

# 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.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Tennessee Wilderness Act”.

### **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Proposed Wilderness Areas and Additions-Cherokee National Forest” and dated January 20, 2010.

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

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

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

(a) **DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.**—In accordance with the Wilderness Act ([16 U.S.C. 1131](#) et seq.), the following parcels of Federal land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee are designated as wilderness and as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System:

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

(2) Certain land comprising approximately 348 acres, as generally depicted as the “Big Frog Addition” on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Big Frog Wilderness.

(3) Certain land comprising approximately 630 acres, as generally depicted as the “Little Frog Mountain Addition NW” on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness.

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

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

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

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

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps and legal descriptions of the wilderness areas designated by subsection (a) with the appropriate committees of Congress.

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

(3) **FORCE OF LAW.**—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct typographical errors in the maps and descriptions.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

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

(2) **FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.**—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act ([16 U.S.C. 1133\(d\)\(7\)](#)), nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management (including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping) in the wilderness areas designated by subsection (a).