

CITIZEN'S DRAFT
NOLICHUCKY WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT
June 2020

An Act

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a portion of the Nolichucky River as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Nolichucky Wild and Scenic River Act.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds that—

(1) The Nolichucky River is cherished by the people of North Carolina and Tennessee, as well as visitors from across the United States for its abundant fish and wildlife, spectacular natural setting, and outstanding recreational opportunities;

(2) Recreational activities including fishing, hunting, camping, paddling, horseback riding, hiking, swimming, and wildlife watching in the Nolichucky River corridor contribute to the quality of life and economy of the surrounding area;

(3) North Carolina and Tennessee’s agricultural industry thrives on the availability of clean water that originates in headwaters streams on federal public lands;

(4) The segment of the Nolichucky River described herein —

(A) is a national treasure;

(B) possesses outstandingly remarkable values; and

(C) merits the high level of protection afforded by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) in order to maintain the benefits provided, as described in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), for future generations to enjoy; and

(5) Designation of the selected public land segment of the Nolichucky River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) would recognize the importance of maintaining the values of the River while preserving public access, respecting private property rights, allowing appropriate maintenance of existing infrastructure, and allowing historical uses to continue.

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this Act is to designate a segment of the Nolichucky River spanning the states of North Carolina and Tennessee as a component of the National Wild and

Scenic Rivers System to preserve and protect for present and future generations the outstandingly remarkable geologic, recreational, and scenic values of the river.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENT.

(a) In General.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(#) NOLICHUCKY RIVER, NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE.—The portion of the Nolichucky River consisting of the approximately 7.2-mile segment, as generally depicted on the map entitled Nolichucky Wild and Scenic River Act and dated XX, as a recreational river,” to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a recreational river.

(b) Boundaries. —The boundary shall not include any private lands;

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).