

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2932

To authorize the establishment of a center for the conservation and interpretation of Ozark culture and heritage at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1993

Mr. EMERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a center for the conservation and interpretation of Ozark culture and heritage at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ozark Heritage Con-
5 servation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are to—

1 (1) recognize the important contribution made
2 to American culture and history by those who settled
3 in the Ozarks region of south-central Missouri;

4 (2) assist local and State governments and
5 other public and private entities in the State of Mis-
6 souri in interpreting the unique interplay between
7 the Ozark landscape, including the Ozark National
8 Scenic Riverway and the Mark Twain National For-
9 est, and the development of the Ozark folk culture;
10 and

11 (3) assist local and State governments and
12 other public and private entities in the State of Mis-
13 souri in conserving the rich folk culture of the Ozark
14 settlers and their descendants for the benefit and
15 education of the public.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR OZARK HERITAGE CENTER.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior is
18 authorized to establish a center for the conservation and
19 interpretation of Ozark culture within the State of
20 Missouri.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSTRUCTION.—The Sec-
22 retary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the
23 National Park Service, is authorized to construct a visitor
24 center for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Such visi-
25 tor center shall be located on lands under the administra-

1 tive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture at the site
2 of the United States Forest Service Van Buren District
3 Ranger Station within the Mark Twain National Forest.
4 The Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into such ar-
5 rangements with the Secretary of the Interior as may be
6 necessary to permit the construction of such visitor center.

7 (c) OPERATION.—The center shall be operated by the
8 Director of the National Park Service in cooperation with
9 the chief of the United States Forest Service. The Sec-
10 retary may contract with public and private entities for
11 the operation of the center, at the discretion of the Sec-
12 retary, in accordance with program standards approved by
13 the Secretary.

14 (d) INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM.—The center shall pro-
15 vide interpretive services for the Ozark National Scenic
16 Riverways and the Mark Twain National Forest and shall
17 function as a regional cultural center for the study of
18 Ozark folklife, history, and culture.

19 (e) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be ap-
20 propriated to the Secretary of the Interior not more than
21 \$7,000,000 for construction of the center referred to in
22 subsection (b). There is authorized to be appropriated to
23 the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agri-
24 culture such sums as may be necessary for operation of
25 such center.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

2 Within one year after the date of enactment of this
3 Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall prepare and trans-
4 mit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United
5 States House of Representatives and the Committee on
6 Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Sen-
7 ate an initial study of Ozark culture in Missouri. The Sec-
8 retary shall consult with the Director of the American
9 Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, and any other
10 sources the Secretary deems appropriate, in the prepara-
11 tion of such study.

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