

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 931

To designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18 (legislative day, JUNE 17), 1997

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MACK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

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 “Marjory Stoneman
5 Douglas Wilderness and Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center
6 Designation Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

9 (1)(A) Marjory Stoneman Douglas, through her
10 book, “The Everglades: River of Grass” (published

1 in 1947), defined the Everglades for the people of
2 the United States and the world;

3 (B) Mrs. Douglas’s book was the first to stimu-
4 late widespread understanding of the Everglades
5 ecosystem and ultimately served to awaken the de-
6 sire of the people of the United States to restore the
7 ecosystem’s health;

8 (C) in her 107th year, Mrs. Douglas is the sole
9 surviving member of the original group of people
10 who devoted decades of selfless effort to establish
11 the Everglades National Park;

12 (D) when the water supply and ecology of the
13 Everglades, both within and outside the park, be-
14 came threatened by drainage and development, Mrs.
15 Douglas dedicated the balance of her life to the de-
16 fense of the Everglades through extraordinary per-
17 sonal effort and by inspiring countless other people
18 to take action;

19 (E) for these and many other accomplishments,
20 the President awarded Mrs. Douglas the Medal of
21 Freedom on Earth Day, 1994; and

22 (2)(A) Ernest F. Coe (1886–1951) was a leader
23 in the creation of Everglades National Park;

1 (B) Mr. Coe organized the Tropic Everglades
2 National Park Association in 1928 and was widely
3 regarded as the father of Everglades National Park;

4 (C) as a landscape architect, Mr. Coe's vision
5 for the park recognized the need to protect south
6 Florida's diverse wildlife and habitats for future
7 generations;

8 (D) Mr. Coe's original park proposal included
9 lands and waters subsequently protected within the
10 Everglades National Park, the Big Cypress National
11 Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine
12 Sanctuary; and

13 (E)(i) Mr. Coe's leadership, selfless devotion,
14 and commitment to achieving his vision culminated
15 in the authorization of the Everglades National Park
16 by Congress in 1934;

17 (ii) after authorization of the park, Mr. Coe
18 fought tirelessly and lobbied strenuously for estab-
19 lishment of the park, finally realizing his dream in
20 1947; and

21 (iii) Mr. Coe accomplished much of the work
22 described in this paragraph at his own expense,
23 which dramatically demonstrated his commitment to
24 establishment of Everglades National Park.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to com-
2 memorate the vision, leadership, and enduring contribu-
3 tions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Ernest F. Coe
4 to the protection of the Everglades and the establishment
5 of Everglades National Park.

6 **SEC. 3. MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS.**

7 (a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 401(3) of the Na-
8 tional Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–
9 625; 92 Stat. 3490; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by
10 striking “to be known as the Everglades Wilderness” and
11 inserting “to be known as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas
12 Wilderness, to commemorate the vision and leadership
13 shown by Mrs. Douglas in the protection of the Everglades
14 and the establishment of the Everglades National Park”.

15 (b) NOTICE OF REDESIGNATION.—The Secretary of
16 the Interior shall provide such notification of the redesis-
17 gation made by the amendment made by subsection (a)
18 by signs, materials, maps, markers, interpretive programs,
19 and other means (including changes in signs, materials,
20 maps, and markers in existence before the date of enact-
21 ment of this Act) as will adequately inform the public of
22 the redesignation of the wilderness area and the reasons
23 for the redesignation.

24 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
25 tion, document, record, map, or other paper of the United

1 States to the “Everglades Wilderness” shall be deemed to
2 be a reference to the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilder-
3 ness”.

4 **SEC. 4. ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.**

5 (a) DESIGNATION.—Section 103 of the Everglades
6 National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (16
7 U.S.C. 410r–7) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new subsection:

9 “(f) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—On comple-
10 tion of construction of the main visitor center facility at
11 the headquarters of Everglades National Park, the Sec-
12 retary shall designate the visitor center facility as the ‘Er-
13 nest F. Coe Visitor Center’, to commemorate the vision
14 and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the establishment and
15 protection of Everglades National Park.”.

16 **SEC. 5. CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

17 Section 103 of the Everglades National Park Protec-
18 tion and Expansion Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r–7) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking
21 “personally-owned” and inserting “personally-
22 owned”; and

1 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “VISITOR
2 CENTER” and inserting “MARJORY STONEMAN
3 DOUGLAS VISITOR CENTER”.

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