shall be established or constructed within the scenic areas, except that this prohibition shall not be construed to deny access to private lands or interests therein in the scenic areas.

(g) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—No timber harvest shall be allowed within the scenic areas, except as the Secretary of Agriculture finds necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Secretary may engage in vegetation manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested for personal use along perimeter roads under such conditions as the Secretary may impose.

(h) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—Motorized travel shall not be permitted within the scenic areas, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize motorized travel within the scenic areas—

(1) as necessary for administrative use in furtherance of the purposes of this section;

(2) in support of wildlife management projects in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(3) on Forest Development Roads 9410 and 84b during deer and bear hunting seasons and on that portion of Forest Development Road 6261 designated on the map referred to in subsection (a)(2) as "open seasonally" during deer and bear hunting seasons.

(i) FIRE.—Wildfires in the scenic area shall be suppressed in a manner consistent with the purposes of this section, using such means as the Secretary of Agriculture considers appropriate.

(j) INSECTS AND DISEASE.—Insect and disease outbreaks may be controlled in the scenic areas to maintain scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to visitors, or protect private lands.

(k) WATER.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the scenic areas so as to maintain and enhance water quality.

(l) MINING WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all federally owned lands in the scenic areas are withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws of the United States and from leasing claims under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws of the United States, including amendments to such laws.

SEC. 5. TRAIL PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TRAIL PLAN.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a trail plan for National Forest System lands described in this subsection in order to develop the following:

(1) Hiking and equestrian trails on the lands in the Jefferson National Forest designated as wilderness by the amendments made by section 2(a), in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(2) Nonmotorized recreation trails within the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas designated by section 4.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the trail plan in consultation with interested parties.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the trail plan, including the identification of priority trails for development.

(d) TRAIL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall develop a sustainable trail, using a contour curvilinear alignment, to provide a continuous connection for non-motorized travel between County Route 650 and Forest Development Road 4018 in Smyth County, Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After 1 hour of debate on the bill, as amended, it shall be in order to consider the amendment printed in House Report 110-403 if offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered read, and shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr.

SCOTT) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1011, the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007, introduced by my colleague from Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, Congressman RICK BOUCHER. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this important conservation legislation in this Congress and in the last Congress and I commend Congressman BOUCHER for all his hard work on this bill over the years.

This bipartisan bill will protect approximately 54,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia through the designation of additional wilderness areas and the creation of new National Scenic Areas. Although mechanized traffic and equipment would be prohibited in much of these areas, recreational activities would be permitted and encouraged throughout these new designations contributing to the local economy of Southwest Virginia. Protecting these additional acres of pristine forest will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of Southwest Virginia. We must also be vigilant in protecting environmentally sensitive areas by promoting responsible land use plans, which this bill does.

The bill before us today was reported out of the Natural Resources Committee by voice vote, is endorsed by the U.S. Forest Service, and is supported by Virginia Governor TIM Kaine, members from both parties in the Virginia delegation, both of Virginia's Senators, JOHN WARNER and JIM WEBB, the Board of Supervisors in Bland County, Craig County, Montgomery County, and Smyth County, and various environmental organizations, including the League of Conservation Voters, the Garden Club of Virginia, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and the Virginia Wilderness Committee.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is vitally important to conservation efforts in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to guaranteeing that future generations of Americans can experience the natural wonder and beauty of Southwest Virginia. I applaud Congressman BOUCHER and his staff for all of their hard work on this bill. I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation and I encourage each of them to experience firsthand the pristine natural beauty of Southwest Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1011, the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act, was introduced by my friend and neighboring colleague, Representative RICK BOUCHER.

The bill designates nearly 40,000 acres in the Jefferson National Forest as wilderness and nearly 12,000 acres as National Scenic Areas. These natural spaces represent some of the true wild gems of the Commonwealth of Virginia and my State of West Virginia.

H.R. 1011 is a strong bipartisan measure that is cosponsored by several other representatives from Virginia. H.R. 1011 also has broad support from Governor Tim Kaine, both Virginia

Senators, four county boards of supervisors, local businesses, State organizations, hunters and faith groups.

