

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 109

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. CLELAND) 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) the Chattahoochee River National Recre-
6 ation Area in the State of Georgia is a nationally
7 significant resource;

8 (2) the Chattahoochee River National Recre-
9 ation Area has been adversely affected by land use

1 changes occurring inside and outside the recreation
2 area;

3 (3) the population of the metropolitan Atlanta
4 area continues to expand northward, leaving dwin-
5 dling opportunities to protect the scenic, rec-
6 reational, natural, and historical values of the 2,000-
7 foot-wide corridor adjacent to each bank of the
8 Chattahoochee River and its impoundments in the
9 48-mile segment known as the “area of national con-
10 cern”;

11 (4) the State of Georgia has enacted the Metro-
12 politan River Protection Act to ensure protection of
13 the corridor located within 2,000 feet of each bank
14 of the Chattahoochee River, or the corridor located
15 within the 100-year floodplain, whichever is larger;

16 (5) the corridor located within the 100-year
17 floodplain includes the area of national concern;

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

22 (7) the State of Georgia and political subdivi-
23 sions of the State along the Chattahoochee River
24 have indicated willingness to join in a cooperative ef-
25 fort with the United States to link existing units of

1 the recreation area through a series of linear cor-
2 ridors to be established within the area of national
3 concern and elsewhere on the river; and

4 (8) if Congress appropriates funds in support of
5 the cooperative effort described in paragraph (7),
6 funding from the State, political subdivisions of the
7 State, private foundations, corporate entities, private
8 individuals, and other sources will be available to
9 fund more than half the estimated cost of the coop-
10 erative effort.

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

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

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

22 (3) to authorize the appropriation of Federal
23 funds to cover a portion of the costs of the Federal,
24 State, local, and private cooperative effort to add ad-
25 ditional areas to the recreation area so as to estab-

1 lish a series of linear corridors linking existing units
2 of the recreation area and to protect other open
3 spaces of the Chattahoochee River corridor.

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

6 (a) BOUNDARIES.—Section 101 of the Act entitled
7 “An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoo-
8 chee River National Recreation Area in the State of Geor-
9 gia, and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978
10 (16 U.S.C. 460ii), is amended—

11 (1) in the third sentence, by inserting after
12 “numbered CHAT–20,003, and dated September
13 1984,” the following: “and on the maps entitled
14 ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area In-
15 terim Boundary Map #1’, ‘Chattahoochee River Na-
16 tional Recreation Area Interim Boundary Map #2’,
17 and ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
18 Interim Boundary Map #3’, and dated August 6,
19 1998.”;

20 (2) by striking the fourth sentence and insert-
21 ing the following: “After July 1, 1999, the Secretary
22 of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the ‘Sec-
23 retary’) may modify the boundaries of the recreation
24 area to include other land within the river corridor
25 of the Chattahoochee River by submitting a revised

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

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

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

18 (1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by in-
19 serting before the period at the end the following: “,
20 except that land and interests in land within the Ad-
21 dition Area depicted on a map described in section
22 101 may not be acquired without the consent of the
23 owner”; and

24 (2) by striking subsection (f).

1 (c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Section 103 of the
2 Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the
3 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the
4 State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved Au-
5 gust 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii–2), is amended by striking
6 subsection (b) and inserting the following:

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

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

17 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(a) FUNDING.—

20 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
21 addition to funding and the donation of land and in-
22 terests in land by the State of Georgia, local govern-
23 ment authorities, private foundations, corporate enti-
24 ties, and individuals, and funding that may be made
25 available as a result of the settlement of litigation,

1 there is authorized to be appropriated for land ac-
2 quisition for the recreation area \$25,000,000 for fis-
3 cal years after fiscal year 1998.

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

7 (2) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
9 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
10 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

11 (B) by striking “(c) Within” and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

14 “(1) INITIAL PLAN.—Within”;

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

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

22 “(2) REVISED PLAN.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
24 after the date of enactment of this subpara-
25 graph, the Secretary shall submit to the com-

1 mittees specified in paragraph (1) a revised
2 general management plan to provide for the
3 protection, enhancement, enjoyment, develop-
4 ment, and use of areas added to the recreation
5 area after the date of submission of the initial
6 general management plan.

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

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