

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4141

To amend the Act authorizing the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to modify the boundaries of the Area, and to provide for the protection of lands, waters, and natural, cultural, and scenic resources within the national recreation area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH (for himself, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the Act authorizing the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to modify the boundaries of the Area, and to provide for the protection of lands, waters, and natural, cultural, and scenic resources within the national recreation area, 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. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

1 (1) The Chattahoochee River National Recre-
2 ation Area is a nationally significant resource and
3 the national recreation area has been adversely af-
4 fected by land use changes occurring within and out-
5 side its boundaries.

6 (2) The population of the metropolitan Atlanta
7 area continues to expand northward, leaving dwin-
8 dling opportunities to protect the scenic, recreation,
9 natural, and historic values of the 2,000-foot wide
10 corridor adjacent to each bank of the Chattahoochee
11 River and its impoundments in the 48-mile segment
12 known as the area of national concern.

13 (3) The State of Georgia has enacted the Met-
14 ropolitan River Protection Act in order to ensure the
15 protection of the corridor located within 2,000 feet
16 of each bank of the Chattahoochee River, or the
17 100-year flood plain, whichever is greater, and such
18 corridor includes the area of national concern.

19 (4) Visitor use of the Chattahoochee River Na-
20 tional Recreation Area has shifted dramatically since
21 the establishment of the national recreation area
22 from waterborne to water-related and land-based ac-
23 tivities.

24 (5) The State of Georgia and its political sub-
25 divisions along the Chattahoochee River have indi-

1 cated their willingness to join in cooperative efforts
2 with the United States of America to link existing
3 units of the national recreation area with a series of
4 linear corridors to be established within the area of
5 national concern and elsewhere on the river and pro-
6 vided Congress appropriates certain funds in support
7 of such effort, funding from the State, its political
8 subdivisions, private foundations, corporate entities,
9 private individuals, and other sources will be avail-
10 able to fund more than half of the estimated cost of
11 such cooperative effort.

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

13 (1) increase the level of protection of the re-
14 maining open spaces within the area of national con-
15 cern along the Chattahoochee River and to enhance
16 visitor enjoyment of such areas by adding land-based
17 links between existing units of the national recre-
18 ation area;

19 (2) assure that the national recreation area is
20 managed to standardize acquisition, planning, de-
21 sign, construction, and operation of the linear cor-
22 ridors; and

23 (3) authorize the appropriation of Federal
24 funds to cover a portion of the costs of the Federal,
25 State, local, and private cooperative effort to add ad-

1 ditional areas to the Chattahoochee River National
2 Recreation Area in order to establish a series of lin-
3 ear corridors linking existing units of the national
4 recreation area and to protect other undeveloped
5 portions of the Chattahoochee River corridor.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS OF CHATTAHOOCHEE NRA ACT.**

7 The Act of August 15, 1978, entitled “An Act to au-
8 thorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River Na-
9 tional Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for
10 other purposes” (Public Law 95–344; 16 U.S.C. 460ii–
11 2(b)) is amended as follows:

12 (1) Section 101 is amended as follows:

13 (A) By inserting after “map entitled
14 ‘Boundary Map, Chattahoochee River National
15 Recreation Area’, numbered Chat–20,003 and
16 dated September 1984” the following: “and on
17 the map entitled ‘Boundary Map, Chattahoo-
18 chee River National Recreation Area Addition’,
19 numbered _____ and dated _____, both of
20 which”.

21 (B) By amending the fourth sentence to
22 read as follows: “After July 1, 1999, the Sec-
23 retary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as
24 the “Secretary”) may modify the boundaries of
25 the recreation area to include other lands within

1 2,000 feet of each bank of the Chattahoochee
2 River by submitting a revised map or other
3 boundary description to the Congress. Such re-
4 vised boundaries shall take effect on the date
5 6 months after the date of such submission un-
6 less, within such 6-month period, the Congress
7 adopts a Joint Resolution disapproving such re-
8 vised boundaries. Such revised map or other
9 boundary description shall be prepared by the
10 Secretary after consultation with affected land-
11 owners and with the State of Georgia and af-
12 fected political subdivisions. Before July 1,
13 1999, the owner of any parcel of land, all or
14 any portion of which is within 2,000 feet of
15 each bank of the Chattahoochee River, may no-
16 tify the Secretary that such parcel is not to be
17 included within the revised boundaries of the
18 area. Upon receipt of a legal description of such
19 parcel, the Secretary shall modify the bound-
20 aries to exclude such parcel.”.

21 (C) By striking out “may not exceed ap-
22 proximately 6,800 acres.” and inserting “may
23 not exceed 10,000 acres.”.

24 (2) Section 102(f) is repealed.

1 (3) Section 103(b) is amended to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary is
4 authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the
5 State, its political subdivisions, and other entities to as-
6 sure standardized acquisition, planning, design, construc-
7 tion, and operation of the national recreation area.”.

8 (4) Section 105(a) is amended to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; ACCEPT-
11 ANCE OF DONATIONS.—In addition to funding and the do-
12 nation of lands and interests in lands provided by the
13 State of Georgia, local government authorities, private
14 foundations, corporate entities, and individuals, and fund-
15 ing that may be available pursuant to the settlement of
16 litigation, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated
17 to carry out this Act not more than \$25,000,000 for fiscal
18 years after fiscal year 1998. The Secretary is authorized
19 to accept the donation of funds and lands or interests in
20 lands to carry out this Act.”.

21 (5) Section 105(c) (16 U.S.C. 460ii–4(c)) is
22 amended by adding the following at the end thereof:
23 “The Secretary shall submit a revision of such plan
24 within 3 years after the enactment of this sentence
25 to provide for the protection, enhancement, enjoy-

1 ment, development, and use of areas added to the
2 national recreation area. During the preparation of
3 the revised plan the Secretary shall seek and encour-
4 age the participation of the State of Georgia and its
5 affected political subdivisions, private landowners,
6 interested citizens, public officials, groups, agencies,
7 educational institutions, and others.”.

8 (6) Section 102(a) (16 U.S.C. 460ii-1(a)) is
9 amended by inserting the following before the period
10 at the end of the first sentence: “, except that lands
11 and interests in lands within the Addition Area de-
12 picted on the map referred to in section 101 may
13 not be acquired without the consent of the owner
14 thereof”.

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