Each of the areas within H.R. 1011 were either recommended for wilderness designation in the 2004 Jefferson National Forest Plan or have been endorsed by the local board of supervisors of the relevant county. All the areas of H.R. 1011 are located within the district of Representative BOUCHER, who has been a true leader and fighter for this legislation and deserves the commendation of us all.

All are located within his District, as I said, with the exception of a 555 wilderness-acre addition that I am proud to note is in my congressional district in Monroe County, West Virginia. Wilderness designation is not new to this portion of Virginia. In addition to designating six new wilderness areas, the legislation provides for additions to six existing wilderness areas.

The people of this area are well acquainted with wilderness, and H.R. 1011 reflects their desire to preserve these natural treasures. By designating wilderness, the Congress has long recognized that there are some places that should be left to the management of Mother Nature and that the all-knowing Creator's careful handiwork is something worth conserving and cherishing.

H.R. 1011 is a well-crafted and meritorious measure that has broad support for those who live in the area and their elected officials.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill in the House today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I come from a State which has more of its land locked up in wilderness than any other State, 58 million acres. This is larger than the entire State of New York and accounts for 56 percent of all the wilderness in the United States, so I think I know wilderness. I know that a lot of wilderness in Alaska is designated for reasons that have little to do with the stated goals of the Wilderness Act.

The designations have blocked vital uses of these lands and blocked access to State and private resources that we Alaskans were promised when we entered statehood. There have been and still are major consequences for what Congress did in 1980. In the East, where most of you come from, that is not always the case.

All I can say is that if this is what Mr. BOUCHER and his constituents want in Virginia, then good luck. I can guess that one day, I think that one day they will regret this action. Given Virginia's population growth, the severe risk of forest fires, such as they are in California today, caused by sustained drought, I believe all but two counties have been declared disaster areas by the Governor last week, problems with gypsy moths and other agricultural threats to this area and the dampening effect that wilderness restrictions can have on the development of adjacent

areas, you may wonder why you have brought this upon yourself. We should be looking to give the Forest Service more tools to manage our lands, not taking them away, which is exactly what wilderness does.

Once this bill becomes law, our constituents, your constituents, may find that they may not be able to burn wood in their fireplaces that keep them warm in the winter because their quality of wilderness must be protected, or that a new school or hospital can't be built because the view shed for the wilderness could be affected. People are even talking about "smellscapes" when it comes to wilderness areas, so enjoy your Weber grill right now while you can.

The committee should also know that H.R. 1011 designates nearly 27,000 acres of wilderness above what was recommended by the Forest Service. This is contrary to the recently revised Jefferson National Forest Plan, which took 11 years, millions of dollars, and extensive public involvement to create. We asked for this study. They followed the rules, but now we are ignoring the professional land managers.

In addition, H.R. 1011 will endanger citizens living near this proposed wilderness area by tying the hands of the Forest Service, who need to perform proactive treatments that could reduce the risk of wildfires. Wildfires, I keep stressing that because we are seeing what is happening in California. If they cleared off those forests around those homes, they would not be burning today, but that was prohibited.

Nonqualifying areas are now being actively managed for endangered threatened species protection, and this could come to an end.

The amendment filed by Mr. GOODLATTE helps mitigate some of these issues, and I will strongly support the amendment. Most notably, the amendment will remove 26 acres which contain a power line and remove 1,263 acres from the proposed designation to allow continued use of the Barton Gap Motorized trail and Wildlife Habitat Management in key areas.

I could go on and on about this. I just want to warn people, it is not the area we are talking about; it is the Wilderness Act itself, and it should be upgraded. I encourage my chairman to do so so that we can address those problems that can occur from the designation of wilderness, taking care of gypsy moths, taking care of the fires, taking care of the ability to access and to have the availability of the area for public use. If we do not do that, then I think we are doing ourselves a great mistake.

I do not live in this area. I am not affected by it. That's why, very frankly, I am not raising some of the objections that I should have raised to it.

