USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | George Washington and Jefferson National Forests | 5162 Valleypointe Parkway Roanoke, VA 24019 540-265-5100

File Code: 2720
Date: May 16, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Peters Mountain Wilderness Boundary
OEP/DG2E/GAS3
Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
Docket No. CP16-10

Dear Ms. Bose:

The Forest Service submits information concerning the location of the boundary for the Peters Mountain Wilderness on the Jefferson National Forest. This boundary information would affect the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project (MVP Project) proposed by Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (MVP). More specifically, the Forest Service has determined that a portion of the proposed MVP Project on Peters Mountain is located within the 2009 Addition to Peters Mountain Wilderness, as generally depicted on the attached map (Exhibit A).

The Legislative Map titled "Peters Mountain Addition" and dated April 28, 2008 (Exhibit B) was approved by Congress in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11, Subtitle B, SEC. 1102(a)(19); 123 STAT. 103) (Exhibit C) when it created the Addition to Peters Mountain Wilderness. The Legislative Map was created using Forest Service corporate GIS data and generally depicts the 2009 Addition to the Peters Mountain Wilderness boundary; however, the Forest Service has not yet filed an official final map and boundary description as required under SEC. 1106(a) of the Act. Since the Legislative Map notes that the western boundary of the 2009 Addition to Peters Mountain Wilderness is a 100' (foot) offset from FSR 11080 (Mystery Ridge Road), then the physical location of Mystery Ridge Road will control the actual location of the western boundary of Peters Mountain Wilderness.

During various aspects of project review, including a recent site visit to discuss the proposed bore under the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Forest Service staff noticed a discrepancy between the GIS based maps and the physical location of Mystery Ridge Road.

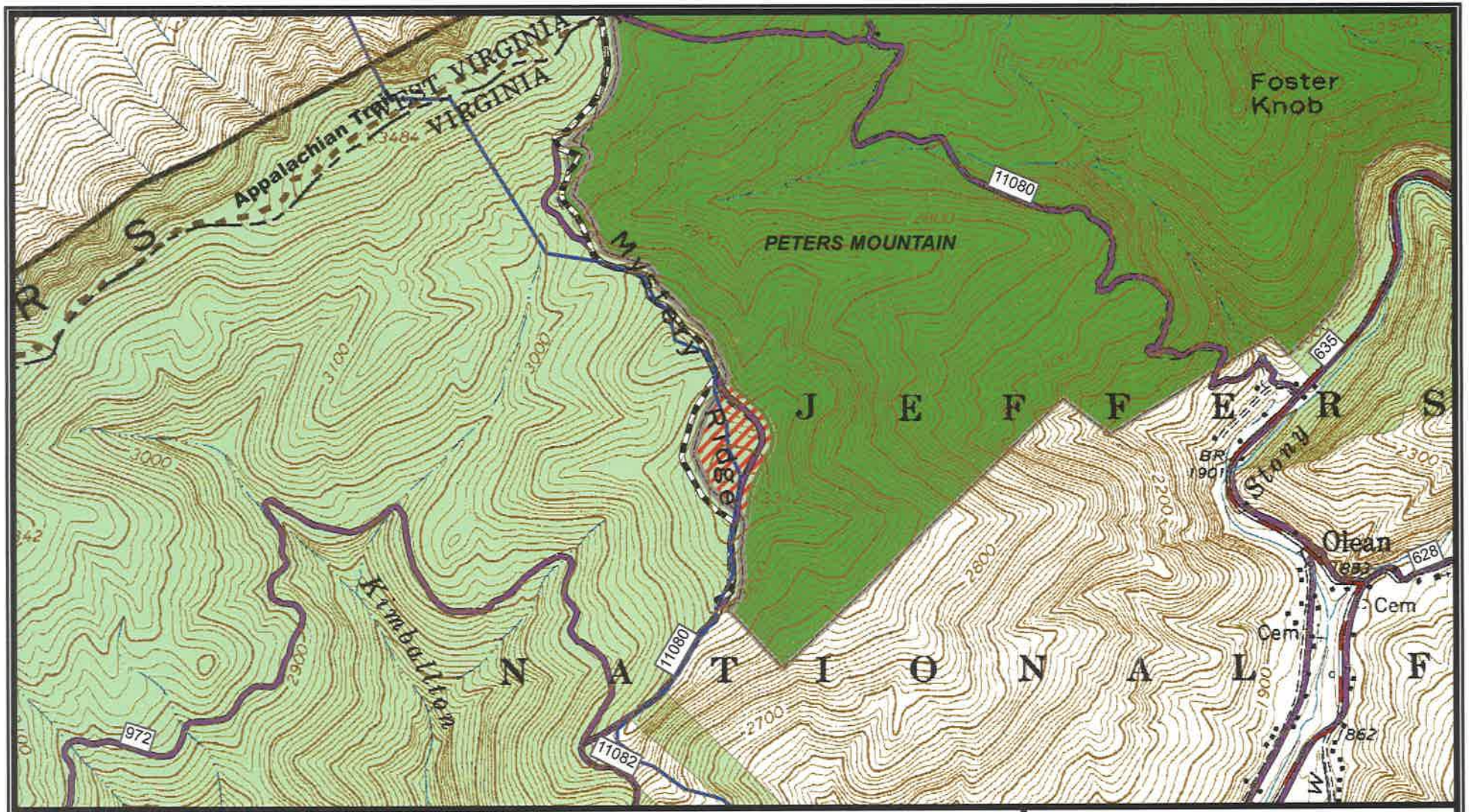
Based on MVP's shapefile for the proposed pipeline centerline and the actual location of Mystery Ridge Road, a portion of the proposed pipeline corridor is located within the Peters Mountain Wilderness (see Exhibit A). The Forest Service does not have the authority to grant a pipeline right-of-way through a Wilderness. If MVP decides to shift the project corridor westerly to a location outside of, yet in close proximity to, the Peters Mountain Wilderness, then the Forest Service strongly encourages MVP to survey Mystery Ridge Road and the 100' (foot) offset in order to have accurate Wilderness boundary information for MVP's routing and project planning purposes.

For questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Adams, Special Project Coordinator, by phone at (540) 265-5114 or by email at jenniferpadams@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

JOBY P. TIMM
Forest Supervisor

EXHIBIT A



Vicinity Map

References

Data acquired from a variety of sources of differing accuracy, precision, and reliability. Features represented by this data may not represent accurate geographic locations.

Disclaimer

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.

N

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

Legend Sheet 1 of 1

- Proposed MVP Centerline
- Wilderness (GIS Location)
- Road (GIS Location)
- Road (Physical Location)
- Wilderness Boundary (Physical Location)
- Wilderness (Not Shown In GIS)
- Forest Boundary
- Non - National Forest System Lands
- National Forest System Lands

Map Date/ Version - 12-May-2016/ 1

Peters Mountain Wilderness Boundary

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE PROJECT

Mystery Ridge Road - FSR 11080
Giles County, Virginia

U.S. Forest Service - Southern Region
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Eastern Divide Ranger District

- Peters Mountain Wilderness Addition boundary is located 100 foot offset from the physical location of FSR 11080.
- The proposed MVP centerline is currently located within the Peters Mountain Wilderness Addition

Data used in creation of this map are on file with the Forest Service, Map created by GW/Jeff National Forest

EXHIBIT B

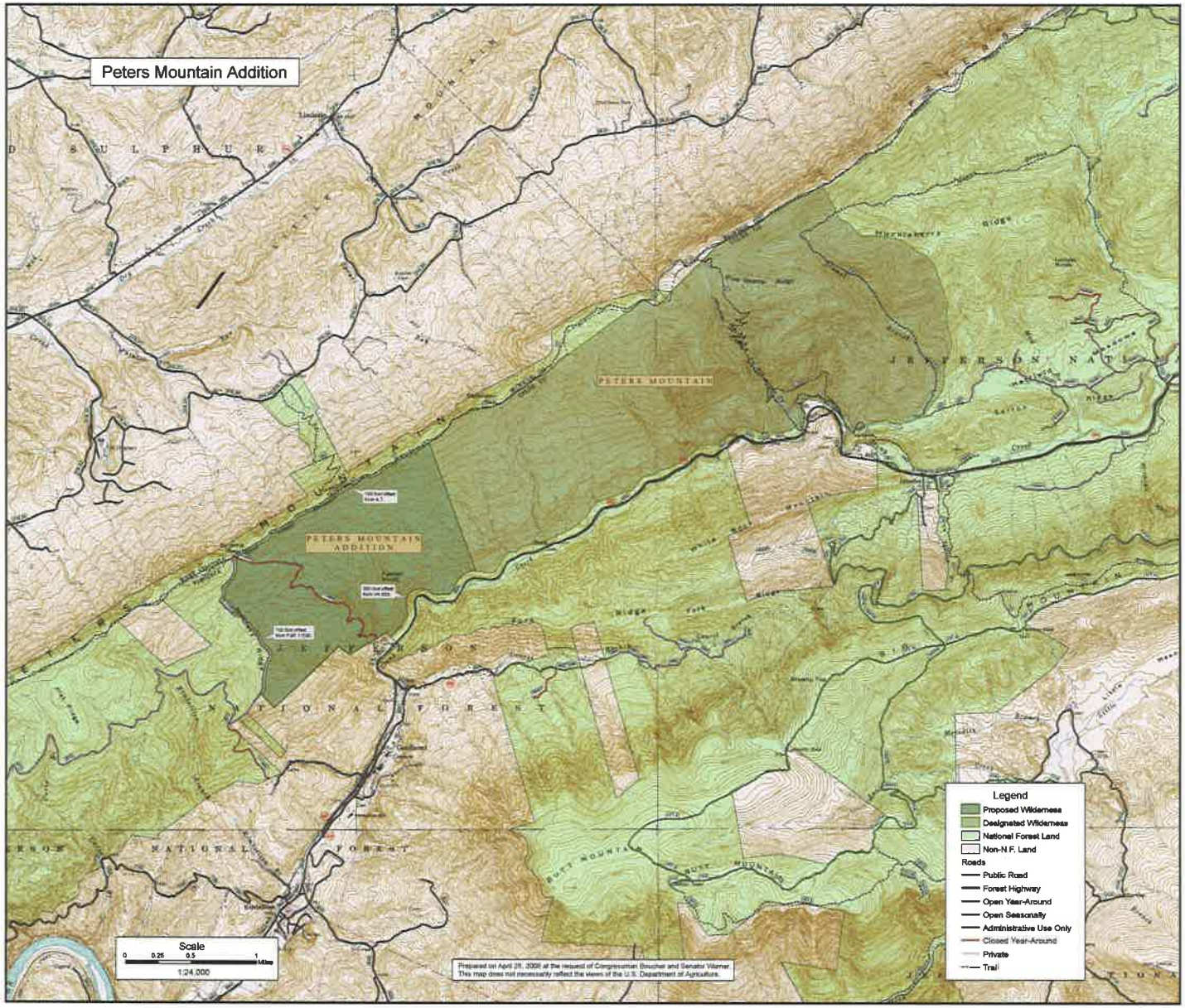

Peters Mountain Addition
PETERS MOUNTAIN
PETERS MOUNTAIN ADDITION
JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST
Legend
Proposed Wilderness
Designated Wilderness
National Forest Land
Non-N.F. Land
Roads
Public Road
Forest Highway
Open Year-Around
Open Seasonally
Administrative Use Only
Closed Year-Around
Private
Trail
Scale
0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile
1:24,000
Prepared on April 28, 2009 at the request of Congressman Boucher and Senator Warner.
This map does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

EXHIBIT C

trail" means a trail designed for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the plan required under subsection (a), including the identification of priority trails for development.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION OF FOREST ROADS TO RECREATIONAL USES.—In considering possible closure and decommissioning of a Forest Service road within the Monongahela National Forest after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in accordance with applicable law, may consider converting the road to nonmotorized uses to enhance recreational opportunities within the Monongahela National Forest.

