

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

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 “Virginia Wilderness  
5 Additions Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO ROUGH MOUNTAIN AND RICH HOLE**  
7 **WILDERNESSES.**

8 (a) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Section 1 of  
9 Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat.

1 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is amended by add-  
2 ing at the end the following:

3           “(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain  
4 land in the George Washington National Forest  
5 comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally  
6 depicted as the ‘Rough Mountain Addition’ on the  
7 map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NA-  
8 TIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I –  
9 Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions –  
10 Land and Resources Management Plan Final Envi-  
11 ronmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4,  
12 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain  
13 Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).”.

14 (b) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

15           (1) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—  
16 In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act  
17 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the George  
18 Washington National Forest comprising approxi-  
19 mately 4,600 acres, as generally depicted as the  
20 “Rich Hole Addition” on the map entitled  
21 “GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST  
22 – South half – Alternative I – Selected Alternative  
23 Management Prescriptions – Land and Resources  
24 Management Plan Final Environmental Impact  
25 Statement” and dated March 4, 2014, is designated

1 as a potential wilderness area for incorporation in  
2 the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section  
3 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;  
4 102 Stat. 584).

5 (2) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential  
6 wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) shall be  
7 designated as wilderness and incorporated in the  
8 Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section  
9 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;  
10 102 Stat. 584) on the earlier of—

11 (A) the date on which the Secretary of Ag-  
12 riculture (referred to in this section as the  
13 “Secretary”) publishes in the Federal Register  
14 notice that the activities permitted under para-  
15 graph (4) have been completed; or

16 (B) the date that is 5 years after the date  
17 of enactment of this Act.

18 (3) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in  
19 paragraph (4), the Secretary shall manage the po-  
20 tential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1)  
21 in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
22 1131 et seq.).

23 (4) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVI-  
24 TIES.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—To enhance natural  
2 ecosystems within the potential wilderness area  
3 designated by paragraph (1) by implementing  
4 certain activities to improve water quality and  
5 aquatic passage, as set forth in the Forest  
6 Service document entitled “Decision Notice for  
7 the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Man-  
8 agement Project” and dated December 2015,  
9 the Secretary may use motorized equipment  
10 and mechanized transport in the potential wil-  
11 derness area until the date on which the poten-  
12 tial wilderness area is incorporated into the  
13 Rich Hole Wilderness Area under paragraph  
14 (2).

15           (B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
16 paragraph (A), the Secretary, to the maximum  
17 extent practicable, shall use the minimum tool  
18 or administrative practice necessary to carry  
19 out that subparagraph with the least amount of  
20 adverse impact on wilderness character and re-  
21 sources.