

(Pub. L. 101-292, §9, May 17, 1990, 104 Stat. 190.)

SUBCHAPTER CXIII—SMITH RIVER  
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**§ 460bbb. Findings**

The Congress finds that—

(1) the Smith River, undammed and free-flowing from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean, represents one of the last wholly intact vestiges of an invaluable legacy of wild and scenic rivers;

(2) the Smith River watershed, from the diverse conifer forests of the Siskiyou Mountains and unique botanical communities of the North Fork serpentine to the ancient redwoods along the river's lower reaches, exhibits a richness of ecological diversity unusual in a basin of its size;

(3) the Smith River watershed's scenic beauty, renowned anadromous fisheries, exceptional water quality, and abundant wildlife combine with its ready accessibility to offer exceptional opportunities for a wide range of recreational activities, including wilderness, water sports, fishing, hunting, camping, and sightseeing;

(4) careful development and utilization at mutually compatible levels of recreation, fisheries, and timber resources on public lands will ensure the continuation of the Smith River watershed's historic role as a significant contributor to the region's local economy; and

(5) protection of the Smith River's unique values can be enhanced by a cooperative effort by Federal, State and local governments to coordinate land-use planning, management, and development of Federal and non-Federal lands throughout the watershed.

(Pub. L. 101-612, §2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3209.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-612, §1, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3209, provided that: "Sections 1 through 14 of this Act [enacting this subchapter, amending section 1274 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 460bbb-7 of this title] may be cited as the 'Smith River National Recreation Area Act'."

**§ 460bbb-1. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter—

(1) the term "excluded area" means one of the four areas specifically excluded from the recreation area, as generally depicted on the map referred to in section 460bbb-2(b) of this title;

(2) the term "forest plan" means the land and resource management plan for the Six Rivers National Forest prepared pursuant to section 1604 of this title;

(3) the term "recreation area" means the Smith River National Recreation Area established by section 460bbb-2 of this title;

(4) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(5) the term "inner gorge" means the inherently unstable steep slope (65 percent gradient or more) immediately adjacent to the stream or river channel, extending from the channel or recent floodplain to the first significant break in slope (usually 15 percent or more).

(Pub. L. 101-612, §3, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3209.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 101-612, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3209, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 460bbb of this title and Tables.

**§ 460bbb-2. Establishment****(a) In general**

For the purposes of ensuring the preservation, protection, enhancement, and interpretation for present and future generations of the Smith River watershed's outstanding wild and scenic rivers, ecological diversity, and recreation opportunities while providing for the wise use and sustained productivity of its natural resources, there is hereby established the Smith River National Recreation Area.

**(b) Boundaries**

(1) The recreation area shall consist of those lands within the area generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Smith River National Recreation Area" and dated July 1990. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. The Secretary may, by publication of availability of a revised map and after public comment, make corrections or minor changes to the boundary of the recreation area.

(2) The exterior boundary of the recreation area, as generally depicted on the map, shall encompass the recreation area and the four excluded areas.

**(c) Boundary modification**

The boundaries of the Six Rivers National Forest are hereby modified as generally depicted on the map referred to in subsection (b). A map and legal description of the boundary of the Six Rivers National Forest as modified by this subsection shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief, Forest Service, and the Office of the Forest Supervisor of the Six Rivers National Forest.

**(d) Transfer**

The federally owned lands within the recreation area administered by the Secretary of the Interior on November 16, 1990, comprising approximately 20 acres, are hereby transferred to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and shall be managed in accordance with the laws applicable to the National Forest System and this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 101-612, §4, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3210.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (d), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 101-612, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3209, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 460bbb of this title and Tables.

**§ 460bbb-3. Administration****(a) In general**

The Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with this subchapter and the

laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System in furtherance of the purposes for which the recreation area was established. In administering the recreation area, the Secretary shall, consistent with the applicable area management emphasis provided under subsection (b), undertake the following:

(1) Provide for a broad range of recreation uses and provide recreational and interpretive services and facilities (including trails and campgrounds) for the public.

