

The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/19/76 - Remarks Upon the Signing of H.R. 11891: Designation of 15, 000 Acres of Hardwood Forest in Congaree Swamp as a National Monument” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGAREE SWAMP

EARLY IN ITS HISTORY, THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES WAS COVERED WITH FORESTS, BUT THE REMARKABLE INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN THAT AREA ALONG WITH MANY LOGGING OPERATIONS HAS NOW CHANGED MUCH OF THE LANDSCAPE. THE GREATEST REMAINING CONCENTRATION OF VIRGIN HARDWOOD FORESTS IN RIVER-BOTTOM LAND IS NOW THE CONGAREE SWAMP NOT FAR AWAY FROM COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

TODAY I AM PLEASED TO SIGN INTO LAW SPECIAL LEGISLATION THAT WILL DESIGNATE 15,000 ACRES OF THE HARDWOOD FOREST IN CONGAREE SWAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT. BY OFFICIALLY COMING WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, THIS FOREST AND ITS UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM WILL BE PRESERVED NOT JUST FOR THIS GENERATION BUT FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO COME.