

Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on Forests & Forest Health

Testimony

Congressman Riley's Opening Remarks on H.R. 2632

Madame Chairwoman, I want to thank you and the subcommittee for permitting me to testify before you today concerning the designation of Dugger Mountain as a Wilderness Area. As an outdoorsman and a grandfather, I want to ensure that our future generations can enjoy the natural beauty of the environment. That's why I have introduced this legislation to help preserve our great outdoors in Alabama.

As you may know, the designation of Dugger Mountain as a Wilderness Area has been in the making for awhile. Dugger Mountain has been on the Forest Service's "Recommended Wilderness Study Area" since 1986. In the 104th Congress, my predecessor Congressman Browder introduced similar legislation to have Dugger Mountain designated a Wilderness Area, but no action was ever taken on that bill.

So I come before you today, seeking to accomplish what the community surrounding Dugger Mountain has wanted for many years - to preserve the natural rugged beauty of Dugger Mountain so that our future generations can share in its glory. My legislation will preserve this unique area of Northeast Alabama for the enjoyment and use of naturalists, hikers, campers, horseback riders and environmentalists alike.

Preserving Dugger Mountain as a Wilderness Area will ensure that Northeast Alabama will share in the growing ecotourism market. It will encourage families and individuals to visit the Talladega National Forest and enjoy all that this area has to offer.

With that, I would welcome your questions and comments concerning H.R. 2632, legislation designating Dugger Mountain as a Wilderness Area and thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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