

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2451

To improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 1998

Mr. COVERDELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia.

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.—Congress finds that—

5 (1)(A) the Chattahoochee River National Recre-
6 ation Area in the State of Georgia is a nationally
7 significant resource; and

8 (B) the recreation area has been adversely af-
9 fected by land use changes occurring inside and out-
10 side the recreation area;

1 (2) the population of the metropolitan Atlanta
2 area continues to expand northward, leaving dwin-
3 dling opportunities to protect the scenic, rec-
4 reational, natural, and historical values of the 2,000-
5 foot-wide corridor adjacent to each bank of the
6 Chattahoochee River and its impoundments in the
7 48-mile segment known as the “area of national con-
8 cern”;

9 (3)(A) the State of Georgia has enacted the
10 Metropolitan River Protection Act to ensure protec-
11 tion of the corridor located within 2,000 feet of each
12 bank of the Chattahoochee River, or the corridor lo-
13 cated within the 100-year floodplain, whichever is
14 larger; and

15 (B) that corridor includes the area of national
16 concern;

17 (4) since establishment of the Chattahoochee
18 River National Recreation Area, visitor use of the
19 recreation area has shifted dramatically from water-
20 borne to water-related and land-based activities; and

21 (5)(A) the State of Georgia and political sub-
22 divisions of the State along the Chattahoochee River
23 have indicated willingness to join in a cooperative ef-
24 fort with the United States to link existing units of
25 the recreation area through a series of linear cor-

1 ridors to be established within the area of national
2 concern and elsewhere on the river; and

3 (B) if Congress appropriates funds in support
4 of such a cooperative effort, funding from the State,
5 political subdivisions of the State, private founda-
6 tions, corporate entities, private individuals, and
7 other sources will be available to fund more than
8 half the estimated cost of the cooperative effort.

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

10 (1) to increase the level of protection of the
11 open spaces within the area of national concern
12 along the Chattahoochee River and to enhance visi-
13 tor enjoyment of the open spaces by adding land-
14 based linear corridors to link existing units of the
15 recreation area;

16 (2) to ensure that the Chattahoochee River Na-
17 tional Recreation Area is managed to standardize
18 acquisition, planning, design, construction, and oper-
19 ation of the linear corridors; and

20 (3) to authorize the appropriation of Federal
21 funds to cover a portion of the costs of the Federal,
22 State, local, and private cooperative effort to add ad-
23 ditional areas to the recreation area so as to estab-
24 lish a series of linear corridors linking existing units

1 of the recreation area and to protect other open
2 spaces of the Chattahoochee River corridor.

3 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NA-**
4 **TIONAL RECREATION AREA ACT.**

5 (a) BOUNDARIES.—Section 101 of the Act entitled
6 “An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoo-
7 chee River National Recreation Area in the State of Geor-
8 gia, and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978
9 (16 U.S.C. 460ii), is amended—

10 (1) in the third sentence, by inserting after
11 “numbered CHAT–20,003, and dated September
12 1984,” the following: “and on the maps entitled
13 ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, In-
14 terim Boundary Map #1’, ‘Chattahoochee River Na-
15 tional Recreation Area, Interim Boundary Map #2’,
16 and ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area,
17 Interim Boundary Map #3’, dated _____,”;

18 (2) by striking the fourth sentence and insert-
19 ing the following: “After July 1, 1999, the Secretary
20 of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the ‘Sec-
21 retary’) may modify the boundaries of the recreation
22 area to include other land within the river corridor
23 of the Chattahoochee River by submitting a revised
24 map or other boundary description to Congress. The
25 revised boundaries shall take effect on the date that

1 is 180 days after the date of submission unless,
2 within the 180-day period, Congress enacts a Joint
3 Resolution disapproving the revised boundaries. The
4 revised map or other boundary description shall be
5 prepared by the Secretary after consultation with af-
6 fected landowners, the State of Georgia, and af-
7 fected political subdivisions of the State.”; and

8 (3) in the next-to-last sentence, by striking
9 “may not exceed approximately 6,800 acres.” and
10 inserting “may not exceed 10,000 acres.”.

11 (b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—Section 102 of the
12 Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the
13 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the
14 State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved Au-
15 gust 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii–1), is amended—

16 (1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by in-
17 serting before the period at the end the following:
18 “, except that land and interests in land within the
19 Addition Area depicted on a map described in sec-
20 tion 101 may not be acquired without the consent of
21 the owner”; and

22 (2) by striking subsection (f).

23 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Section 103 of the
24 Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the
25 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the

1 State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved Au-
2 gust 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii-2), is amended by striking
3 subsection (b) and inserting the following:

4 “(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
5 may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of
6 Georgia, political subdivisions of the State, and other enti-
7 ties to ensure standardized acquisition, planning, design,
8 construction, and operation of the recreation area.”.

9 (d) FUNDING.—Section 105 of the Act entitled “An
10 Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee
11 River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia,
12 and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978 (16
13 U.S.C. 460ii-4), is amended—

14 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(a) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
18 addition to funding and the donation of land and in-
19 terests in land by the State of Georgia, local govern-
20 ment authorities, private foundations, corporate enti-
21 ties, and individuals, and funding that may be made
22 available as a result of the settlement of litigation,
23 there is authorized to be appropriated for land ac-
24 quisition for the recreation area \$25,000,000.

1 “(2) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept a
2 donation of funds or land or an interest in land to
3 carry out this Act.”; and

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
6 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
7 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

8 (B) by striking “(c) Within” and inserting
9 the following:

10 “(c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

11 “(1) INITIAL PLAN.—Within”;

12 (C) in paragraph (1) (as designated by
13 subparagraph (B)), by striking “transmit to”
14 and all that follows through “Representatives”
15 and inserting “transmit to the Committee on
16 Resources of the House of Representatives”;
17 and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(2) REVISED PLAN.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
21 after the date of enactment of this subpara-
22 graph, the Secretary shall submit to the com-
23 mittees specified in paragraph (1) a revised
24 general management plan to provide for the
25 protection, enhancement, enjoyment, develop-

1 ment, and use of areas added to the recreation
2 area after the date of submission of the initial
3 general management plan.

4 “(B) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—In prepar-
5 ing the revised plan, the Secretary shall encour-
6 age the participation of the State of Georgia
7 and affected political subdivisions of the State,
8 private landowners, interested citizens, public
9 officials, groups, agencies, educational institu-
10 tions, and other entities.”.

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