Public Law 98-430
98th Congress

An Act

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

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".

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 92-622;

(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;

(3) certain lands in the Oseola 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;

(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;

(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;

(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

(7) certain lands in the Ocala National Forest, Florida, which comprise approximately three thousand one hundred and
twenty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Alexan-
der Springs and Billies Bay Wilderness—Proposed”, dated
March 1980, and shall be known as the Billies Bay Wilderness.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Sec. 2. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act,
the following lands shall be reviewed by the Secretary of Agricul-
ture 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 other-
wise, 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 Commit-
tee 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 correc-
tion 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.

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.

OSCEOLA NATIONAL FOREST

Sec. 5. (1) The Department of the Interior shall not issue phos-
phate leases in the Osceola National Forest, Florida, unless and
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.

(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—

(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.

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

WILDERNESS REVIEW CONCERNS

Sec. 6. (a) The Congress finds that—

(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—

(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 consider-
ation 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 condi-
tions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Florida reviewed in such final envi-
ronmental 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 suit-
ability 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.
(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.

Approved September 28, 1984.

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:


Aug. 12, House concurred in Senate amendments.