

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 32

To designate tributaries of the Maurice River in the State of New Jersey as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1993

Mr. HUGHES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate tributaries of the Maurice River in the State of New Jersey as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

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. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Maurice River and its tributaries,
6 Menantico Creek, the Manumuskin River, and
7 Muskee Creek, are eligible for inclusion into the Na-
8 tional Wild and Scenic River System, the segments
9 and their classifications being as follows—

1 (A) the Maurice River, lower segment,
2 from the United States Geological Survey Sta-
3 tion at Shellpile to Route 670 Bridge at
4 Mauricetown, approximately 7.0 miles, as a rec-
5 reational river;

6 (B) the Maurice River, middle segment,
7 from Route 670 Bridge at Mauricetown up-
8 stream to 3.6 miles of the drainage ditch up-
9 stream of Fralinger Farm, approximately 3.8
10 miles, as a scenic river;

11 (C) the Maurice River, middle segment,
12 from the drainage ditch upstream of Fralinger
13 Farm to 3.1 miles upstream to one-half mile
14 upstream from United States Geological Survey
15 Station at Burcham Farm, approximately 3.1
16 miles, as a recreational river;

17 (D) the Maurice River, upper segment,
18 from one-half mile upstream from the United
19 States Geological Survey Station at Burcham
20 Farm to the south side of the Millville sewage
21 treatment plant, approximately 3.6 miles, as a
22 scenic river;

23 (E) the Menantico Creek, lower segment,
24 from its confluence with the Maurice River to

1 the Route 55 Bridge, approximately 1.4 miles,
2 as a recreational river;

3 (F) the Menantico Creek, upper segment,
4 from the Route 55 Bridge to the base of the
5 Impoundment at Menantico Lake, approxi-
6 mately 6.5 miles, as a scenic river;

7 (G) the Manumuskin River, lower segment,
8 from its confluence with the Maurice River to
9 2.0 miles upstream, as a recreational river; and

10 (H) the Manumuskin River, upper seg-
11 ment, from 2.0 miles upstream from its con-
12 fluence with the Maurice River to headwaters,
13 approximately 12.3 miles, as a scenic river;

14 (2) a resource assessment of the Maurice River
15 and its tributaries shows that the area possesses nu-
16 merous outstandingly remarkable natural, cultural,
17 scenic and recreational resources that are significant
18 at the local, regional and international levels, includ-
19 ing rare plant and animal species and critical habi-
20 tats for birds migrating to and from the north and
21 south hemispheres; and

22 (3) a river management plan for the river sys-
23 tem has been developed by the Cumberland County
24 Department of Planning and Development and
25 adopted by the City of Millville, Maurice River

1 Township, and Commercial Township, that would
2 meet the requirements of section 6(c) of the Wild
3 and Scenic Rivers Act, the City of Vineland has
4 adopted a master plan which calls for river planning
5 and management and is in the process of adopting
6 zoning ordinances to implement their plan and
7 Buena Vista Township in Atlantic County has
8 adopted a land use plan consistent with the Pine-
9 lands Comprehensive Plan which is more restrictive
10 than the Cumberland County local river manage-
11 ment plan.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

13 (1) declare the importance and irreplaceable re-
14 source values of the Maurice River and its tribu-
15 taries to water quality, human health, traditional
16 economic activities, ecosystem integrity, biotic diver-
17 sity, fish and wildlife, scenic open space and recre-
18 ation;

19 (2) recognize that the Maurice River system
20 will continue to be threatened by major development
21 and that land use regulations of the individual local
22 political jurisdictions through which the river seg-
23 ments pass cannot alone provide for an adequate
24 balance between conservation of the river's resources
25 and commercial and industrial development; and

1 (3) recognize that segments of the Maurice
2 River and its tributaries additional to those des-
3 igned under this Act are eligible and suitable for
4 potential designation at some point in the near fu-
5 ture.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Sce-
8 nic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding
9 the following new paragraphs at the end thereof:

10 “() THE MAURICE RIVER, MIDDLE SEG-
11 MENT.—From the Commercial/Millville municipal
12 boundary line to one-half mile upstream from United
13 States Geological Survey Station at Burcham Farm,
14 approximately 1.2 miles, as a recreational river.

15 “() THE MAURICE RIVER, UPPER SEGMENT.—
16 From one-half mile upstream from United States
17 Geological Survey Station at Burcham Farm to the
18 south side of the Millville sewage treatment plant,
19 approximately 3.6 miles, as a scenic river.

20 “() THE MENANTICO CREEK, LOWER SEG-
21 MENT.—From its confluence with the Maurice River
22 to the Route 55 Bridge, approximately 1.4 miles, as
23 a recreational river.

24 “() THE MENANTICO CREEK, UPPER SEG-
25 MENT.—From the Route 55 Bridge to the Millville-

1 Vineland Municipal Boundary Line, approximately 3
2 miles, as a scenic river.

3 “() MANUMUSKIN RIVER, NEW JERSEY.—
4 From its confluence with the Maurice River to a
5 point 2.0 miles upstream, to be administered by the
6 Secretary of the Interior as a recreational river, and
7 from the point 2.0 miles upstream from its con-
8 fluence with the Maurice River to the Atlantic Coun-
9 ty/Cumberland County Boundary, approximately
10 11.2 miles, to be administered by the Secretary of
11 the Interior as a scenic river.

12 “() MUSKEE CREEK, NEW JERSEY.—From its
13 confluence with the Maurice River to the Pennsylva-
14 nia Seashore Line Railroad Bridge, approximately
15 2.7 miles, to be administered by the Secretary of the
16 Interior as a scenic river.

17 (b) SPECIAL RULES.—(1) The Secretary of the Inte-
18 rior shall administer the river segments designated under
19 subsection (a) in association with the political jurisdiction
20 through which the Maurice River and tributaries pass in
21 accordance with the local river management plan prepared
22 by the Cumberland County Department of Planning and
23 Development and plans and ordinances prepared and
24 adopted by the respective municipal governments. The
25 local river management plan shall be reviewed by the Sec-

1 retary of the Interior to assure that proper implementa-
2 tion of the plan will protect the values for which the river
3 was designated. The Secretary is authorized to provide
4 planning assistance to political subdivisions of the State
5 and to the State, if requested, and is authorized to enter
6 into memoranda of understanding or cooperative agree-
7 ments with other Federal agencies and with the State to
8 ensure that State and Federal programs are carried out
9 in a manner that is consistent with the river management
10 plans. The Secretary shall review compliance with the lo-
11 cally adopted plans on a biennial basis and shall report
12 to the appropriate committees of Congress on a timely
13 basis any deviation from those plans which cause or may
14 result in any diminution of the values for which the river
15 was designated. The Secretary is encouraged to continue
16 to work with the local municipalities to negotiate agree-
17 ment and support for designating additional eligible seg-
18 ments of the Maurice River and its tributaries. The Sec-
19 retary is directed to report back to Congress within one
20 year after the date of enactment of this Act on the status
21 of discussions and negotiations with the local municipali-
22 ties and on recommendations towards inclusion of addi-
23 tional river segments into the National Wild and Scenic
24 Rivers System. For the purposes of the segments de-
25 scribed by subsection (a) of this section, there are author-

1 ized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary,
2 not to exceed \$70,000 per year to the Secretary of the
3 Interior for planning assistance, biennial review and re-
4 porting, and for negotiating towards possible inclusion of
5 any additional segments of the Maurice River within the
6 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

7 (2) The provisions of section 6(c) of the Wild and
8 Scenic Rivers Act shall not be applicable to the river seg-
9 ments designated under subsection (a) of this section.

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