I think you will learn, though, in the long run, you are not doing yourselves a favor. The Forest Service themselves can manage this land in a manner that will take and provide for the people. It

does not have to be designated as a wilderness area.

Again, it has already been done. We have moved it out of committee, and I will say, again, may I not be on this floor when you come back to say we have to revise it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to yield 5 minutes to my dear friend and the very powerful subcommittee Chair of Energy and Air Quality, Mr. BOUCHER.

(Mr. BOUCHER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) who, with such distinction, chairs the Committee on Natural Resources, for his leadership and his very able assistance in bringing this measure to the House floor today.

Earlier this year, I introduced the legislation, along with other members of Virginia's House delegation. In fact, original cosponsors of this legislation comprise a majority of Virginia's House delegation, and it is a bipartisan majority of that delegation. And I want to express my appreciation to our colleagues from Virginia, Representatives WOLF, DAVIS, SCOTT and MORAN for coauthoring the bill, along with me, and for their strong support of this effort. I would also note, Mr. Speaker, that the legislation was coauthored by our recently departed colleague, Mrs. Davis as well.

Again, on a bipartisan basis, Virginia's United States Senators have introduced a measure identical to the bill that is under consideration today.

The Virginia Ridge and Valley Act offers needed protection to 53,000 acres of national forest land in the congressional district that I have the privilege of representing. It extends protection to approximately 550 acres of the Jefferson National Forest situated in our neighboring State of West Virginia, in the congressional district represented by Chairman RAHALL.

Of the total acreage protected, 43,000 acres will receive the wilderness designation, and 10,000 acres will become new national scenic areas. These designations confer both economic and environmental benefits that are of great importance to our region.

Virginia's national forest provides an excellent outdoor experience with our State's highest mountains, fast-flowing rivers and superb hunting, camping, fishing, backpacking, winter sports and other activities.

Our existing wilderness areas are treasured by a growing number of travelers who collectively are boosting Virginia's tourism economy. In fact, tourism is among the fastest growing of all the industries in my congressional district; and our existing wilderness areas, which are a haven for outdoor activities and recreation of various

kinds, are a significant contributor to that current growth in the economy within my region.

The protections we're extending today for lands containing rare treasures of Virginia's natural heritage and the permanent protection that will then be afforded will further enhance our region's travel economy. These designations also protect old-growth timber, wildlife habitat, and our region's clean water resources.

Virginia has a long and proud history of resource conservation and protection of our diverse ecosystems. We have continual awareness of the unique role that our natural landscape plays in our culture and in our State's history. That awareness is reflected in the bipartisan support for this measure in both our House and Senate delegations. It is reflected in the endorsement of this bill by local governments in my congressional district, and it is reflected in the endorsements for the bill of numerous civic organizations and literally of scores of local businesses.

With thanks to the six Virginia co-sponsors, and all who have assisted us, and particular thanks to Chairman RAHALL of the Natural Resources Committee, and his outstanding staff, I urge passage of the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act.

Over the last several weeks, I have been engaged in discussions with my friend and colleague, the gentleman from our neighboring Sixth Congressional district in Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) regarding the possibility of adjusting the boundaries of some of the areas receiving protection in this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE will be offering an amendment shortly that reflects our conversations and our agreement to adjust some of those boundaries. I'll be urging the adoption of Mr. GOODLATTE's amendment when that amendment is offered later this afternoon.

I, again, thank the gentleman from West Virginia for yielding this time to me.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman that just spoke and his presentation. I just, again, wish that people would understand it's not the wilderness itself; it's how the act has been written. And if you think you're going to make a living off of coffee shops and tourism, these are low-grade paying jobs. I've seen it happen. I've seen my town of Ketchikan. We created a forest that we can't harvest and we took \$80,000 jobs now down to the minimum wage. That will happen too. So I just, and it's too late, it's your district. You believe in what you say, and I commend you for it. But this is not the economy which I see, serving those that come from the larger urban areas, the elitists, as I call it.

And this area, by the way, was farmed at one time, as you know, and timbered and mined. People had jobs that provided and produced. We are rapidly becoming a Nation of consump-

tion and of no production, of pleasure and no sweat.

