

Public Law 96-560
96th Congress

An Act

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the States of Colorado, South Dakota, Missouri, South Carolina, and Louisiana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Dec. 22, 1980
[H.R. 5487]

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

National Forest
System lands,
designations.

TITLE I

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND POLICY

SEC. 101. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) many areas of undeveloped National Forest System lands in the State of Colorado possess outstanding natural characteristics which give them high values as wilderness and will, if properly preserved, contribute as an enduring resource of wilderness for the benefit of the American people;

(2) the Department of Agriculture's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) of National Forest System lands in the State of Colorado and the related congressional review of such lands have identified areas which, on the basis of their landform, ecosystem, associated wildlife, and location, will help to fulfill the National Forest System's share of a quality National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) the Department of Agriculture's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Colorado and the related congressional review of such lands have also identified areas which do not possess outstanding wilderness attributes or which possess outstanding energy, mineral, timber, grazing, dispersed recreation and other values and which should not now be designated as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System but should be available for nonwilderness multiple uses under the land management planning process and other applicable laws.

(b) The purposes of this title are to—

(1) designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, in order to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the wilderness character of the land, protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all the American people, to a greater extent than is possible in the absence of wilderness designation; and

(2) insure that certain other National Forest System lands in the State of Colorado be available for nonwilderness multiple uses.

SEC. 102. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, the following lands in the State of Colorado are hereby designated as

16 USC 1131
note.

upon enactment of this Act, areas listed in sections 105 and 106 of this Act, or previously congressional designated wilderness study areas, that review and evaluation shall be deemed for the purposes 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 revision of the initial plans and in no case prior to the date established by law for completion of the initial planning cycle;

16 USC 1600
note.
16 USC 1600
note.

(3) areas in the State of Colorado reviewed in such Final Environmental Statement and not designated as wilderness or for study by Congress or remaining in further planning upon enactment of this Act need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation pending revision of the initial plans; and

(4) unless expressly authorized by Congress the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide Roadless Area Review and Evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Colorado for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

SEC. 108. The Congress hereby declares that, without amending the Wilderness Act of 1964, with respect to livestock grazing in National Forest wilderness areas, the provisions of the Wilderness Act relating to grazing shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the guidelines contained under the heading "Grazing in National Forest Wilderness" in the House Committee Report (H. Report 96-617) accompanying this Act.

16 USC 1133
note.
16 USC 1131
note.

SEC. 109. The Secretary of Agriculture is directed to review all policies, practices, and regulations of the Department of Agriculture regarding disease or insect outbreaks, forest fires, and the use of modern suppression methods and equipment in National Forest System components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in the State of Colorado, to insure that—

(a) such policies, practices, and regulations fully conform with and implement the intent of Congress regarding forest fire, disease and insect control, as such intent is expressed in the Wilderness Act and this Act; and

(b) policies, practices, and regulations are developed that will allow timely, and efficient fire, insect, and disease control, to provide, to the extent reasonably practicable, adequate protection of adjacent Federal, State, and private nonwilderness lands from forest fires and disease or insect infestations.

SEC. 110. Congress does not intend that designation of wilderness areas in the State of Colorado lead to the creation of protective perimeters of buffer zones around each wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within the wilderness shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 111. (a) The boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Roosevelt National Forest, and the Arapaho National Forest are revised as generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Adjustments, Rocky Mountain National Park", numbered 121-80,047, dated October 1, 1979, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director, National Park Service,

16 USC 192b-9.

16 USC 460jj
note.

Department of the Interior, and the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture: *Provided*, That the area shown on such map as E-5 and known as the Twin Sisters area shall remain a part of the Rocky Mountain National Park. All lands added or transferred by this Act to Rocky Mountain National Park, Roosevelt National Forest, and Arapaho National Forest shall be subject to the laws and regulations applicable to the appropriate National Park or National Forest. Lands within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area as designated by Public Law 95-450 (92 Stat. 1099) that are transferred by this Act to Rocky Mountain National Park shall remain in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Lands within the Rocky Mountain National Park that are adjacent to the Indian Peaks Wilderness and that are transferred by this Act to the Roosevelt National Forest shall be incorporated in and become part of the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

16 USC 485, 486.

16 USC 1279.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior, with respect to lands added or transferred by this Act to Rocky Mountain National Park, and the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to lands added or transferred by this Act to Roosevelt and Arapaho National Forests, may acquire lands and interests in such lands, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange. The Secretary of Agriculture, under the provisions of the Act of March 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 465), as amended, may accept on behalf of the United States title to any land in section 30, township 7 north, range 73 west, of the sixth principal meridian which lies within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park as revised by this Act, in exchange for which the Secretary of the Interior, notwithstanding section 8(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, 82 Stat. 906), is authorized to issue patent to lands lying within the Cache La Poudre Wild and Scenic River study corridor. Upon completion of the exchange, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer to the administrative jurisdiction by the Secretary of the Interior the portion of such land lying within the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park as revised by this Act.

(c) The Federal lands within the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and within the areas referred to as E-2 and GL-3 on the map referred to in subsection (a) shall be transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park without transfer of funds.

(d) If the city of Longmont, Colorado, notifies the Secretary of the Interior that lands within the area referred to as E-8 on the map referred to in subsection (a) of this section that are owned by such city are necessary for the development of a reservoir, the Secretary shall by publication of a revised boundary description in the Federal Register revise the boundary of Rocky Mountain Park within such area to exclude the lands which are necessary for the development of the reservoir: *Provided*, That the authority of such Secretary to revise the boundary for this purpose shall expire on November 1, 1981; and the only lands which may be excluded are the approximately one hundred twenty-nine acres owned by such city.

(e) If after the completion of two complete fiscal years following the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary of the Interior has not purchased interests in the lands of approximately one thousand two hundred acres known as the Old McGregor Ranch located within the area referred to as E-2 on the map referred to in subsection (a), and the owner of such lands petitions the Secretary to exclude such lands from Rocky Mountain National Park, the Secretary shall by publication of a revised boundary description in the Federal Register return