(2) Provide and maintain adequate public access, including vehicular roads for general recreational activities such as camping, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

(3) Improve the anadromous fishery and water quality, including (but not limited to) stabilizing landslides, improving fish spawning and rearing habitat, and placing appropriate restrictions or limitations on soil disturbing activities.

(4) Permit the use of off-road vehicles only on designated routes.

(5) Provide for public health and safety and for the protection of the recreation area in the event of fire or infestation of insects or disease.

(6) Permit programmed timber harvest only in those management areas where timber harvest is specifically authorized by subsection (b). Timber management in these areas shall incorporate the use of strategies to reduce habitat fragmentation and employ silvicultural prescriptions designed to maintain or enhance biological diversity and wildlife habitats (such as retention of standing green trees, snags, and other coarse woody debris) by providing for a high level of structural and compositional diversity in managed stands.

(7) Permit removal of trees within streamside protection zones along those rivers and river segments specified in section 460bbb-8 of this title only when necessary for human health and safety, to maintain trails or existing roads, for the development of recreation or other facilities, for the protection of the recreation area in the event of fire, or to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

(8) Consistent with applicable requirements of law, permit removal of trees in those management areas where timber harvest is not specifically authorized by subsection (b) when necessary for human health and safety, to maintain trails or existing roads, for the development of recreation or other facilities, for the protection of the recreation area in the event of fire, or to improve fish and wildlife habitat. Timber damaged or down in these areas as a result of fire, insects, disease, blow-down or other natural events shall otherwise be retained in its natural condition, with removal permitted only upon a written determination by the Secretary, based upon written findings, that such removal is necessary to provide for or maintain or enhance biological and ecological diversity, without regard for the commodity value of the timber. Such a decision shall not be delegable by the Secretary but shall be subject to administrative appeal and judicial review.

(9) Provide for the long-term viability and presence of Port-Orford-cedar and ensure its

continued present economic and noneconomic uses through implementation of management strategies developed by the Forest Service.

(10) Except where timber harvest is specifically authorized by subsection (b) protect, preserve, and increase old growth forest habitat in the recreation area.

(11) Provide for the restoration of landscapes damaged by past human activity consistent with the purposes of this subchapter.

(12) Develop a monitoring program to consistently gather water quality, air quality, wildlife, and fisheries data from representative Smith River subwatersheds.

(13) Develop and implement a management plan to maintain, protect, and promote habitat for native resident trout species in the recreation area.

(14) Cooperate with other Federal, State, and local government agencies in coordinating planning efforts throughout the Smith River watershed.

**(b) Management areas**

(1) The recreation area shall contain eight management areas, as generally depicted on the map referred to in section 460bbb-2(b) of this title. The Secretary may, pursuant to section 460bbb-2(b) of this title, make minor revisions or amendments to the boundaries of the management areas.

(2) The Secretary shall administer each management area within the recreation area in accordance with the following:

(A) The management emphasis for the North Fork management area shall be on back-country and whitewater recreation, while recognizing unique botanic communities, outstanding whitewater, and historic and scenic values.

(B) The management emphasis for the Upper Middle Fork management area shall be on providing and maintaining ecologic and biologic diversity. Timber harvest shall be permitted, consistent with subsection (a)(6), only in existing plantations.

(C) The management emphasis for the Middle Fork-Highway 199 management area shall be on maintaining wildlife values and providing for a full range of recreation uses, with particular emphasis on the scenic and recreation values associated with the Smith River, old growth redwoods, and California State Highway 199.

(D) The management emphasis for the Upper South Fork management area shall be on wild river and roadless back-country recreation.

(E) The management emphasis for the Lower South Fork management area shall be on maintaining and protecting natural scenic values in the river canyon while providing for traditional and compatible river sports, including white water rafting, angling, sight-seeing, and developed and dispersed recreation. Timber harvests based on uneven-aged management with extended rotations shall be allowed where consistent with protection of the scenic values of the recreation area.

(F) The management emphasis for the Lower Hurdygurdy Creek management area shall be on maintenance of wildlife values while pro-

viding rustic family and group recreation facilities for fishing, swimming, hunting, and camping. Timber harvests based on uneven-aged management with extended rotations shall be allowed where consistent with protection of scenic and wildlife values.

