

No. 62
ACT ON WILDERNESS RESERVES
January 17, 1991

Section 1
Aim of the Act

Wilderness reserves are established to preserve wild areas, to safeguard Lapp culture and indigenous livelihoods and to develop the potential for diversified use of nature.

Wilderness reserves comprise the areas listed in section 3.

Section 2
Scope of application

The provisions of this Act shall be observed when wilderness reserves are preserved and used. Moreover, the relevant provisions of other Acts of Parliament shall be observed in the preservation and use of these areas.

Section 3
Wilderness reserves

The following areas are designated as wilderness reserves:

- 1) *The area of northwest Lapland ('the arm of Finland')*, which comprises some 221,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipality of Enontekiö (Appendix 1);
- 2) *The Tarvantovaara area*, which comprises some 67,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipality of Enontekiö (Appendix 2);
- 3) *The Pöyrisjärvi area*, which comprises some 128,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipality of Enontekiö (Appendix 3);
- 4) *The Muotkatunturi area*, which comprises some 157,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipalities of Utsjoki and Inari (Appendix 4);
- 5) *The Paistunturi area*, which comprises some 157,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipalities of Utsjoki and Inari (Appendix 5);
- 6) *The Kaldoaivi area*, which comprises some 294,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipalities of Utsjoki and Inari (Appendix 6);
- 7) *The Vätsäri area*, which comprises some 155,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipality of Inari (Appendix 7);
- 8) *The Tsarmitunturi area*, which comprises some 15,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipality of Inari (Appendix 8);
- 9) *The Hammastunturi area*, which comprises some 182,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipalities of Inari, Sodankylä and Kittilä (Appendix 9);

10) *The Pulju area*, which comprises some 61,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipalities of Enontekiö and Kittilä (Appendix 10);

11) *The Kemihaara area*, which comprises some 31,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipality of Savukoski (Appendix 11);

12) *The Tuntsa area*, which comprises some 21,000 hectares of land owned by the State in the municipalities of Salla and Savukoski (Appendix 12).

The wilderness reserves have been marked on the appended maps using red dashed lines.

Section 4
Assignment of an area

Land that is owned by the State and included in a wilderness reserve, or usufruct on such land, may not be assigned or leased without permission from the Council of State.

Such permission is not, however, needed if the usufruct is assigned for the needs of reindeer herding, fishing, hunting or gathering, in accordance with the plan of management and use referred to in section 7, or if the area is assigned for a project that is necessary from the standpoint of defence readiness or the operations of the Frontier Guard.

Otherwise, the provisions of the Act on the Right to Assign State Land and Income-Yielding Rights (687/78) shall apply to the assignment and leasing of land and usufructs.

Section 5
Road construction

No permanent roads may be constructed in wilderness reserves.

The Council of State may, however, permit the construction of a permanent road that obviously benefits the common good or the indigenous livelihoods in the area.

The prohibition referred to above in paragraph 1 shall not apply to a road that is constructed by virtue of a right obtained before this Act comes into force.

Section 6
Mining

A mining patent as referred to in the Mining Act (503/65) may not be granted to a wilderness reserve, unless permitted by the Council of State.

Section 7
Plan of management and use

A wilderness reserve shall be managed and used in accordance with a plan for management and use, drawn up by the National Board of Forestry and confirmed by the Ministry

of the Environment.

Forests in wilderness reserves shall be preserved in their natural state or tended using natural forestry practices. The National Board of Forestry shall draw up instructions on the use of natural forestry practices, and these instructions shall be taken into account when a plan of management and use is prepared for an area.

Section 8 Redemption of easements

The Council of State may grant permission to redeem an easement or a usufruct established for a private road, if the easement or usufruct involves a project to construct a permanent road in the wilderness reserve and this project is deemed to impede efforts to preserve the wild quality of the area. If, owing to redemption of the easement or usufruct, no satisfactory thoroughfare can be arranged for a private area situated within a wilderness reserve and this causes considerable inconvenience to the owner, the State shall be obliged, if so demanded by the owner, to redeem the area.

Otherwise, the redemption procedure shall comply with the provisions of the Act on the Redemption of Immoveable Property and Special Rights (603/77).

Section 9 Adding land to a wilderness reserve

If the State acquires a land area that is situated within a wilderness reserve but has not previously been owned by the State, the land area shall be considered to have become part of the wilderness reserve.

Section 10 Management of wilderness reserves

Wilderness reserves shall be under the management and control of the National Board of Forestry.

Section 11 Entry of wilderness reserves

Wilderness reserves shall be entered in the land register and forestry maps, or other corresponding maps, kept by the National Board of Forestry.

Section 12 Entry into force and transitional provisions

This Act comes into force on February 1, 1991.

When this Act comes into force, any easements and corresponding usufructs and lease contracts on wilderness reserves will remain valid. The National Board of Forestry

may extend the validity of rights based on agreements in accordance with the confirmed plan for management and use.

The provisions of section 5 notwithstanding, a road may be constructed in the Hammastunturi wilderness reserve from the main road between Inari and Pokka to Kuttura village.