

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 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 “Myakka Wild and Sce-
5 nic River Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) section 5(a)(70) of the Wild and Scenic Riv-
2 ers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)(70)) requires the study
3 of the Myakka River for potential inclusion in the
4 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

5 (2) the study referred to in paragraph (1) de-
6 termined that the Myakka River was eligible for in-
7 clusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Sys-
8 tem;

9 (3) the State of Florida has demonstrated the
10 commitment of the State of Florida to protecting the
11 Myakka River by enacting the Myakka River Wild
12 and Scenic Designation and Protection Act (section
13 258.501, Florida Statutes);

14 (4) Sarasota County, Florida, and the cities of
15 Venice and North Port, Florida, have demonstrated
16 their commitment to protecting the Myakka River in
17 comprehensive land use plans, local ordinances, and
18 land development regulations;

19 (5) the desire for designation of the Myakka
20 River as a component of the National Wild and See-
21 nic Rivers System has been demonstrated through
22 strong public support, State and local agency sup-
23 port, and the endorsement of designation by the
24 Myakka River Management Coordinating Council,
25 which represents a broad cross-section of State and

1 local agencies, agricultural interests, landowners,
2 and environmental and nonprofit organizations; and
3 (6) a 12-mile segment of the Myakka River is
4 within the Myakka River State Park, with an addi-
5 tional 22-mile segment containing conservation land
6 held in public ownership or conservation easements
7 within the Myakka River watershed.

8 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF MYAKKA RIVER, FLORIDA, AS A**
9 **COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND**
10 **SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.**

11 Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16
12 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(233) MYAKKA RIVER, FLORIDA.—The fol-
15 lowing segments of the Myakka River in Sarasota
16 County, Florida, totaling approximately 34 miles, to
17 be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, in
18 partnership with the Myakka River Management Co-
19 ordinating Council, in the following classes:

20 “(A) The approximately 8.0-mile segment
21 from the Manatee County/Sarasota County line
22 to S.R. 72, as a scenic river.

23 “(B) The approximately 11.2-mile seg-
24 ment, from S.R. 72 to Laurel Road, as a wild
25 river.

1 “(C) The approximately 1.9-mile segment,
2 from Laurel Road to Border Road, as a scenic
3 river.

4 “(D) The approximately 1.5-mile segment,
5 from Border Road to south of the I-75 Bridge,
6 as a recreational river.

7 “(E) The approximately 1.5-mile segment,
8 from south of the I-75 Bridge to Snook Haven,
9 as a scenic river.

10 “(F) The approximately 3.2-mile segment,
11 from Snook Haven to Ramblers Rest, as a wild
12 river.

13 “(G) The approximately 2.7-mile segment,
14 from Ramblers Rest to U.S. 41, as a scenic
15 river.

16 “(H) The approximately 4.0-mile segment,
17 from U.S. 41 to the Charlotte County Line, as
18 a scenic river.”.

19 **SEC. 4. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MYAKKA**
20 **RIVER.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
23 The term “comprehensive management plan” means
24 the Myakka River Wild and Scenic Management
25 Plan developed by the Council, which shall be con-

1 sidered to satisfy the requirements for the com-
2 prehensive management plan under section 3(d) of
3 the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

4 (2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the
5 Myakka River Management Coordinating Council es-
6 tablished pursuant to section 258.501, Florida Stat-
7 utes.

8 (3) MYAKKA RIVER.—The term “Myakka
9 River” means the segments of the Myakka River in
10 the State that are designated as components of the
11 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by para-
12 graph (233) of section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic
13 Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as added by section
14 3).

15 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of the Interior.

17 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
18 of Florida.

19 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

20 (1) USE AUTHORIZED.—To provide for the
21 long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement
22 of the Myakka River, the Secretary shall coordinate
23 administration responsibilities under this section,
24 and may enter into cooperative agreements pursuant
25 to sections 10(e) and 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Sce-

1 nic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e), 1282(b)(1)),
2 with—

3 (A) the Division of Recreation and Parks
4 of the Department of Environmental Protection
5 of the State;

6 (B) appropriate local political jurisdictions
7 of the State;

8 (C) Sarasota County, Florida;

9 (D) the city of North Port, Florida;

10 (E) the city of Venice, Florida; and

11 (F) appropriate local planning and non-
12 profit organizations.

13 (2) EFFECT OF AGREEMENT.—The administra-
14 tion of the Myakka River by the Secretary through
15 the use of cooperative agreements entered into under
16 paragraph (1) shall not—

17 (A) constitute National Park Service ad-
18 ministration of the Myakka River for purposes
19 of section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers
20 Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)); or

21 (B) cause the Myakka River to be consid-
22 ered a unit of the National Park System.

23 (3) PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OWNED LAND.—
24 Nothing in this section or a cooperative agreement
25 entered into under paragraph (1) affects the man-

1 agement of publicly or privately owned land within
2 the boundaries of the Myakka River watershed by an
3 agency having jurisdiction over the land, in accord-
4 ance with section 258.501, Florida Statutes, and the
5 mission of the applicable agency.

6 (4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SUP-
7 PORT.—The Secretary may provide technical assist-
8 ance, staff support, and funding to assist in the up-
9 dating and implementation of the comprehensive
10 management plan.

11 (5) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the
13 Secretary to acquire land for the Myakka River
14 shall be limited to—

15 (i) acquisition by donation; and

16 (ii) acquisition with the consent of the
17 owner of the land.

18 (B) NO CONDEMNATION.—No land or in-
19 terest in land may be acquired for the Myakka
20 River by condemnation.

21 (c) MYAKKA RIVER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordi-
23 nate the management responsibilities of the Sec-
24 retary with the Council in the updating and imple-
25 mentation of the comprehensive management plan.

1 (2) REPRESENTATIVE FROM NPS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall select a representative to be added to
3 the Council to represent the National Park Service.

4 (3) OTHER ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—Nothing
5 in this section affects the authority to add other in-
6 terested representatives to the Council in accordance
7 with section 258.501, Florida Statutes.