(G) The management emphasis for the prescribed timber management area shall be on providing a sustained yield of wood products while maintaining biological and ecological diversity.

(H) The management of the Siskiyou Wilderness management area shall be pursuant to the provisions of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.). The Gasquet-Orleans Road corridor between the eastern edge of section 36, T. 14 N., R. 3 E., and the corridor's eastern terminus in the middle of section 26, T. 14 N., R. 4 E. shall be added to the Siskiyou Wilderness.

#### (c) Wild and scenic rivers

The river segments designated as wild and scenic rivers by the amendments made by section 10(b) of this Act shall be administered in accordance with this subchapter and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.). In case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts, the more restrictive provision shall apply.

(Pub. L. 101-612, § 5, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3210.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 101-612, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3209, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 460bbb of this title and Tables.

The Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), referred to in subsec. (b)(2)(H), is Pub. L. 88-577, Sept. 3, 1964, 78 Stat. 890, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 23 (§1131 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1131 of this title and Tables.

Section 10(b) of this Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is section 10(b) of Pub. L. 101-612, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3215, which amended section 1274 of this title.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 90-542, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 906, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 28 (§1271 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1271 of this title and Tables.

These Acts, referred to in subsec. (c), mean the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and this subchapter, which was in the original "this Act". See References in Text notes above.

### § 460bbb-4. Acquisition and disposal of lands and other property

#### (a) Acquisition

The Secretary is authorized to acquire by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise lands, waters, or interests therein (including scenic or other easements), and structures or other improvements thereon, within the boundaries of the recreation area as the Secretary determines appropriate for the purposes of this subchapter. In exercising this authority, the Secretary is directed to give prompt and careful consideration to any offer to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of such property made by an individual or organization. The Secretary shall not acquire any land or interest in land owned by the State

of California or any of its political subdivisions within the recreation area except by donation or exchange. All lands acquired by the Secretary pursuant to this subchapter shall be subject to the laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System and this subchapter.

#### (b) Transfers to Del Norte County

(1) Upon the adoption of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Del Norte, California, accepting title to the lands described in paragraph (2) and subject to the County of Del Norte bearing the cost of the survey of such lands, the Secretary shall transfer all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the lands described in paragraph (2).

(2) The lands referred to in paragraph (1) are described as follows:

(A) Lands north of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M., containing 6 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as:

Commencing at the N.E. corner of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M.; thence, northerly on a line continuing the eastern boundary of said tract 37 to a point where it intersects the southern boundary of the easement for State highway conveyed to the State of California, Department of Transportation, on the 17th day of May 1977, and recorded on June 22, 1977 at book 206 of Official Records, page 256; thence, southwesterly along the southern boundary of said easement to the point where it intersects the northern boundary of said tract 37; thence, easterly along the northern boundary of said tract 37 to the point of beginning.

(B) Lands east of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M., containing 6 acres, more or less, and more particularly described as:

Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary of tract 37, T. 17 N., R. 3 E., H.M., lying 332 feet southerly of the N.E. corner of said tract 37; thence, due east to the high water line of the Middle Fork of the Smith River; thence, southwesterly along the high water line of the Middle Fork of the Smith River to its intersection with the northern boundary of tract 38, T. 17 N., R. 3 E.; thence, westerly along the northern boundary of said tract 38 to its intersection with said tract 37; thence, northerly along the eastern boundary of said tract 37 to the point of beginning.

#### (c) Conditions of transfer

Transfer of the lands and interests described in subsection (b)(2) of this section shall be subject to the condition that all right, title, and interest therein shall revert to the United States if the county of Del Norte, California, attempts to transfer any portion of such lands to any other entity or person or if Del Norte County permits any portion of such lands to be used for any purpose incompatible with the purposes of this subchapter. The Secretary shall include in any document of conveyance whereby such lands are transferred to the county of Del Norte appropriate provisions to implement this subsection.

#### (d) Withdrawal

Subject to valid existing rights, all public lands within the recreation area are hereby