

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5636

To designate additions to the Flatside Wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2018

Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. BEYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate additions to the Flatside Wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest, 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 “Flatside Wilderness
5 Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF CERTAIN LANDS**

7 **ADJACENT TO FLATSIDE WILDERNESS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
9 conduct an inventory and evaluation of certain lands, as
10 generally depicted on the map titled “Flatside Wilderness

1 Adjacent Inventory Areas” and dated November 30, 2017,
2 to determine the suitability of such lands for inclusion in
3 the National Wilderness Preservation System.

4 (b) COMPLETION DATE.—The inventory and evalua-
5 tion required under subsection (a) shall be completed not
6 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
7 section.

8 (c) DETERMINATION OF SUITABILITY.—

9 (1) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—If the Sec-
10 retary of Agriculture determines that the lands
11 inventoried and evaluated under subsection (a) are
12 suitable for designation as wilderness—

13 (A) the Secretary shall publish notice of
14 such a determination in the Federal Register
15 not later than 1 year after the date of the en-
16 actment of this section; and

17 (B) such lands shall be designated as wil-
18 derness and incorporated in the Flatside Wil-
19 derness under section 3(d) of the Arkansas Wil-
20 derness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–508; 98
21 Stat. 2349) on the date that the Secretary pub-
22 lishes the notice described in subparagraph (A).

23 (2) LACK OF SUITABILITY.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Ag-
25 riculture determines that the lands inventoried

1 and evaluated under subsection (a) are not suit-
2 able for designation as wilderness, the Secretary
3 shall manage the lands in accordance with the
4 applicable land management plan.

5 (B) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—For pur-
6 poses of ecological restoration (including the
7 elimination of non-native species, removal of il-
8 legal, unused, or decommissioned roads, repair
9 of skid tracks, and any other activities nec-
10 essary to restore the natural ecosystems), the
11 Secretary may use motorized equipment and
12 mechanized transport in the lands described in
13 subparagraph (A) until the date that is the ear-
14 lier of the following:

15 (i) The date that is 5 years after the
16 date of the enactment of this section.

17 (ii) The date on which the Secretary
18 determines such lands are suitable for des-
19 ignation as wilderness.

20 (C) LIMITATION.—In carrying out para-
21 graph (1), the Secretary, to the maximum ex-
22 tent practicable, shall use the minimum tool or
23 administrative practice necessary to accomplish
24 ecological restoration with the least amount of

1 adverse impact on wilderness character and re-
2 sources.

3 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONS TO FLATSIDE WILDERNESS.**

4 Section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984
5 (Public Law 98–508; 98 Stat. 2349) is amended by insert-
6 ing “and certain land in the Ouachita National Forest,
7 which comprise approximately 640 acres, as generally de-
8 picted as ‘Recommended Wilderness Additions’ on the
9 map titled ‘Revised Land and Resources Management
10 Plan—Ouachita National Forest—Oklahoma and Arkan-
11 sas’, dated September 23, 2005” after “1984”.

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