Public Law 95-344
95th Congress

An Act

Aug. 15, 1978
[H.R. 8336]

To authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

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

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Ga.
Establishment.
16 USC 460ii.

TITLE I

SEC. 101. The Congress finds the natural, scenic, recreation, historic, and other values of a forty-eight-mile segment of the Chattahoochee River and certain adjoining lands in the State of Georgia from Buford Dam downstream to Peachtree Creek are of special national significance, and that such values should be preserved and protected from developments and uses which would substantially impair or destroy them. In order to assure such preservation and protection for public benefit and enjoyment, there is hereby established the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "recreation area"). The recreation area shall consist of the river and its bed together with the lands, waters, and interests therein within the boundary generally depicted on the map entitled "Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area", numbered CHAT-20,000, and dated July 1976, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Following reasonable notice in writing to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate of his intention to do so, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") may, by publication of a revised map or other boundary description in the Federal Register, (1) make minor revisions in the boundary of the recreation area, and (2) revise the boundary to facilitate access to the recreation area, or to delete lands which would be of little or no benefit to the recreation area due to the existence of valuable improvements completely constructed prior to the date of enactment of this Act. The total area, exclusive of the river and its bed, within the recreation area may not exceed six thousand three hundred acres.

Publication in Federal Register.

Land acquisition.
16 USC 460ii-1.

SEC. 102. (a) Within the recreation area the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. Property owned by the State of Georgia or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation.

(b) When a tract of land lies partly within and partly without the boundaries of the recreation area, the Secretary may acquire the entire tract by any of the above methods in order to avoid the payment of severance costs. Land so acquired outside of the boundaries of the recreation area may be exchanged by the Secretary for non-Federal land within such boundaries, and any portion of the land not utilized for such exchanges may be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.).

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(c) Except for property which the Secretary determines to be necessary for the purposes of administration, development, access, or public use, an owner of improved property which is used solely for noncommercial residential purposes on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary may retain, as a condition of such acquisition, a right of use and occupancy of the property for such residential purposes. The right retained may be for a definite term which shall not exceed twenty-five years or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner or the death of the spouse, whichever occurs later. The owner shall elect the term to be retained. The Secretary shall pay the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less the fair market value of the term retained by the owner.

(d) Any right of use and occupancy retained pursuant to this section may, during its existence, be conveyed or transferred, but all rights of use and occupancy shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate to assure the use of the property in accordance with the purposes of this Act. Upon his determination that the property, or any portion thereof, has ceased to be so used in accordance with such terms and conditions, the Secretary may terminate the right of use and occupancy by tendering to the holder of such right an amount equal to the fair market value, as of the date of the tender, of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

"Improved property."

(e) As used in this section, the term "improved property" means a detached, year-round noncommercial residential dwelling, the construction of which was begun before January 1, 1975, together with so much of the land on which the dwelling is situated, the said land being in the same ownership as the dwelling, as the Secretary shall designate to be reasonably necessary for the enjoyment of the dwelling for the sole purpose of noncommercial residential use, together with any structures accessory to the dwelling which are situated on the land so designated.

16 USC 460ii-2.

SEC. 103. (a) The Secretary shall administer, protect, and develop the recreation area in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), and in accordance with any other statutory authorities available to him for the conservation and management of historic and natural resources, including fish and wildlife, to the extent he finds such authority will further the purposes of this Act. In developing and administering the recreation area, the Secretary shall take into consideration applicable Federal, State, and local recreation plans and resource use and development plans, including, but not limited to, the Atlanta Regional Commission Chattahoochee Corridor Study, dated July 1972.

16 USC 1.

(b) The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to enter into cooperative agreements with the State or its political subdivisions whereby he may assist in the planning for and interpretation of non-Federal publicly owned lands within or adjacent or related to the recreation area to assure that such lands are used in a manner consistent with the findings and purposes of this Act.

(c) In planning for the development and public use of the recreation area, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Army to assure that public use of adjacent or related water resource development or flood control projects and that of the recreation area are complementary.

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(d) In administering the recreation area, the Secretary may permit fishing in waters under his jurisdiction in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. The Secretary, after consultation with the appropriate State agency responsible for fishing activities, may designate zones where, and establish periods when, fishing shall be permitted and issue such regulations as he may determine to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection. Except in emergencies, such regulations shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency.

