

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 973

To designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2017

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. CORKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, 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 “Tennessee Wilderness  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-  
9 titled “Proposed Wilderness Areas and Additions-

1 Cherokee National Forest” and dated January 20,  
2 2010.

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
6 of Tennessee.

7 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONS TO CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.—In accordance  
9 with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the fol-  
10 lowing parcels of Federal land in the Cherokee National  
11 Forest in the State of Tennessee are designated as wilder-  
12 ness and as additions to the National Wilderness Preser-  
13 vation System:

14 (1) Certain land comprising approximately  
15 9,038 acres, as generally depicted as the “Upper  
16 Bald River Wilderness” on the Map and which shall  
17 be known as the “Upper Bald River Wilderness”.

18 (2) Certain land comprising approximately 348  
19 acres, as generally depicted as the “Big Frog Addi-  
20 tion” on the Map and which shall be incorporated  
21 in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Big  
22 Frog Wilderness.

23 (3) Certain land comprising approximately 630  
24 acres, as generally depicted as the “Little Frog  
25 Mountain Addition NW” on the Map and which

1 shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to  
2 be a part of, the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness.

3 (4) Certain land comprising approximately 336  
4 acres, as generally depicted as the “Little Frog  
5 Mountain Addition NE” on the Map and which shall  
6 be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a  
7 part of, the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness.

8 (5) Certain land comprising approximately  
9 2,922 acres, as generally depicted as the “Sampson  
10 Mountain Addition” on the Map and which shall be  
11 incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part  
12 of, the Sampson Mountain Wilderness.

13 (6) Certain land comprising approximately  
14 4,446 acres, as generally depicted as the “Big Lau-  
15 rel Branch Addition” on the Map and which shall be  
16 incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part  
17 of, the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

18 (7) Certain land comprising approximately  
19 1,836 acres, as generally depicted as the “Joyce Kil-  
20 mer-Slickrock Addition” on the Map and which shall  
21 be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a  
22 part of, the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness.

23 (b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after  
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall file maps and legal descriptions of the wilder-  
2 ness areas designated by subsection (a) with the ap-  
3 propriate committees of Congress.

4 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and  
5 legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be  
6 on file and available for public inspection in the of-  
7 fice of the Chief of the Forest Service and the office  
8 of the Supervisor of the Cherokee National Forest.

9 (3) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal de-  
10 scriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the  
11 same force and effect as if included in this Act, ex-  
12 cept that the Secretary may correct typographical  
13 errors in the maps and descriptions.

14 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing  
16 rights, the Federal land designated as wilderness by  
17 subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary  
18 in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
19 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act  
20 to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to  
21 be a reference to the date of the enactment of this  
22 Act.

23 (2) FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.—In ac-  
24 cordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act  
25 (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this Act affects

1 the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and  
2 wildlife management (including the regulation of  
3 hunting, fishing, and trapping) in the wilderness  
4 areas designated by subsection (a).

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