Having said that, I have no other speakers, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in 1964 Congress created the Wilderness Preservation System to recognize and protect pure, unspoiled areas of land. With a wilderness designation, the land is off-limits to development, natural resource extraction and most forms of mechanized activity. Congress created this system as they witnessed these natural splendors continuing to disappear. Forty years later, lands remain eligible for such a designation, but Congress has failed to provide them protection.

These areas are rarer today than ever before. Failure to protect them now would leave them vulnerable to actions that could jeopardize the inherent qualities that make them eligible to be classified as wilderness.

With passage, the House will designate 43,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest as wilderness and add 12,000 acres to the National Scenic Areas inventory. With this action we will ensure our nation's children and grandchildren visiting our great Commonwealth in the years to come, will have the same access to pristine lands as was available to us and those who preceded us.

The solitude that can be found in these areas is something every American should experience. It harkens back to the founding of this great nation and provides an insight into the minds of those gone by.

As we continue to experience economic gains, we can also expect continued population growth, sprawl and strain on our environment. With these combined factors, our unspoiled lands grow increasingly vulnerable, but they also grow increasingly valuable.

Let us act to protect them now. Protect them for their beauty. Protect them for their purity. Protect them for our children.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110-403 offered by Mr. GOODLATTE:

Page 3, line 20, strike "3,769 acres" and insert "3,743 acres".

Page 3, line 22, strike "February" and insert "October".

Page 12, line 23, strike "6,455 acres" and insert "5,192 acres".

Page 12, line 25, strike "February" and insert "October".

Page 18, beginning line 6, strike subsection (d) and insert the following new subsection:

(d) TRAIL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall develop a sustainable trail, using a contour curvilinear alignment, to provide for non-motorized travel along the southern boundary of the Raccoon Branch Wilderness established by section 1(1) of Public Law 100-326, as added by (2)(a) of this Act, connecting to Forest Development Road 49352 in Smyth County, Virginia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 763, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE)

and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer an amendment which represents an agreement just referenced by my friend and colleague, Mr. BOUCHER, and myself regarding some of the concerns with regard to H.R. 1011, the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act. And I'd like to thank Congressman BOUCHER and congratulate him for his hard work on this legislation over a number of years, and thank him for working with me to address some of these important issues.

H.R. 1011, the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act, creates over 40,000 acres of wilderness, wilderness study, and potential wilderness and over 11,000 acres of national scenic areas in the Jefferson National Forest in southwest Virginia.

Mr. BOUCHER and I share the Jefferson National Forest between our districts. Although this bill affects only national forest land within Mr. BOUCHER's district, any change in how the forest is managed will impact my district.

My amendment addresses three areas. First, it modifies the boundary of the Brush Mountain East Wilderness Area, removing 26 acres containing a power line which is not consistent with wilderness qualities.

Second, the amendment changes the boundaries of the Seng Mountain National Scenic Area, removing 1,263 acres from the area to allow continued use of the Barton Gap Motorized Trail and to allow for wildlife habitat management.

Finally, the amendment changes the trail language for the Raccoon Branch Area, allowing the Forest Service more flexibility when building the trail.

While I'm pleased to offer this amendment, it does not resolve all the concerns I have with the bill. The fact still remains that this bill ignores the recommendations of the professional land managers working in the Jefferson National Forest by designating 15,000 additional wilderness acres not recommended in the forest plan.

When the House Agriculture Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1011 earlier this month, several witnesses highlighted serious concerns with these additional wilderness areas. These experts noted forest health and wildfire risks, increased recreation conflicts, lack of suitability as wilderness and wildlife management needs.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason why Congress mandated that each national forest create a forest plan. Forest plans help the land management agencies find a balance among all the conflicting interests in national forests and factor in the latest science and cite specific qualities unique to each forest. Professional land managers then use this information to chart a path for managing each forest for the coming years.