Regulations.

16 USC 460ii-3.

SEC. 104. (a) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), on or directly affecting the recreation area, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such area is established, except where such project is determined by the State of Georgia to be necessary for water supply or water quality enhancement purposes and authorized by the United States Congress. Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence, however, shall preclude licensing of, or assistance to, developments upstream or downstream from the recreation area or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the recreation area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present therein on the date of approval of this Act. Nothing contained in this subsection shall preclude the upgrading, improvement, expansion or development of facilities or public works for water supply or water quality enhancement purposes if such action would not have a material adverse effect on the values for which the recreation area is established.

(b) No department or agency of the United States shall recommend authorization of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such area is established, as determined by the Secretary, nor shall such department or agency request appropriations to begin construction of any such project, whether heretofore or hereafter authorized, without at least sixty days in advance, (1) advising the Secretary in writing of its intention to do so and (2) reporting to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate the nature of the project involved and the manner in which such project would conflict with the purposes of this Act or would affect the recreation area and the values to be protected by it under this Act. It is not the intention of Congress by this Act to require the manipulation or reduction of lake water levels in Lake Sidney Lanier. Nothing in this Act shall be construed in any way to restrict, prohibit, or affect any recommendation of the Metropolitan Atlanta Water Resources Study as authorized by the Public Works Committee of the United States Senate on March 2, 1972.

Report to congressional committees.

(c) The Secretary is directed to proceed as expeditiously as possible to acquire the lands and interests in lands necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

Land acquisition.

16 USC 460ii-4.

SEC. 105. (a) From the appropriations authorized for fiscal year 1978 and succeeding fiscal years pursuant to the Land and Water

Conservation Fund Act (78 Stat. 897), as amended, not more than $72,900,000 may be expended for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands authorized to be acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Act. 16 USC 460*l*-4.

(b) Effective on October 1, 1978, there are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $500,000 for the development of essential public facilities. Appropriation authorization.

(c) Within three years from the effective date of this Act, the Secretary shall, after consulting with the Governor of the State of Georgia, develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a general management plan for the use and development of the recreation area consistent with the findings and purposes of this Act, indicating: Plan, report to congressional committees.

(1) lands and interests in lands adjacent or related to the recreation area which are deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of resource protection, scenic integrity, or management and administration of the area in furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the estimated cost of acquisition, and the recommended public acquisition agency;

(2) the number of visitors and types of public use within the recreation area that can be accommodated in accordance with the full protection of its resources; and

(3) the facilities deemed necessary to accommodate and provide access for such visitors and uses, including their location and estimated cost.

TITLE II

SEC. 201. Section 4 of the Act approved August 31, 1965 (79 Stat. 588), as amended, providing for the commemoration of certain historical events in the State of Kansas, is further amended by changing "$2,000,000." to "$2,750,000.": *Provided*, That such increase shall be effective on October 1, 1978. Appropriation authorization.

TITLE III

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 301. (a) The Congress hereby finds that— 16 USC 2301.

(1) the purpose of the National Park System is to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, historic, and recreation areas for the enjoyment, education, inspiration, and use of all people;

(2) units of the National Park System have recently been established near major metropolitan areas in order to preserve remaining open space and to provide recreational opportunities for urban residents (many of whom do not have access to personal motor vehicles); and

(3) circumstances which necessarily require people desiring to visit units of the National Park System to rely on personal motor vehicles may diminish the natural and recreational value of such units by causing traffic congestion and environmental damage, and by requiring the provision of roads, parking, and other facilities in ever-increasing numbers and density.

(b) The purpose of this title is to make the National Park System more accessible in a manner consistent with the preservation of parks and the conservation of energy by encouraging the use of transportation modes other than personal motor vehicles for access to and within units of the National Park System with minimum disruption to nearby communities through authorization of a pilot transportation program.

16 USC 2302.

SEC. 302. (a) The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as "Secretary") is authorized to formulate transportation plans and implement transportation projects where feasible pursuant to those plans for units of the national park system.

Land acquisition.

