

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1434

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. FERGUSON) 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”.

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-
25 tricts 8, 9, 10 & 14” and dated September 24, 2013.

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

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

10 (c) FORM OF CONVEYANCE.—

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

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

18 (d) VALUATION.—

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

23 (2) APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS.—Any appraisal
24 shall be—

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

5 (B) subject to the approval of the Sec-
6 retary.

7 (e) CONSIDERATION.—

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

10 (2) EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding section
11 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
12 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), the Secretary may
13 accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25
14 percent of the value of any land exchanged.

15 (f) METHOD OF SALE.—

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

22 (2) SOLICITATIONS.—The Secretary may—

23 (A) make public or private solicitations for
24 the sale or exchange of land authorized by this
25 Act; and

1 (B) reject any offer that the Secretary de-
2 termines is not adequate or not in the public in-
3 terest.

4 (g) BROKERS.—The Secretary may—

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

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

9 **SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS.**

10 (a) DEPOSIT.—Subject to section 3(g)(2), the Sec-
11 retary shall deposit the proceeds of a sale or cash equali-
12 zations payments authorized by this Act in the fund estab-
13 lished under Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the
14 “Sisk Act”) (16 U.S.C. 484a).

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

20 (c) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in
21 this Act authorizes the use of funds deposited under sub-
22 section (a) to be used to acquire land without the written
23 consent of the owner of the land.

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