

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3954

To designate certain waterways in the Caribbean National Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2002

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. RAHALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To designate certain waterways in the Caribbean National Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

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 “Caribbean National  
5       Forest Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2002”.

6       **SEC. 2. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS, CARIB-**  
7       **BEAN NATIONAL FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

8       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) In the revised land and resource manage-  
2           ment plan for the Caribbean National Forest/  
3           Luquillo Experimental Forest, approved April 17,  
4           1997, and the environmental impact statement pre-  
5           pared as part of the plan, the Secretary of Agri-  
6           culture examined the suitability of rivers within the  
7           Caribbean National Forest/Luquillo Experimental  
8           Forest for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic  
9           Rivers System.

10           (2) Based on such examination, the Rio Icacos,  
11           Rio Mameyes, and Rio de La Mina were found to be  
12           free flowing waterways and to possess outstandingly  
13           remarkable scenic, recreational, geological,  
14           hydrological, biological, historical, and cultural val-  
15           ues, and, therefore, to qualify for addition to the  
16           National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

17           (b) DESIGNATIONS.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and  
18           Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by add-  
19           ing at the end the following new paragraph:

20           “(\_\_\_\_\_) RIVERS OF CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST,  
21           PUERTO RICO.—

22           “(A) RIO MAMEYES.—The segment of approxi-  
23           mately 4.5 miles from its headwaters in the Baño de  
24           Oro Research Natural Area to the boundary of the

1 Caribbean National Forest, to be administered by  
2 the Secretary of Agriculture as follows:

3 “(i) As a wild river from its headwaters in  
4 the Baño de Oro Research Natural Area to the  
5 crossing point of Trail No. 24/11 (approx-  
6 imately 500 feet upstream from the confluence  
7 with the Rio de La Mina), a total of approxi-  
8 mately 2.1 miles.

9 “(ii) As a scenic river from the crossing  
10 point of Trail No. 24/11 to the access point of  
11 Trail No. 7, a total of approximately 1.4 miles.

12 “(iii) As a recreational river from the ac-  
13 cess point of Trail No. 7 to the national forest  
14 boundary, a total of approximately 1.0 miles.

15 “(B) RIO DE LA MINA.—The segment of ap-  
16 proximately 2.1 miles from its headwaters to its con-  
17 fluence with the Rio Mameyes, to be administered by  
18 the Secretary of Agriculture as follows:

19 “(i) As a recreational river from its head-  
20 waters in the El Yunque Recreation Area down-  
21 stream to La Mina Falls, a total of approxi-  
22 mately 0.9 miles.

23 “(ii) As a scenic river from La Mina falls  
24 downstream to its confluence with the Rio  
25 Mameyes, a total of approximately 1.2 miles.

1           “(C) RIO ICACOS.—The segment of approxi-  
2           mately 2.3 miles from its headwaters to the bound-  
3           ary of the Caribbean National Forest, to be adminis-  
4           tered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a scenic  
5           river.”

6           (c) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—

7           (1) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.—As soon  
8           as practicable after the date of the enactment of this  
9           Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare maps  
10          and a legal description of the river segments added  
11          to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by  
12          the amendment made by subsection (b) and submit  
13          the maps and description to the Committee on Re-  
14          sources of the House of Representatives and the  
15          Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the  
16          Senate. The maps and legal description shall be on  
17          file and available for public inspection in the office  
18          of the Chief of the Forest Service.

19          (2) TREATMENT.—The maps and legal descrip-  
20          tion prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the  
21          same force and effect as if included in this Act. The  
22          Secretary may correct clerical and typographical er-  
23          rors in the map and description.

24          (d) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.—The  
25          amendment made by the subsection (b) and the applica-

1 bility of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271  
2 et seq.) to the river segments added to the National Wild  
3 and Scenic Rivers System by the amendment shall not be  
4 construed to prevent any of the following activities, subject  
5 to such conditions as the Secretary of Agriculture con-  
6 siders desirable, within the boundaries of the river seg-  
7 ments:

8           (1) Installation and maintenance of hydrologic,  
9           meteorological, climatological, or atmospheric data  
10           collection and transmission facilities, or any com-  
11           bination of such facilities, when the Secretary deter-  
12           mines that such facilities are essential to the sci-  
13           entific research purposes of the Luquillo Experi-  
14           mental Forest.

15           (2) Construction and maintenance of nesting  
16           structures, observation blinds, and population moni-  
17           toring platforms for threatened and endangered spe-  
18           cies.

19           (3) Construction and maintenance of trails to  
20           such facilities as necessary for research purposes  
21           and for the recovery of threatened and endangered  
22           species.

23           (e) PRESERVATION OF COMMONWEALTH AUTHOR-  
24           ITY.—Nothing in this section or the amendment made by  
25           this section shall be construed to limit the authority of

- 1 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico over waters and natural
- 2 channels of public domain pursuant to the laws of the
- 3 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

