

107TH CONGRESS
2D 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.

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

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 siderers 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.

