

Union Calendar No. 244

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3955

[Report No. 107-409]

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.

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

APRIL 16, 2002

Additional sponsors: Mr. UNDERWOOD and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN

APRIL 16, 2002

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 13, 2002]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Caribbean National For-*
5 *est Wilderness Act of 2002”.*

6 **SEC. 2. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION, CARIBBEAN NATIONAL**
7 **FOREST, PUERTO RICO.**

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

19 (b) *WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.*—*The El Toro Wilder-*
20 *ness shall consist of those lands that were proposed for wil-*
21 *derness classification in the management plan referred to*
22 *in subsection (a), except that the Secretary of Agriculture*
23 *shall locate the boundaries of the wilderness area so that*
24 *existing municipal water intakes will not be within the wil-*
25 *derness boundaries and the boundaries shall be located at*

1 *least 600 feet west of Highway PR 191 from Kilometer 6.5*
2 *to Kilometer 12.0.*

3 *(c) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—*

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

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

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

7 (1) *Installation and maintenance of hydrologic,*
8 *meteorological, climatological, or atmospheric data*
9 *collection and transmission facilities, or any com-*
10 *bination of such facilities, when the Secretary deter-*
11 *mines that—*

12 (A) *such facilities are essential to the sci-*
13 *entific research purposes of the Luquillo Experi-*
14 *mental Forest; and*

15 (B) *the scale and scope of the facility devel-*
16 *opment are not detrimental to the wilderness*
17 *characteristics of the wilderness area.*

18 (2) *Construction and maintenance of nesting*
19 *structures, observation blinds, and population moni-*
20 *toring platforms for threatened and endangered spe-*
21 *cies.*

22 (3) *Construction and maintenance of trails to*
23 *such facilities as necessary for research purposes and*
24 *for the recovery of threatened and endangered species.*

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