

Union Calendar No. 602

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 470

[Report No. 114-769]

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

SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Additional sponsors: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia,
Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JODY
B. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia

SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

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
10 inefficient to manage or have lost their principal
11 value for National Forest purposes;

12 (2) the disposal of that land would be in the
13 public interest; and

14 (3) proceeds from the sale of land authorized by
15 this Act would be used best by the Forest Service
16 to purchase land for National Forest purposes in the
17 State of Georgia.

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

20 **SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.**

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

1 (b) LAND AUTHORIZED FOR DISPOSAL.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The National Forest System
3 land subject to sale or exchange under this Act are
4 30 tracts of land totaling approximately 3,841 acres,
5 which are generally depicted on 2 maps entitled
6 “Priority Land Adjustments, State of Georgia, U.S.
7 Forest Service–Southern Region, Oconee and Chat-
8 tahoochee National Forests, U.S. Congressional Dis-
9 tricts–8, 9, 10 & 14” and dated September 24,
10 2013.

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

16 (3) MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES.—The Sec-
17 retary may modify the boundaries of the land de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1) based on land management
19 considerations.

20 (c) FORM OF CONVEYANCE.—

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

23 (2) RESERVATIONS.—The Secretary may re-
24 serve any rights-of-way or other rights or interests
25 in land sold or exchanged under this Act that the

1 Secretary considers necessary for management pur-
2 poses or to protect the public interest.

3 (d) VALUATION.—

4 (1) MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary may not
5 sell or exchange land under this Act for less than
6 market value, as determined by appraisal or through
7 competitive bid.

8 (2) APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS.—Any appraisal
9 shall be—

10 (A) consistent with the Uniform Appraisal
11 Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions or the
12 Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal
13 Practice; and

14 (B) subject to the approval of the Sec-
15 retary.

16 (e) CONSIDERATION.—

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

19 (2) EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding section
20 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
21 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), the Secretary may
22 accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25
23 percent of the value of any land exchanged.

24 (f) METHOD OF SALE.—

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

7 (2) SOLICITATIONS.—The Secretary may—

8 (A) make public or private solicitations for
9 the sale or exchange of land authorized by this
10 Act; and

11 (B) reject any offer that the Secretary de-
12 termines is not adequate or not in the public in-
13 terest.

14 (g) BROKERS.—The Secretary may—

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

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

19 **SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS.**

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

24 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subsection (c),
25 amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available

1 to the Secretary until expended, without further appro-
2 priation, for the acquisition of land for National Forest
3 purposes in the State of Georgia.

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

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