

Environmental Impact Statement

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River
Appalachian National Scenic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Enabling Legislation and Purpose: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Public Law 89-158
89th Congress H.R. 89
September 1, 1965

An Act to authorize establishment of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes. This 1965 legislation refers to Tocks Island Dam and Reservoir, a project that was never implemented and was later de-authorized by Congress.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to further the purposes of the joint resolution approved September 27, 1961 (re Delaware River Basin compact; 75 Stat. 688), and to provide in a manner coordinated with the other purposes of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the proposed Tocks Island Reservoir and lands adjacent thereto by the people of the United States and for preservation of the scenic, scientific and historic features contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized, as herein provided, to establish and administer the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, hereinafter referred to as the "area", as part of the Tocks Island Reservoir project, hereinafter referred to as "the project".

DEWA's enabling legislation grants the following authorities:

Sec. 3(b) The Secretary of the Interior may subsequently make adjustments in the boundary of the area by publication of the amended description thereof in the Federal Register and acquire, by such means as he may deem to be in the public interest, including an exchange of excluded for included lands or interests therein with or without the payment or receipt of money to equalize values, additional lands and interests therein included in the area by reason of the boundary adjustment: Provided, That the area encompassed by such revised boundary shall not exceed the acreage included within the detailed boundary first described pursuant to this section.

Sec. 4. In the administration of the area for the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may utilize such statutory authorities relating to areas of the national park system and such statutory authorities otherwise available to him for the conservation, management or disposal of vegetative, mineral, or fish or wildlife resources as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act. To assure consistent and effective planning, developments, and operation for all purposes of the project, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army shall coordinate the administration of their respective responsibilities in the project; and such administration shall be consistent with the joint resolution approved September 27, 1961 (re Delaware River Basin compact, 75 State. 688)

Sec. 5 In the administration of the area for the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, subject to provisions of section 4 hereof, shall adopt and implement, and may from time to time revise, a land and water use management plan, which shall include specific provision for, in order of priority

- (1) Public outdoor recreation benefits;*
- (2) Preservation of scenic, scientific, and historic features contributing to public enjoyment;*
- (3) Such utilization of natural resources as in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior is consistent with, and does not significantly impair, public recreation and protection of scenic, scientific, and historic features contributing to public enjoyment.*

Purpose

- **Park Resource Protection:** Preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources contributing to public enjoyment of park lands and waters.
- **River Resource Protection:** Protect and enhance the values that caused the river to be included in the national wild and scenic rivers system.



Hialeah Picnic Area

- **Education:** Foster preservation and educational activities that support natural and cultural resource protection.
- **Research and Conservation:** Protect park resources through research and appropriate resource conservation and restoration practices.

Significance

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is a distinctive combination of natural resources, cultural resources, and recreational features that collectively offer outstanding opportunities for public use and enjoyment in an increasingly urbanized region. The following resources and features contribute to the national recreation area's significance:

- Delaware River is the last free-flowing river on the eastern seaboard, has exceptional water quality, and provides outstanding recreational and scenic opportunities. The approximately 40 miles of river within the national recreation area boundaries have been designated the Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.
- As one of the largest public open spaces remaining in the northeastern metropolitan corridor, the national recreation area provides a broad diversity of exceptional, unique, and close-to-home resource-based recreational opportunities for the more than 60 million people who live within a 6-hour drive of the park unit.
- Outstanding geologic and natural features form some of the best-known scenic landscapes in the northeastern United States and illustrate the characteristic landforms and biotic areas of the Appalachian Ridge and Valley Province and the Southern Appalachian Plateau Province, including the world famous Delaware Water Gap.
- Open spaces, combined with other regional protection and preservation initiatives, create a multi-state greenway corridor, which preserves essential habitat for the sustained health of plant and animal communities, including potentially threatened species, in the region.
- A significant concentration and diversity of known archeological resources, from prehistoric to historic, as well as outstanding examples of Native American Indian and European settlement are manifested by the diverse cultural landscapes used for agriculture in the 19th and 20th centuries.