

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 470

To authorize the sale of certain National Forest System land in the State of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the sale of certain National Forest System land in the State of Georgia.

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 “Chattahoochee-Oconee
5 National Forest Land Adjustment Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DEFINITION.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) certain National Forest System land in the
9 State of Georgia consists of isolated tracts that are

1 inefficient to manage or have lost their principal
2 value for National Forest purposes;

3 (2) the disposal of that land would be in the
4 public interest; and

5 (3) proceeds from the sale of land authorized by
6 this Act would be used best by the Forest Service
7 to purchase land for National Forest purposes in the
8 State of Georgia.

9 (b) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this Act, the
10 term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

11 **SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized,
13 under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may
14 prescribe, to sell or exchange any or all rights, title, and
15 interest of the United States in the National Forest Sys-
16 tem land described in subsection (b).

17 (b) LAND AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The National Forest System
19 land subject to sale or exchange under this Act are
20 30 tracts of land totaling approximately 3,841 acres,
21 which are generally depicted on 2 maps entitled
22 “Priority Land Adjustments, State of Georgia, U.S.
23 Forest Service—Southern Region, Oconee and Chat-
24 tahoochee National Forests, U.S. Congressional Dis-

1 tricts—8, 9, 10 & 14” and dated September 24,
2 2013.

3 (2) MAPS.—The maps described in paragraph
4 (1) shall be on file and available for public inspec-
5 tion in the Office of the Forest Supervisor, Chat-
6 tahoochee-Oconee National Forest, until such time
7 as the land is sold or exchanged.

8 (3) MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES.—The Sec-
9 retary may modify the boundaries of the land de-
10 scribed in paragraph (1) based on land management
11 considerations.

12 (c) FORM OF CONVEYANCE.—

13 (1) QUITCLAIM DEED.—The Secretary shall
14 convey land sold under this Act by quitclaim deed.

15 (2) RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary may re-
16 serve any rights-of-way or other rights or interests
17 in land sold or exchanged under this Act that the
18 Secretary considers necessary for management pur-
19 poses or to protect the public interest.

20 (d) VALUATION.—

21 (1) MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary may not
22 sell or exchange land under this Act for less than
23 market value, as determined by appraisal or through
24 competitive bid.

1 (2) APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS.—Any appraisal
2 shall be—

3 (A) consistent with the Uniform Appraisal
4 Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions or the
5 Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
6 Practice; and

7 (B) subject to the approval of the Sec-
8 retary.

9 (e) CONSIDERATION.—

10 (1) CASH.—Consideration for a sale of land or
11 equalization of an exchange shall be paid in cash.

12 (2) EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding section
13 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
14 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), the Secretary may
15 accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25
16 percent of the value of any land exchanged.

17 (f) METHOD OF SALE.—

18 (1) OPTIONS.—The Secretary may sell land
19 under subsection (a) at public or private sale, includ-
20 ing competitive sale by auction, bid, or otherwise, in
21 accordance with such terms, conditions, and proce-
22 dures as the Secretary determines are in the best in-
23 terest of the United States.

24 (2) SOLICITATIONS.—The Secretary may—

1 (A) make public or private solicitations for
2 the sale or exchange of land authorized by this
3 Act; and

4 (B) reject any offer that the Secretary de-
5 termines is not adequate or not in the public in-
6 terest.

7 (g) **BROKERS.**—The Secretary may—

8 (1) use brokers or other third parties in the dis-
9 position of the land authorized by this Act; and

10 (2) from the proceeds of a sale, pay reasonable
11 commissions or fees.

12 **SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS.**

13 (a) **DEPOSIT.**—The Secretary shall deposit the pro-
14 ceeds of a sale authorized by this Act in the fund estab-
15 lished under Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the
16 “Sisk Act”) (16 U.S.C. 484a).

17 (b) **AVAILABILITY.**—Subject to subsection (c),
18 amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available
19 to the Secretary until expended, without further appro-
20 priation, for the acquisition of land for National Forest
21 purposes in the State of Georgia.

22 (c) **PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.**—Nothing in
23 this Act authorizes the use of funds deposited under sub-

- 1 section (a) to be used to acquire land without the written
- 2 consent of the owner of the land.

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