

# Union Calendar No. 244

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

# H. R. 3955

[Report No. 107-409]

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wilderness Preservation 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

APRIL 16, 2002

Additional sponsors: Mr. UNDERWOOD and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN

APRIL 16, 2002

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 13, 2002]

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## A BILL

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wilderness Preservation 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 For-*  
5 *est Wilderness Act of 2002”.*

6 **SEC. 2. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, CARIBBEAN NATIONAL**  
7 **FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

8        (a) *EL TORO WILDERNESS.*—*In furtherance of the*  
9 *purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 113 et seq.), the*  
10 *approximately 10,000 acres of land in the Caribbean Na-*  
11 *tional Forest/Luquillo Experimental Forest in the Com-*  
12 *monwealth of Puerto Rico that were proposed for wilderness*  
13 *classification in the revised land and resource management*  
14 *plan for the Caribbean National Forest/Luquillo Experi-*  
15 *mental Forest, approved April 17, 1997, are hereby des-*  
16 *ignated as wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the*  
17 *National Wilderness Preservation System. The designated*  
18 *lands shall be known as the El Toro Wilderness.*

19        (b) *WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.*—*The El Toro Wilder-*  
20 *ness shall consist of those lands that were proposed for wil-*  
21 *derness classification in the management plan referred to*  
22 *in subsection (a), except that the Secretary of Agriculture*  
23 *shall locate the boundaries of the wilderness area so that*  
24 *existing municipal water intakes will not be within the wil-*  
25 *derness boundaries and the boundaries shall be located at*

1 *least 600 feet west of Highway PR 191 from Kilometer 6.5*  
2 *to Kilometer 12.0.*

3 (c) *MAP AND DESCRIPTION.*—

4 (1) *PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.*—*As soon as*  
5 *practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act,*  
6 *the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a map and*  
7 *a boundary description of the El Toro Wilderness and*  
8 *submit the map and boundary description to the*  
9 *Committee on Resources of the House of Representa-*  
10 *tives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-*  
11 *sources of the Senate. The map and boundary descrip-*  
12 *tion shall be on file and available for public inspec-*  
13 *tion in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service.*

14 (2) *TREATMENT.*—*The map and boundary de-*  
15 *scription prepared under paragraph (1) shall have*  
16 *the same force and effect as if included in this Act.*  
17 *The Secretary may correct clerical and typographical*  
18 *errors in the map and description.*

19 (d) *ADMINISTRATION.*—*Subject to valid existing*  
20 *rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the El*  
21 *Toro Wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16*  
22 *U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act. With respect to the El*  
23 *Toro Wilderness, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the*  
24 *effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be*  
25 *a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.*

1           (e) *SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.*—Des-  
2 *ignation of the El Toro Wilderness, and the applicability*  
3 *of the Wilderness Act to the wilderness area, shall not be*  
4 *construed to prevent any of the following activities, subject*  
5 *to such conditions as the Secretary of Agriculture considers*  
6 *desirable, within the boundaries of the wilderness area:*

7           (1) *Installation and maintenance of hydrologic,*  
8 *meteorological, climatological, or atmospheric data*  
9 *collection and transmission facilities, or any com-*  
10 *bination of such facilities, when the Secretary deter-*  
11 *mines that—*

12                   (A) *such facilities are essential to the sci-*  
13 *entific research purposes of the Luquillo Experi-*  
14 *mental Forest; and*

15                   (B) *the scale and scope of the facility devel-*  
16 *opment are not detrimental to the wilderness*  
17 *characteristics of the wilderness area.*

18           (2) *Construction and maintenance of nesting*  
19 *structures, observation blinds, and population moni-*  
20 *toring platforms for threatened and endangered spe-*  
21 *cies.*

22           (3) *Construction and maintenance of trails to*  
23 *such facilities as necessary for research purposes and*  
24 *for the recovery of threatened and endangered species.*



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