Subtitle B—Virginia Ridge and Valley Wilderness

16 USC 546b note.

SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) SCENIC AREAS.—The term "scenic areas" means the Seng Mountain National Scenic Area and the Bear Creek National Scenic Area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 1102. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND IN JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST AS WILDERNESS OR A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.—Section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584, 114 Stat. 2057), is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "System—" and inserting "System:";

(2) by striking "certain" each place it appears and inserting "Certain";

(3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(4) in paragraph (7), by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(9) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 3,743 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East' and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Brush Mountain East Wilderness'.

"(10) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 4,794 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Brush Mountain and Brush Mountain East' and dated May 5, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Brush Mountain Wilderness'.

"(11) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 4,223 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Seng Mountain and Raccoon Branch' and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Raccoon Branch Wilderness'.

EXHIBIT C

"(12) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 3,270 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Stone Mountain' and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Stone Mountain Wilderness'.

"(13) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 8,470 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Garden Mountain and Hunting Camp Creek' and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Hunting Camp Creek Wilderness'.

"(14) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 3,291 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Garden Mountain and Hunting Camp Creek' and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Garden Mountain Wilderness'.

"(15) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 5,476 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Mountain Lake Additions' and dated April 28, 2008, which is incorporated in the Mountain Lake Wilderness designated by section 2(6) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586).

"(16) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 308 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Lewis Fork Addition and Little Wilson Creek Additions' and dated April 28, 2008, which is incorporated in the Lewis Fork Wilderness designated by section 2(3) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586).

"(17) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 1,845 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Lewis Fork Addition and Little Wilson Creek Additions' and dated April 28, 2008, which is incorporated in the Little Wilson Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(5) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586).

"(18) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 2,219 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Shawvers Run Additions' and dated April 28, 2008, which is incorporated in the Shawvers Run Wilderness designated by paragraph (4).

"(19) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 1,203 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Peters Mountain Addition' and dated April 28, 2008, which is incorporated in the Peters Mountain Wilderness designated by section 2(7) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586).

"(20) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 263 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Kimberling Creek Additions and Potential Wilderness Area' and dated April 28, 2008, which is incorporated in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(2) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586).".

(b) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—The Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586) is amended—

(1) in the first section, by inserting "as" after "cited"; and

(2) in section 6(a)—

EXHIBIT C

(A) by striking "certain" each place it appears and inserting "Certain";

(B) in each of paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) Certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 3,226 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area' and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the 'Lynn Camp Creek Wilderness Study Area'.".

16 USC 1132 note.

SEC. 1103. DESIGNATION OF KIMBERLING CREEK POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the Jefferson National Forest comprising approximately 349 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Kimberling Creek Additions and Potential Wilderness Area" and dated April 28, 2008, is designated as a potential wilderness area for incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness designated by section 2(2) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586).

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the potential wilderness area in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(c) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of ecological restoration (including the elimination of nonnative species, removal of illegal, unused, or decommissioned roads, and any other activity necessary to restore the natural ecosystems in the potential wilderness area), the Secretary may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the potential wilderness area until the date on which the potential wilderness area is incorporated into the Kimberling Creek Wilderness.

(2) LIMITATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to accomplish ecological restoration with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

Effective date.

(d) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness area shall be designated as wilderness and incorporated in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness on the earlier of—

Federal Register, publication. Notice.

(1) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that the conditions in the potential wilderness area that are incompatible with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have been removed; or

(2) the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 USC 546b.

SEC. 1104. SENG MOUNTAIN AND BEAR CREEK SCENIC AREAS, JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST, VIRGINIA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are designated as National Scenic Areas—

EXHIBIT C

(1) certain National Forest System land in the Jefferson National Forest, comprising approximately 5,192 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Seng Mountain and Raccoon Branch" and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the "Seng Mountain National Scenic Area"; and

(2) certain National Forest System land in the Jefferson National Forest, comprising approximately 5,128 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Bear Creek" and dated April 28, 2008, which shall be known as the "Bear Creek National Scenic Area".

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the scenic areas are—

(1) to ensure the protection and preservation of scenic quality, water quality, natural characteristics, and water resources of the scenic areas;

(2) consistent with paragraph (1), to protect wildlife and fish habitat in the scenic areas;

(3) to protect areas in the scenic areas that may develop characteristics of old-growth forests; and

(4) consistent with paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), to provide a variety of recreation opportunities in the scenic areas.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the scenic areas in accordance with—

(A) this subtitle; and

(B) the laws (including regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System.

