

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1244

(Delegate Montgomery, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Natural Resources - State Wildlands - Crabtree Creek Wildland

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This bill proposes the addition of a new wildland area (the Crabtree Creek Wildland) in Garrett County totaling approximately 250 acres. The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct a survey and establish a specified description of the affected lands. By December 1, 2005, DNR must submit a report to specified committees of the General Assembly; the report must contain the information necessary for the General Assembly to enact legislation in the 2006 session that establishes the statutory description of the wildland.

The survey and reporting provisions take effect June 1, 2005. The other provisions take effect June 1, 2006.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Several areas of the State are designated as wildlands in statute. The Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized to review any area under its jurisdiction as to its suitability for preservation as a State wildland. The Secretary must report any such

findings to the Governor, who is directed to advise the General Assembly regarding the recommendation for inclusion into the State wildlands system.

**Background:** The Maryland wildlands preservation system was established with the passage of the Maryland Wildlands Act in 1971. The first wildland, Big Savage Mountain, was officially designated by the General Assembly in 1973. To date, 29 separate wildlands have been designated on 43,773 acres of land in 15 counties throughout Maryland.

Wildland designations limit the types of activities that may occur on State lands to those activities that do not leave a lasting imprint of human activity. Prohibited activities generally include the use of motorized vehicles and equipment, the harvesting of timber, the use of land for commercial gain, mineral extraction, and the construction of new roads, buildings, and structures. Several types of recreational activities, such as hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and rafting, are permitted in wildland areas.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 8, 2005  
mll/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 29, 2005

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