

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2942

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 9 (legislative day, AUGUST 8), 1994

Received

AN ACT

To designate certain lands in the Commonwealth of Virginia as the George Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “George Washington
5 National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act with respect to the George
3 Washington National Forest Mount Pleasant Scenic Area
4 are to—

5 (1) ensure appropriate protection and preserva-
6 tion of the scenic quality, water quality, natural
7 characteristics, and water resources;

8 (2) protect and manage vegetation to provide
9 wildlife and fish habitat, consistent with paragraph
10 (1);

11 (3) provide areas that may develop characteris-
12 tics of old-growth forests; and

13 (4) provide a variety of recreation opportunities
14 that are not inconsistent with the preceding pur-
15 poses.

16 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF MOUNT PLEASANT NATIONAL**
17 **SCENIC AREA.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby estab-
20 lished in the George Washington National Forest,
21 Virginia, the George Washington National Forest
22 Mount Pleasant Scenic Area (in this section referred
23 to as the “scenic area”).

24 (2) LANDS INCLUDED IN SCENIC AREA.—The
25 scenic area shall consist of certain lands in the
26 George Washington National Forest, Virginia, which

1 comprise approximately seven thousand five hundred
2 and eighty acres, as generally depicted on a map en-
3 titled “Mount Pleasant National Scenic Area—Pro-
4 posed”, dated June 21, 1993.

5 (3) MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as
6 practicable after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, the Secretary shall file a map and boundary de-
8 scription of the scenic area with the Committee on
9 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
10 and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
11 Representatives. The map and description shall have
12 the same force and effect as if included in this Act,
13 except that the Secretary is authorized to correct
14 clerical and typographical errors in such boundary
15 description and map. Such map and boundary de-
16 scription shall be on file and available for public in-
17 spection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest
18 Service, Department of Agriculture. In the case of
19 any discrepancy between the acreage and the map
20 described in paragraph (2), the map shall control.

21 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
23 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall
24 administer the scenic area in accordance with this
25 Act and the laws and regulations generally applica-

1 ble to the National Forest System. In the event of
2 conflict between this Act and other laws and regula-
3 tions, this Act shall take precedence.

4 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within three years
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary shall develop a management plan for the sce-
7 nic area as an amendment to the Land and Re-
8 source Management Plan for the George Washington
9 National Forest. Such an amendment shall conform
10 to the provisions of this Act. Nothing in this Act
11 shall require the Secretary to revise the Land and
12 Resource Management Plan for the George Wash-
13 ington National Forest pursuant to section 6 of the
14 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-
15 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

16 (c) ROADS.—After the date of the enactment of this
17 Act, no new permanent roads shall be constructed within
18 the scenic area, except that this prohibition shall not be
19 construed to deny access to private lands or interests
20 therein in the scenic area.

21 (d) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—No timber harvest
22 shall be allowed within the scenic area, except as may be
23 necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases and
24 to provide for public safety and trail access. Notwithstand-
25 ing the foregoing, the Secretary may engage in vegetation

1 manipulation practices for maintenance of existing wildlife
2 clearings and visual quality. Firewood may be harvested
3 for personal use along perimeter roads under such condi-
4 tions as the Secretary may impose.

5 (e) **MOTORIZED TRAVEL.**—

6 (1) **AUTHORIZED ROUTES.**—Motorized travel in
7 the scenic area shall be allowed on State Route 635.
8 Subject to such conditions as the Secretary may im-
9 pose, motorized travel in the scenic area shall also
10 be allowed on Forest Development Road 51.

11 (2) **OTHER AREAS.**—Other than as provided in
12 paragraph (1), motorized travel shall not be per-
13 mitted within the scenic area, except that the Sec-
14 retary may authorize motorized travel within the
15 scenic area as necessary for administrative use in
16 furtherance of the purposes of this Act and on tem-
17 porary routes in support of wildlife management
18 projects.

19 (f) **FIRE.**—Wildfires shall be suppressed in a manner
20 consistent with the purposes of this Act, using such means
21 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

22 (g) **INSECTS AND DISEASE.**—Insect and disease out-
23 breaks may be controlled in the scenic area to maintain
24 scenic quality, prevent tree mortality, reduce hazards to
25 visitors, or protect private lands.

1 (h) WATER.—The scenic area shall be administered
2 so as to maintain or enhance existing water quality.

3 (i) MINING WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing
4 rights, all federally owned lands in the scenic area are
5 hereby withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under
6 the mining laws of the United States and from leasing
7 claims under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws of
8 the United States, including amendments to such laws.

Passed the House of Representatives August 8,
1994.

Attest: DONNALD K. ANDERSON,
Clerk.