(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—The Secretary shall only allow uses of the scenic areas that the Secretary determines will further the purposes of the scenic areas, as described in subsection (b).

(d) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop as an amendment to the land and resource management plan for the Jefferson National Forest a management plan for the scenic areas. Deadline.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection requires the Secretary to revise the land and resource management plan for the Jefferson National Forest under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(e) ROADS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), after the date of enactment of this Act, no roads shall be established or constructed within the scenic areas.

(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection denies any owner of private land (or an interest in private land) that is located in a scenic area the right to access the private land.

(f) TIMBER HARVEST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), no harvesting of timber shall be allowed within the scenic areas.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may authorize harvesting of timber in the scenic areas if the Secretary determines that the harvesting is necessary to—

(A) control fire;

EXHIBIT C

(B) provide for public safety or trail access; or

(C) control insect and disease outbreaks.

(3) FIREWOOD FOR PERSONAL USE.—Firewood may be harvested for personal use along perimeter roads in the scenic areas, subject to any conditions that the Secretary may impose.

(g) INSECT AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS.—The Secretary may control insect and disease outbreaks—

(1) to maintain scenic quality;

(2) to prevent tree mortality;

(3) to reduce hazards to visitors; or

(4) to protect private land.

(h) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary may engage in vegetation manipulation practices in the scenic areas to maintain the visual quality and wildlife clearings in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(i) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), motorized vehicles shall not be allowed within the scenic areas.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may authorize the use of motorized vehicles—

(A) to carry out administrative activities that further the purposes of the scenic areas, as described in subsection (b);

(B) to assist wildlife management projects in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) during deer and bear hunting seasons—

(i) on Forest Development Roads 49410 and 84b; and

(ii) on the portion of Forest Development Road 6261 designated on the map described in subsection (a)(2) as "open seasonally".

(j) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—Wildfire suppression within the scenic areas shall be conducted—

(1) in a manner consistent with the purposes of the scenic areas, as described in subsection (b); and

(2) using such means as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(k) WATER.—The Secretary shall administer the scenic areas in a manner that maintains and enhances water quality.

(l) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the scenic areas is withdrawn from—

(1) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(2) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

SEC. 1105. TRAIL PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TRAIL PLAN.—The Secretary, in consultation with interested parties, shall establish a trail plan to develop—

(1) in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), hiking and equestrian trails in the wilderness areas designated by paragraphs (9) through (20) of section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) (as added by section 1102(a)(5)); and

(2) nonmotorized recreation trails in the scenic areas.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to

EXHIBIT C

Congress a report that describes the implementation of the trail plan, including the identification of priority trails for development.

(c) SUSTAINABLE TRAIL REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall develop a sustainable trail, using a contour curvilinear alignment, to provide for nonmotorized travel along the southern boundary of the Raccoon Branch Wilderness established by section 1(11) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) (as added by section 1102(a)(5)) connecting to Forest Development Road 49352 in Smyth County, Virginia.

SEC. 1106. MAPS AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS. 16 USC 546b–1.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives maps and boundary descriptions of—

(1) the scenic areas;

(2) the wilderness areas designated by paragraphs (9) through (20) of section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) (as added by section 1102(a)(5));

(3) the wilderness study area designated by section 6(a)(5) of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 98–586) (as added by section 1102(b)(2)(D)); and

(4) the potential wilderness area designated by section 1103(a).

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and boundary descriptions filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct any minor errors in the maps and boundary descriptions.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—The maps and boundary descriptions filed under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(d) CONFLICT.—In the case of a conflict between a map filed under subsection (a) and the acreage of the applicable areas specified in this subtitle, the map shall control.

SEC. 1107. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act for purposes of administering—

(1) the wilderness areas designated by paragraphs (9) through (20) of section 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note) (as added by section 1102(a)(5)); and

(2) the potential wilderness area designated by section 1103(a).

Subtitle C—Mt. Hood Wilderness, Oregon

SEC. 1201. DEFINITIONS. 16 USC 460uuu note.

In this subtitle:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Oregon.