The Jefferson Forest Plan, finalized in 2004, was developed over a 12-year

period and involved countless scientists, land managers, interest groups and interested citizens. Throughout the process, the Forest Service held over 100 technical meetings and received over 15,000 public comments.

This local approach is what Congress intended when it established the national forests. Instead of resisting this localized process, H.R. 1011 tells the professional land managers and the public participants that the forest plan is not important. It says that no matter how much discussion and compromise goes on at the local level, or how good the science is, Congress knows best how to manage the national forest.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the best way to manage the Nation's public forests. And that's why I have worked with my colleague, Mr. BOUCHER, to try to rectify these concerns. Until this bill is more reflective of the local perspectives and expert opinions in the forest plan, I will continue to have concerns with H.R. 1011.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment, however, because I do think that the gentleman has been very forthcoming in working with us and hearing our concerns. And I hope that that will continue as this process moves forward, and I would hope that the chairman of the Resources Committee would work with us as well to continue to address concerns that we have as the bill moves through the other body.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his hard work on this legislation, for his willingness to work with me in addressing these concerns. I wish more had been addressed, but I thank him for where he has come.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the amendment?

Mr. BOUCHER. I would say to the Speaker that I rise for purposes of claiming the time in opposition, although I will not actually oppose the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

(Mr. BOUCHER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for the good work that we have been able to do together on the amendment that he offers this afternoon. I want to thank him for the time that he and I have expended in conversations about the subject matter the amendment addresses, and for the considerable amount of time that his very capable staff and mine have also expended on this matter. The staffs have focused on it a bit more than we have.

Collectively, I think we've done a very good job in addressing a range of

the concerns that the gentleman from Virginia last expressed. These adjustments are being made in a manner which I think improves the bill, and it is my intention to urge that the amendment be adopted.

Under the amendment, 26 acres will be removed from the Brush Mountain East Wilderness Area in order to ensure that an existing power line is not within the wilderness boundary.

Another adjustment is of 1,263 acres, and that is in the Seng Mountain Scenic Area, which will carve out a motorcycle trail and an area appropriate for bear habitat management.

Another portion of the amendment provides greater flexibility for the Forest Service regarding trail construction adjacent to the Raccoon Branch designated area.

And as I indicated, these changes improve the legislation, and I urge adoption of the amendment which makes them.

As for the underlying bill, I would point out that this is truly a bipartisan measure. It is cosponsored in this body by a majority of Virginia's House delegation, including three original Republican sponsors, three original Democratic sponsors.

In the other body, both of Virginia's United States Senators, on a bipartisan basis, have introduced the identical measure. And so the construction of this legislation arises from a deep bipartisan conversation that has proceeded over a number of years.

It also strongly reflects the desires of the people in the district that I have the privilege of representing. It is true that some of the areas added for protection in this measure go beyond what the forest plan devised by the Jefferson National Forest management had recommended.

□ 1730

But nowhere is it written that Congress making ultimate public policy is in some way disabled from adding areas for protection that go beyond what the agency suggests it would like to see.

We have incorporated the recommendations made in the forest plan, and we have added selected additional acreages that have been endorsed by the local governments, by the elected boards of supervisors that reflect the will of the people and the counties where these added areas are situated.

I would also note that large numbers of civic organizations and scores of locally owned businesses have endorsed the passage of this measure. And it clearly, given that broad base of support, bipartisan here, and among elected representatives, local businesses, civic organizations, and others in the district that I represent, clearly represents the will of what the people in that part of Virginia would like to have.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that our colleagues will join us in approving this legislation and in adopting the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOYLE). The gentleman has 30 seconds.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And I do thank both the gentlemen from Virginia. This is a good amendment. I urge the passage of this amendment. It does help the bill somewhat, and I think my colleagues would be wise to vote for it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 763, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the further amendment by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. LAMBORN. Yes, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Lamborn moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1011 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of section 2, add the following new subsection:

(e) MOTORIZED ACCESS IN EMERGENCIES.—The designation of lands as wilderness or a wilderness study area by an amendment made by this section does not prohibit the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats or the landing of aircraft or other forms of mechanical transport, on the designated lands when required in connection with an emergency involving the health and safety of persons, including search and rescue efforts or the response to an Amber Alert.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, the Wilderness Act is currently unclear as to when motorized access may be used for health and safety reasons in a wilderness area or in a wilderness study area.

