

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2548

To designate the Camp Hutchins Wilderness and establish Special Management Areas in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Shawnee National For-
5 est Conservation Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) DESIGNATED NATURAL AREA.—The term
9 “designated natural area” means an area deter-
10 mined to be of exceptional ecological, botanical, geo-
11 logic, scenic, or archeological value by the Secretary.

1 (2) DESIGNATED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA.—

2 The term “designated research natural area” means
3 an area that has been selected by the Secretary, and
4 is managed by the Forest Service, for scientific re-
5 search value.

6 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map
7 prepared and submitted by the Secretary under sec-
8 tion 3(e)(1).

9 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
11 Chief of the Forest Service.

12 (5) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term
13 “Special Management Area” means a Special Man-
14 agement Area established by section 4(a).

15 **SEC. 3. CAMP HUTCHINS WILDERNESS.**

16 (a) ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS
17 PRESERVATION SYSTEM.—In accordance with the Wilder-
18 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the
19 Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois managed
20 by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 750 acres
21 and generally depicted as “Camp Hutchins Wilderness
22 Area—Proposed” on the map prepared by the Environ-
23 mental Law and Policy Center entitled “Camp Hutchins
24 Wilderness Area and Special Management Area” and
25 dated November 23, 2023, is designated as wilderness and

1 as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation
2 System, and shall be known as the “Camp Hutchins Wil-
3 derness”.

4 (b) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
5 the Camp Hutchins Wilderness shall be administered by
6 the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16
7 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that
8 Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a ref-
9 erence to the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (c) HIKING TRAIL.—National Forest System Road
11 211 shall be closed to public vehicular traffic and may be
12 maintained as a hiking trail, including the eastern exten-
13 sion of Forest Road 211 formerly known as the “Hutchins
14 Creek Spur” up to the area known as “Hutchins Creek
15 Corridor”, as generally depicted on the Map.

16 (d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
17 all Federal land within the Camp Hutchins Wilderness,
18 including any land or interest in land that is acquired by
19 the United States within the Camp Hutchins Wilderness
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn
21 from—

22 (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under pub-
23 lic land law;

24 (2) location, entry, and patent under mining
25 law; and

1 (3) operation of mineral leasing, mineral mate-
2 rials, and geothermal leasing law.

3 (e) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
6 shall file a map and legal description of the Camp
7 Hutchins Wilderness with—

8 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
9 tion, and Forestry of the Senate; and

10 (B) the Committee on Agriculture of the
11 House of Representatives.

12 (2) EFFECT.—The Map and legal description
13 filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force
14 and effect as if included in this Act, except that the
15 Secretary may correct clerical and typographical er-
16 rors on the Map and in the legal description.

17 (3) AVAILABILITY.—The Map and legal descrip-
18 tion filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and
19 available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
20 fice of the Secretary and on the website of the For-
21 est Service.

22 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
23 **AREAS.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
25 rights, the following Special Management Areas within the

1 Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois are estab-
2 lished:

3 (1) CAMP HUTCHINS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
4 AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest
5 Service, comprising approximately 2,953 acres and
6 generally depicted as “Camp Hutchins Special Man-
7 agement Area—Proposed” on the map prepared by
8 the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled
9 “Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area and Special Man-
10 agement Area” and dated November 23, 2023,
11 which shall be known as the “Camp Hutchins Spe-
12 cial Management Area”.

13 (2) RIPPLE HOLLOW SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
14 AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest
15 Service, comprising approximately 3,445 acres and
16 generally depicted as “Ripple Hollow Special Man-
17 agement Area—Proposed” on the map prepared by
18 the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled
19 “Ripple Hollow Special Management Area” and
20 dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as
21 the “Ripple Hollow Special Management Area”.

22 (3) BURKE BRANCH SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
23 AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest
24 Service, comprising approximately 6,310 acres and
25 generally depicted as “Burke Branch Special Man-

1 agement Area—Proposed”, on the map prepared by
2 the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled
3 “Burke Branch Special Management Area” and
4 dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as
5 the “Burke Branch Special Management Area”.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Special Man-
7 agement Areas are—

8 (1) to conserve, protect, and enhance the eco-
9 logical, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, his-
10 toric, educational, and scientific resources of the
11 Special Management Areas for the benefit and en-
12 joyment of present and future generations;

13 (2) to promote biodiversity and control invasive
14 species;

15 (3) to allow for the continuation of restoration
16 efforts and scientific study of the designated natural
17 areas and designated research natural areas within
18 the Special Management Areas; and

19 (4) to allow for public use and enjoyment of the
20 Special Management Areas.

21 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
22 **AREAS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
24 the Special Management Areas—

1 (1) in a manner that conserves, protects, and
2 enhances the purposes for which the Special Man-
3 agement Areas are established; and

4 (2) in accordance with—

5 (A) this section; and

6 (B) other applicable law.

7 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
9 develop a management plan for the long-term protection
10 and management of the Special Management Areas.

