

Senate Resolution 118

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st and Wilkinson of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending White County; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, White County, located in the northeast Georgia mountains, has long been
3 known as a destination for outdoor recreation, an area with abundant natural resources, and
4 a place with developed recreational infrastructure and accommodations; and

5 WHEREAS, White County is home to more state parks than any other county in Georgia and
6 includes Unicoi State Park and Adventure Lodge, Smithgall Woods State Park, Buck Shoals
7 State Park, and the Hardman Farm State Historic Site; and

8 WHEREAS, White County has a nationally recognized mountain biking trail located at
9 Unicoi State Park and Adventure Lodge, which was developed to host the national mountain
10 biking competition of the 1996 Summer Olympics held in the metro Atlanta, Georgia, area;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Yonah Preserve, a 1,000-acre recreational facility, is currently under
13 development and will include 25 miles of multiuse trails designed by the International
14 Mountain Bicycling Association and the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association; and

15 WHEREAS, Mount Yonah, one of the most recognizable peaks and rock faces in Georgia,
16 is located in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest and is utilized for rappelling, hiking,
17 and camping by the general public, as well as by the 5th Ranger Training Battalion of the
18 United States Army; and

19 WHEREAS, White County is home to three wildlife management areas: the Chattahoochee
20 Wildlife Management Area, the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area, and Dukes Creek
21 Smithgall Woods State Park, which all provide hunting, fishing, bird watching, field trail
22 access, and interpretative trail opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, the Village of Helen, located in White County, is designated as an Appalachian
24 Trail Community with 14 miles of trails and two Georgia Highway access points and is home
25 to three wilderness areas (Mark Trail, Raven Cliffs, and Tray Mountain), 28 other hiking
26 trails, and 333 miles of trout streams; this beloved alpine city is celebrating 50 years of
27 Bavarian tradition in the Appalachian mountains; and

28 WHEREAS, 32.6 percent of White County is located in either the Chattahoochee-Oconee
29 National Forest or on public lands designated for outdoor recreation; and

30 WHEREAS, White County is home to over ten waterfalls with developed and managed
31 hiking trails, including Anna Ruby Falls, which is only one of three nationally designed
32 Cradle of Forest sites located in a U.S. National Forest Service Recreational Area; and

33 WHEREAS, White County has professional adventure outfitters and businesses for trophy
34 trout fishing, rafting, tubing, kayaking, archery, paddle boarding, challenge courses,
35 zip-lining, mountain biking, geocaching, horseback riding, gold and gemstone panning, and
36 hiking; and

37 WHEREAS, White County has unique and distinct lodging accommodations, including tree
38 houses, barrel cabins, a full spectrum of camping facilities, bed and breakfasts, lodges, inns,
39 hotels, motels, and one of Georgia's new State Adventure Lodges.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 designate and promote White County as Georgia's Outdoor Adventure Destination and
42 extend to White County its recognition and commendation for the county's many important
43 contributions to its community and the State of Georgia.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
46 press.