

Public Law 98-430  
98th Congress

An Act

To designate components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in the State of Florida.

Sept. 28, 1984

[H.R. 9]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the "Florida Wilderness Act of 1983".

Florida  
Wilderness Act  
of 1983.  
National  
Wilderness  
Preservation  
System.  
National Forest  
System.

WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

SECTION 1. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) the following lands are hereby designated as wilderness, and therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System—

(1) certain lands in the Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately one thousand one hundred and seventy acres, are generally depicted on a map entitled "Bradwell Bay Wilderness Addition—Proposed", dated February 1980, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed a part of, the Bradwell Bay Wilderness as designated by Public Law 93-622;

88 Stat. 2096.  
16 USC 1132  
note.

(2) certain lands in the Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately seven thousand eight hundred acres, are generally depicted on a map entitled "Mud Swamp/New River Wilderness—Proposed", dated February 1980, and shall be known as the Mud Swamp/New River Wilderness;

16 USC 1132  
note.

(3) certain lands in the Osceola National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately thirteen thousand six hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Big Gum Swamp Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1980, and shall be known as the Big Gum Swamp Wilderness;

16 USC 1132  
note.

(4) certain lands in the Ocala National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately seven thousand seven hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Alexander Springs & Billies Bay Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1980, and shall be known as the Alexander Springs Wilderness: *Provided, however,* That the Secretary of Agriculture shall not prohibit existing motorboat use on Alexander Springs Creek;

Prohibition.

(5) certain lands in the Ocala National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately thirteen thousand two hundred and sixty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Juniper Prairie Wilderness—Proposed", dated November 1981, and shall be known as the Juniper Prairie Wilderness;

16 USC 1132  
note.

(6) certain lands in the Ocala National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately two thousand five hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Little Lake George Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1980, and shall be known as the Little Lake George Wilderness; and

16 USC 1132  
note.

(7) certain lands in the Ocala National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately three thousand one hundred and

16 USC 1132  
note.

twenty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Alexander Springs and Billies Bay Wilderness—Proposed", dated March 1980, and shall be known as the Billies Bay Wilderness.

#### WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

16 USC 1131

note.

Report.

President of U.S.

SEC. 2. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, the following lands shall be reviewed by the Secretary of Agriculture as to their suitability for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary shall submit his report and findings to the President, and the President shall submit his recommendation to the Congress of the United States no later than three years from the date of enactment of this Act:

(1) certain lands in Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately six thousand five hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Clear Lake Wilderness Study Area", dated April 1984, and shall be known as the Clear Lake Wilderness Study Area; and

(2) certain lands in the Osceola National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately four thousand four hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Natural Area Wilderness Study Area", dated April 1984, and shall be known as the Natural Area Wilderness Study Area.

(b) Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness study areas designated by this section shall, until Congress determines otherwise, be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture so as to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

#### MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

SEC. 3. As soon as practicable after the provisions of section 1 of this Act take effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file maps and legal descriptions of each wilderness area designated by such section with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, and each such map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

Public  
availability.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS

SEC. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness: *Provided,* That any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of the relevant provisions of this Act.

16 USC 1131  
note.

#### OSCEOLA NATIONAL FOREST

SEC. 5. (1) The Department of the Interior shall not issue phosphate leases in the Osceola National Forest, Florida, unless and

Phosphate.

until the President transmits a recommendation to the Congress that phosphate leasing be permitted in a specified area in the Osceola National Forest. Notice of such transmittal shall be published in the Federal Register. No recommendation of the President under this section may be transmitted to the Congress before ninety days after publication in the Federal Register of notice of his intention to submit such recommendation.

Federal  
Register,  
publication.  
Prohibition.

(2) FINDINGS.—A recommendation may be transmitted to the Congress under paragraph (1) if the President finds that, based on the information available to him—

(i) there is a clear and present national need for the phosphate resulting from a domestic shortage of phosphate reserves, and

(ii) such national need outweighs the overall public values of the public lands involved, including the wilderness area designated in section 1(3) of this Act and any adverse environmental impacts which are likely to result from the activity.

(3) REPORT.—Together with his recommendation, the President shall submit to the Congress—

President of U.S.

(i) a report setting forth in detail the relevant factual background and the reasons for his findings and recommendation;

(ii) a statement of the conditions and stipulations which would govern the activity; and

(iii) in any case in which an environmental impact statement is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a statement which complies with the requirements of section 102(2)(C) of such Act. In the case of any recommendation for which an environmental impact statement is not required under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the President may, if he deems it desirable, include such a statement in his transmittal to the Congress.

42 USC 4321  
note.  
42 USC 4332.

(4) APPROVAL.—Any recommendation under this section shall take effect only upon enactment of a joint resolution of Congress approving such a recommendation.

Effective date.

#### WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS

SEC. 6. (a) The Congress finds that—

Conservation.

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II);

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in Florida and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

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

Congress.

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in States other than Florida, such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Florida;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Florida which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), except those lands remaining in wilderness study upon enactment of

this Act, that review and evaluation of reference shall be deemed for the purpose of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time the Secretary finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Florida reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated wilderness or wilderness study upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided*, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Florida are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless areas review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Florida for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

16 USC 1600  
note.  
16 USC 1600  
note.

16 USC 1604.

16 USC 1600  
note.  
16 USC 1600  
note.

16 USC 1604.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Florida which are less than five thousand acres in size.

#### SEVERABILITY

SEC. 7. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application thereof shall not be affected thereby. Provisions held invalid.

Approved September 28, 1984.

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#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 9:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 98-102, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs) and Pt. 2 (Comm. on Agriculture).

SENATE REPORT No. 98-580 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

#### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 129 (1983): June 6, considered and passed House.

Vol. 130 (1984): Aug. 9, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Aug. 12, House concurred in Senate amendments.