(b) To carry out the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is authorized to—

(1) contract with public or private agencies or carriers to provide transportation services, capital equipment, or facilities to improve access to units of the national park system;

(2) operate such services directly in the absence of suitable and adequate agencies or carriers;

(3) acquire by purchase, lease, or agreement, capital equipment for such services; and

(4) where necessary to carry out the purposes of this title, acquire by lease, purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer, lands, waters, and interests therein which are situated outside the boundary of a unit of the national park system, which property shall be administered as part of the unit: *Provided*, That any land or interests in land owned by a State or any of its political subdivisions may be acquired only by donation: *Provided further*, That any land acquisition shall be subject to such statutory limitations, if any, on methods of acquisition and appropriations thereof as may be specifically applicable to such area.

(c) Acquisitions pursuant to subsection (b) (3) and (4) of this section shall not commence prior to sixty days (not counting days on which the Senate or the House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three consecutive days) from the time the Secretary has submitted a detailed proposal for such acquisitions to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(d) All fees directly collected by the National Park Service in the operation of the facilities and services authorized by this title shall be covered into the Planning, Development, and Operation of Recreation Facilities appropriation account to be subject to appropriation.

Information, availability to public.

(e) The Secretary shall establish information programs to inform the public of available park access opportunities and to promote the use of transportation modes other than personal motor vehicles for access to and travel within the units of the national park system.

16 USC 20.

(f) Transportation facilities and services provided pursuant to this title shall not be considered as concession facilities or services within the meaning of the Act of October 9, 1965 (79 Stat. 969) and may be undertaken by the Secretary directly or by contract without regard to any requirement of local, State, or Federal law respecting determinations of public convenience and necessity or other similar matters: *Provided*, That the Secretary or his contractor shall consult with the appropriate State or local public service commission or other such body having authority to issue certificates of convenience and necessity, and any such contractor shall be subject to applicable requirements of such body unless the Secretary determines that such

requirements would not be consistent with the purposes and provisions of this title.

(g) No grant of authority in this title shall be deemed to expand the exemption of section 203(b)(4) of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 303(b)(4)).

SEC. 303. (a) To carry out the purposes of this title, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary deems necessary are directed to assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of transportation projects. 16 USC 2303.

(b) Within one hundred and eighty days from the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, a compilation of Federal statutes and programs providing authority for the planning, funding, or operation of transportation projects which might be utilized by the Secretary to carry out the purpose of this title. The Secretary shall revise the compilation thereafter as he deems necessary. Report to congressional committees.

SEC. 304. (a) The Secretary shall, during the formulation of any transportation plan authorized pursuant to section 302 of this title— Notice, publication in Federal Register. 16 USC 2304.

(1) give public notice of intention to formulate such a plan by publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper or periodical having general circulation in the vicinity of the affected unit of the national park system;

(2) following such notice hold a public meeting at a location or locations convenient to the affected unit of the National Park System.

(b) Prior to the implementation of any project developed pursuant to the transportation plan formulated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish procedures, including but not limited to public meetings, to give State and local governments and the public adequate notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed transportation project; and Notice.

(2) submit, when the proposed project would involve an expenditure in excess of $100,000 in any fiscal year, a detailed report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives. The Secretary may proceed with the implementation of such plan only after sixty days (not counting days on which the Senate or House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three consecutive days) have elapsed following submission of the plan. Report to congressional committees.

SEC. 305. The Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress within three years of the effective date of this Act. The report shall include, but not be limited to, his findings and recommendations regarding— Report to Congress. 16 USC 2305.

(a) preservation of natural resource values within units of the National Park System through access alternatives;

(b) effects of transportation projects on communities in close proximity to the units of the National Park System; and

(c) future transportation projects formulated pursuant to this title.

Appropriation authorization. 16 USC 2306.

SEC. 306. In carrying out the purposes of this title, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated $1,000,000 for fiscal year 1979; $2,000,000 for fiscal year 1980; and $3,000,000 for fiscal year 1981, which shall remain available until expended. In a fiscal year when the amounts actually appropriated are less than the amounts listed above, the authorized but unappropriated amount shall continue to be available for appropriation in succeeding fiscal years.

Approved August 15, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-598 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 95-812 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):
Feb. 9, 14, considered and passed House.
July 21, considered and passed Senate, amended.
July 31, House concurred in Senate amendment with an amendment.
Aug. 3, Senate concurred in House amendment.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 14, No. 33:
Aug. 15, Presidential statement.