11 (c) USES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allow
13 only uses of the Special Management Areas that are
14 consistent with the purposes for which the Special
15 Management Areas are established.

16 (2) PRESCRIBED FIRE.—The Secretary may use
17 prescribed fire to sustain the ecological structure
18 and composition of the Special Management Areas,
19 to sustain the biodiversity of the Special Manage-
20 ment Areas, and to mitigate the risk of wildfire in
21 the Special Management Areas or nearby areas.

22 (3) MANAGEMENT TOOLS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use
24 herbicides, insecticides, and mechanized equip-
25 ment, including chainsaws, drones, unmanned

1 aerial systems, aircraft, pickup trucks, all-ter-
2 rain vehicles, and rubber-tired and tracked vehi-
3 cles, to control fire, insects, disease, and
4 invasive species in managing the Special Man-
5 agement Areas approved by the Secretary.

6 (B) REQUIREMENT.—In managing the
7 Special Management Areas, the Secretary shall
8 use the best available technology and science.

9 (4) MOTOR VEHICLES.—Except in cases in
10 which motor vehicles are needed for administrative
11 purposes, emergency response, or access on estab-
12 lished roads accessing trailheads, inholdings, ceme-
13 teries, or campgrounds, or are essential to provide
14 off-road access for ecosystem management of habi-
15 tat, the use of motor vehicles, including over-snow
16 vehicles, in the Special Management Areas shall be
17 prohibited.

18 (5) ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission
19 as soon as practicable any National Forest System
20 roads within the Special Management Areas that are
21 not needed for management or access to trailheads,
22 cemeteries, and inholdings.

23 (6) TIMBER.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Commercial timber
25 harvesting in the Special Management Areas,

1 except as needed for fire, insect, and disease
2 control, and for visitor and administrative safe-
3 ty, shall be prohibited.

4 (B) ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—Thinning of
5 trees and other vegetation in the Special Man-
6 agement Areas is permitted for restoration of
7 the designated natural areas and designated re-
8 search natural areas and to further the man-
9 agement objectives described in this section.

10 (7) INHOLDINGS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Access to private
12 inholdings in the Special Management Areas
13 shall be preserved.

14 (B) ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary shall
15 acquire any private inholdings in the Special
16 Management Areas by purchase or exchange
17 from willing sellers as soon as practicable.

18 (8) HUNTING AND TRAPPING.—

19 (A) HUNTING.—Hunting shall be per-
20 mitted in the Special Management Areas as
21 permitted by the State of Illinois and in accord-
22 ance with regulations of the State of Illinois
23 and regulations and orders issued by the Forest
24 Service.

1 (B) TRAPPING.—Trapping shall not be
2 permitted in the Special Management Areas.

3 (C) ACCESS BY MOTOR VEHICLES.—Motor
4 vehicle access by hunters within the Special
5 Management Areas, including over-snow vehi-
6 cles, shall be prohibited.

7 (9) VOLUNTEER RESTORATION AND RE-
8 SEARCH.—

9 (A) VOLUNTEERS.—The Secretary shall
10 allow volunteers of cooperators and individual
11 Forest Service volunteers to participate in eco-
12 logical restoration activities under the guidance
13 of Forest Service ecologists and botanists with-
14 in the Special Management Areas through coop-
15 erative agreements.

16 (B) ACCESS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.—
17 The Secretary shall allow access to the Special
18 Management Areas for scientific research by in-
19 dividuals and organizations that the Secretary
20 determines to be qualified for that purpose.

21 (10) ONGOING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—The
22 Supervisor of the Shawnee National Forest shall
23 have the authority, without requiring the permission
24 of the Secretary, to make management decisions
25 concerning any designated natural area or des-

1 ignated research natural area within the Special
2 Management Areas pursuant to the land manage-
3 ment plan for the Shawnee National Forest.

4 (d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
5 all Federal land within the Special Management Areas, in-
6 cluding any land or interest in land that is acquired by
7 the United States within the Special Management Areas
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn
9 from—

10 (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under pub-
11 lic land law;

12 (2) location, entry, and patent under mining
13 law; and

14 (3) operation of mineral leasing, mineral mate-
15 rials, and geothermal leasing law.

16 (e) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall file a map and legal descriptions of the Special
20 Management Areas with—

21 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
22 Resources of the Senate; and

23 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
24 of the House of Representatives.

1 (2) EFFECT.—The map and legal descriptions
2 filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force
3 and effect as if included in this Act, except that the
4 Secretary may correct clerical and typographical er-
5 rors on the map and in the legal descriptions.

6 (3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal descrip-
7 tions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and
8 available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
9 fice of the Secretary and on the website of the For-
10 est Service.

11 (f) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Annually, the Secretary
12 shall make publicly available on the website of the Shaw-
13 nee National Forest a description of the progress in
14 achieving the management objectives described in this sec-
15 tion.