

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3955

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Caribbean National  
3 Forest Wilderness Act of 2002”.

4 **SEC. 2. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, CARIBBEAN NATIONAL**  
5 **FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

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

18       (b) WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.—The El Toro Wil-  
19 derness shall consist of those lands that were proposed for  
20 wilderness classification in the management plan referred  
21 to in subsection (a), except that the Secretary of Agri-  
22 culture shall locate the boundaries of the wilderness area  
23 so that existing municipal water intakes will not be within  
24 the wilderness boundaries and the boundaries shall be lo-  
25 cated at least 600 feet west of Highway PR 191 from Kil-  
26 ometer 6.5 to Kilometer 12.0.

1 (c) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—

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

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

18 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing  
19 rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the  
20 El Toro Wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act  
21 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this Act. With respect to  
22 the El Toro Wilderness , any reference in the Wilderness  
23 Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be  
24 deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment  
25 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 con-  
6   siders desirable, within the boundaries of the wilderness  
7   area:

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

- 1 and for the recovery of threatened and endangered
- 2 species.

Passed the House of Representatives November 15  
(legislative day, November 14), 2002.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



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