

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2440

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land located in Franklin County, Mississippi, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2025

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land located in Franklin County, Mississippi, 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. OKHISSA LAKE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOP-**
4 **MENT LAND CONVEYANCE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ALLIANCE.—The term “Alliance” means
7 the Scenic Rivers Development Alliance.

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (b) REQUEST.—Subject to the requirements of this
 2 section, if the Alliance submits a written request for con-
 3 veyance by not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
 4 ment of this Act and the Secretary determines that it is
 5 in the public interest to convey the National Forest Sys-
 6 tem land described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall
 7 convey to the Alliance all right, title, and interest of the
 8 United States in and to the National Forest System land
 9 described in subsection (c) by quitclaim deed through a
 10 public or private sale, including a competitive sale by auc-
 11 tion or bid.

12 (c) DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
 13 LAND.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
 15 the National Forest System land referred to in sub-
 16 section (b) is—

17 (A) the approximately 137.7 acres of real
 18 property located in secs. 5 and 6, T. 5 N., R.
 19 4 E., and sec. 31, T. 6 N., R. 4 E., Franklin
 20 County, Mississippi, as depicted on the map
 21 prepared for the Alliance by Marling Surveying,
 22 LLC, entitled “Map of Survey of a 137.70 Acre
 23 Tract, a Portion of U.S. Department of Agri-
 24 culture Forest Service Homochitto National

1 Forest Tracts H-41g & H-307”, and dated
2 September 16, 2024; and

3 (B) the approximately 173 acres of real
4 property located in secs. 5, 6, 7, and 8, T. 5
5 N., R. 4 E., Franklin County, Mississippi, as
6 depicted on the map prepared for the Alliance
7 by Marling Surveying, LLC, entitled “Map of
8 Survey of a +/- 173 Acre Tract, a Portion of
9 U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
10 Homochitto National Forest Tracts H-1, H-
11 3b, H-41g & H-307”, and dated September
12 16, 2024.

13 (2) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal de-
14 scription of the National Forest System land to be
15 conveyed under this section shall be determined by
16 a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

17 (d) CONSIDERATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The consideration for the
19 conveyance of any National Forest System land
20 under this section shall be—

21 (A) provided in the form of cash; and

22 (B) in an amount equal to the fair market
23 value of the National Forest System land being
24 conveyed, as determined under paragraph (2).

1 (2) FAIR MARKET VALUE DETERMINATION.—

2 The fair market value of the National Forest System
3 land conveyed under this section shall be deter-
4 mined—

5 (A) in the case of a method of conveyance
6 described in subsection (b), by an appraisal that
7 is—

8 (i) conducted in accordance with the
9 Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal
10 Land Acquisitions; and

11 (ii) approved by the Secretary; or

12 (B) in the case of a conveyance by a meth-
13 od other than a method described in subsection
14 (b), by competitive sale.

15 (e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance
16 under this section shall be subject to—

17 (1) valid existing rights; and

18 (2) such other terms and conditions as the Sec-
19 retary considers to be appropriate to protect the in-
20 terests of the United States.

21 (f) PROCEEDS FROM SALE.—The Secretary shall de-
22 posit the proceeds of the conveyance of any National For-
23 est System land under this section in the fund established
24 under Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the “Sisk
25 Act”) (16 U.S.C. 484a).

1 (g) COSTS.—As a condition for the conveyance under
2 this section, the Secretary shall require the Alliance to pay
3 at closing—

4 (1) any reasonable appraisal costs; and

5 (2) the costs of any administrative or environ-
6 mental analysis required by applicable law (including
7 regulations).

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