This motion to recommit removes any ambiguity regarding the legality of responding to health and safety emergencies within the wilderness area designated by this bill.

Current law does not specifically authorize the use of motorized or mechanical equipment within wilderness

areas in response to health and safety emergencies. The provision in the Wilderness Act dealing with health and safety issues is in parentheses and does not clearly define what types of motorized vehicles may be allowed for emergencies.

The fact is that health, safety, and fire concerns merit more than a single phrase in parentheses, as is the case in the Wilderness Act of 1964. There are 3,600 words in the Wilderness Act. A mere 15 words are devoted to health and safety.

The bill we are considering, H.R. 1011, designates 15,000 more wilderness acres than what the Forest Service recommended in the Jefferson National Forest. This is far more than what Forest Service professionals think is warranted. So the bigger the area, the bigger the potential fire, the harder it is to find a missing child, for instance, when an Amber Alert is issued.

We cannot stand by and risk even a single human life, which is why we must begin to update the law to state clearly that a wilderness designation does not stop motorized access from being used for emergencies. The current ambiguity in the language, which this motion to recommit fixes, is just simply unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

This amendment does not threaten the wilderness designation. It just puts our priorities in the proper order. Human life must always be first.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Colorado's amendment would appear to be a restatement of what current law already is. And reading from that current law, it says, "Except as specifically provided for in this act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment," et cetera, et cetera.

So there are exceptions in current law for health and safety of persons. So I would say to the gentleman that the gentleman's recommittal motion is redundant with current law.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RAHALL. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Just briefly in response, I would like to say that the parenthetical phrase "including measures required in emergencies" is, I believe, unacceptably

vague. It should not have to be the case where a Forest supervisor has to go get attorneys and call the lawyers to say, In this case, here's the situation: Is a boat okay or do we have to use horseback or can we go on foot? It's just simply not clear enough.

Mr. RAHALL. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I would respond to the gentleman that if such were necessary, I would think that the Forest Service would come to us making these recommendations. But we have not received such recommendations from the Forest Service, and, therefore, the language is not necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 178, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 994]

YEAS—236

Aderholt	Crenshaw	Heller
Akin	Cuellar	Hensarling
Alexander	Culberson	Herger
Altman	Davis (KY)	Herseth Sandlin
Bachmann	Davis, David	Hill
Baker	Deal (GA)	Hobson
Barrett (SC)	Dent	Hodes
Barrow	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hoekstra
Bartlett (MD)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hulshof
Barton (TX)	Dicks	Inglis (SC)
Biggert	Donnelly	Jefferson
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Johnson (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Drake	Johnson, Sam
Blackburn	Dreier	Jones (NC)
Blunt	Duncan	Jordan
Boehner	Edwards	Kagen
Bonner	Ehlers	Kaptur
Bono	Ellsworth	Keller
Boozman	Emerson	King (IA)
Boren	English (PA)	King (NY)
Boustany	Eshoo	Kingston
Boyda (KS)	Everett	Kirk
Brady (TX)	Fallin	Klein (FL)
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Kline (MN)
Brown-Waite,	Flake	Knollenberg
Ginny	Forbes	Kuhl (NY)
Buchanan	Fortenberry	LaHood
Burgess	Fossella	Lamborn
Burton (IN)	Foxx	Lampson
Buyer	Franks (AZ)	Latham
Calvert	Frelenghuisen	LaTourette
Camp (MI)	Gallagly	Lewis (CA)
Campbell (CA)	Garrett (NJ)	Lewis (KY)
Cannon	Gerlach	Linder
Cantor	Giffords	LoBiondo
Capito	Gilchrest	Lucas
Cardoza	Gillibrand	Lungren, Daniel
Carney	Gingrey	E.
Carter	Gohmert	Mack
Castle	Goode	Mahoney (FL)
Chabot	Goodlatte	Manzullo
Chandler	Granger	Marchant
Coble	Graves	Marshall
Cole (OK)	Hall (TX)	Matheson
Conaway	Hastert	McCarthy (CA)
Costa	Hastings (WA)	McCaul (TX)
Cramer	Hayes	McCotter

McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter

NAYS—178

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Castor
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Ellison
Emanuel
Engel
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez

Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson

Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hooyer
Insole
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebuck
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Olver

Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Bachus
Bilbray
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Broun (GA)
Carson

Cooper
Cubin
Feehey
Hunter
Issa
Jindal

Johnson, E. B.
Obey
Paul
Reyes
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1807

Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, COHEN, HARE, ELLISON, SIRES, STUPAK, WU, HOYER, GORDON of Tennessee, COURTNEY, VAN HOLLEN, LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, RUSH, HALL of New York, OLVER, PASCRELL, LEVIN, CONYERS, CARNAHAN, RANGEL, MILLER of North Carolina, and FARR, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CLARKE and Ms. CASTOR changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. BROWN of South Carolina, KAGEN, CHANDLER, PETERSON of Pennsylvania, BOREN, KING of Iowa, KLEIN of Florida, EDWARDS, THOMPSON of California, LAMPSON, MURPHY of Connecticut, DICKS, RYAN of Ohio, SALAZAR, ROSS, WELCH of Vermont, CRAMER, BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. ESHOO changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, tonight, as part of consideration of the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act of 2007, the minority offered a motion to recommit forthwith with the proclaimed intent of clarifying the circumstances under which motorized vehicles can enter wilderness areas. However, I am concerned that the language of the motion may actually work at cross purposes with that goal.

The MTR stated that: “The designation of lands as wilderness or a wilderness study area by an amendment made by this section does not prohibit the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats or the landing of aircraft or other forms of mechanical transport, on the designated lands when required in connection with an emergency involving the health and safety of persons, including search and rescue efforts or the response to an Amber Alert.”

I don’t know anyone who believes that we shouldn’t be able to use motorized equipment in a wilderness to react to an emergency. It’s common sense, and that’s why it’s already included in the underlying statute. In fact, the underlying law makes the allowance for motorized equipment in a health or safety emergency without enumerating specific types of equipment or circumstances, giving the widest possible scope of interpretation. I am concerned that by listing specific pieces of equipment and circumstances, the motion offered tonight could have caused more confusion and possibly limited the ability to respond to emergencies, despite any good intentions. For this reason, I voted against it.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the instructions of the House in the motion to recommit, I report H.R. 1011 back to the House with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment:

At the end of section 2, add the following new subsection:

(e) MOTORIZED ACCESS IN EMERGENCIES.—

The designation of lands as wilderness or a wilderness study area by an amendment made by this section does not prohibit the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats or the landing of aircraft or other forms of mechanical transport, on the designated lands when required in connection with an emergency involving the health and safety of persons, including search and rescue efforts or the response to an Amber Alert.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING NORTHWEST GEORGIA YWCA

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Young Women’s Christian Association, or YWCA of Northwest Georgia for their efforts to eliminate the epidemic of domestic violence that transcends all ethnic, racial, age, gender and socioeconomic boundaries.

The YWCA of Northwest Georgia, under the leadership of Executive Director Holly Comer, has made it their mission to bring the issue of domestic violence to the forefront and to educate Georgians on ways to prevent abuse and violence within the home.

Mr. Speaker, the YWCA of Northwest Georgia is not only the sole domestic violence shelter located in the heart of my 11th District in Cobb County, but has also taken a leadership role in combating domestic violence throughout the State of Georgia.

It was, in fact, the YWCA of Northwest Georgia that open the very first shelter for victims of domestic violence in the State of Georgia. Through the ministry of Cobb Shelter, the YWCA has worked together with victims, families, social service providers, and criminal justice officials to stop the spread of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing YWCA of Northwest Georgia and similar groups throughout the country for their contributions toward making our Nation’s homes safer places for our children and families.