

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3707

To establish an American Heritage Areas Partnership Program in the  
Department of the Interior.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 22, 1993

Mr. VENTO (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. BOUCHER) introduced the  
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To establish an American Heritage Areas Partnership  
Program in the Department of the Interior.

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 “American Heritage  
5 Areas Partnership Program Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of the American Heritage Areas Part-  
8 nership Program are—

9 (1) to recognize that the natural, historic, cul-  
10 tural, and recreational resources of the United

1 States represent the great and diverse character of  
2 the Nation and are important thereto, and that  
3 these resources must be guarded, preserved, and  
4 wisely managed so they may be passed on to future  
5 generations;

6 (2) to recognize that combinations of such re-  
7 sources as they are geographically assembled and  
8 thematically related form Heritage Areas which pro-  
9 vide a unique framework for understanding the his-  
10 torical, cultural and natural development of the com-  
11 munity and its surroundings;

12 (3) to encourage linking such resources through  
13 greenways, corridors, and trails;

14 (4) to preserve these nationally important rec-  
15 reational, cultural, historic, and natural resources  
16 which are worthy of joint Federal and State designa-  
17 tion and assistance, but which may not qualify or be  
18 managed as units of the National Park System;

19 (5) to provide for appropriate partnerships be-  
20 tween all levels of government and the private sector  
21 which will preserve those resources whose ownership  
22 is generally not national but mostly State, local, and  
23 private, accommodate economic viability and en-  
24 hance the quality of life for our Nation's present and  
25 future generations; and

1           (6) to assist in the development of a framework  
2           to preserve, conserve, and manage these resources,  
3           which will include limited technical assistance from  
4           the United States Government to States for develop-  
5           ing and implementing operation and management  
6           plans.

7   **SEC. 3. HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

8           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
9           within the Department of the Interior the American Herit-  
10          age Partnership Program.

11          (b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In accordance with the  
12          purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized—

13               (1) to evaluate combinations of resources best  
14               preserved, interpreted, and managed as American  
15               Heritage Areas under a partnership model;

16               (2) to evaluate areas nominated for designation  
17               under subsection (d) as American Heritage Areas in  
18               accordance with the criteria established in subsection  
19               (c);

20               (3) to advise States and their political subdivi-  
21               sions or assigns as to appropriate methods of  
22               recognizing and preserving thematically and geo-  
23               graphically linked cultural, historic, natural, and  
24               recreational resources;

1           (4) to provide technical assistance for the pur-  
2           poses of nominating areas for inclusion in the Amer-  
3           ican Heritage Area Program and to provide grants  
4           for developing management plans for designated  
5           areas and for capital projects and improvements  
6           pursuant to such management plans, in amounts not  
7           to exceed the amounts specifically authorized by this  
8           Act; and

9           (5) to enter into contractual agreements with  
10          States and their political subdivisions or assigns spe-  
11          cific to an American Heritage Area designated by  
12          this Act to provide limited technical assistance for  
13          the development and implementation of management  
14          plans for American Heritage Areas.

15          (c) CRITERIA.—Each American Heritage Area shall  
16          include, but not be limited to—

17               (1) an assemblage of resources—natural, cul-  
18               tural, and recreational—that include nationally sig-  
19               nificant resources that together represent a distinc-  
20               tive aspect of American heritage worthy of recogni-  
21               tion, preservation, interpretation and continuing use  
22               which are best managed as such, combining partner-  
23               ships among public and private entities, diverse and  
24               noncontiguous resources and active communities;

1           (2) resources with demonstrated national im-  
2           portance, such as National Landmarks or distinctive  
3           properties listed on the National Register of Historic  
4           Places;

5           (3) resources representing concepts which have  
6           been identified by the Thematic Framework of the  
7           National Park Service; and

8           (4) a variety of appropriate natural, rec-  
9           reational, historic, and cultural resources and  
10          themes.

11          (d) CONDITIONS FOR DESIGNATION.—The Congress  
12          may designate an area as an American Heritage Area only  
13          after the following conditions are met:

14               (1) The State in which the area to be consid-  
15               ered is located has nominated to the Secretary the  
16               area for inclusion in the Program.

17               (2) The Secretary has determined and reported  
18               to the Congress that the area is suitable for inclu-  
19               sion in the program, based on the criteria referred  
20               to in subsection (c) and demonstrated strong com-  
21               mitment and interest by the State, local and private  
22               organizations involved to operate and maintain the  
23               area on a long-term basis and to provide appropriate  
24               regulatory assistance in preserving the area.

1 (e) CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR FEDERAL AND  
2 STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—Upon designation of an  
3 American Heritage Area, the Secretary shall enter into a  
4 contractual agreement with the State for the purposes of  
5 establishing the respective Federal and State responsibil-  
6 ities for implementing a management plan for the area.  
7 The contractual agreement shall provide for, but not be  
8 limited to—

9 (1) adequate opportunity for public involvement  
10 in developing and implementing the plan;

11 (2) appropriate assurances on the part of  
12 States and localities that the plan will be imple-  
13 mented and followed;

14 (3) adequate State and local regulatory and fi-  
15 nancial actions which provide for appropriate preser-  
16 vation of the resources to be included;

17 (4) continuing oversight by the Secretary;

18 (5) specific obligations of the United States  
19 Government, including the amount of any technical  
20 assistance or grants to be provided; and

21 (6) specific State responsibilities, including the  
22 financial commitment and administration.

23 (f) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—(1) Application for funds  
24 for capital projects and improvements under this Act shall  
25 be submitted to the Secretary and shall include a descrip-

1 tion of how the project proposed to be funded will further  
2 the purposes of the American Heritage Area in which the  
3 project is located.

4 (2) Funds made available pursuant to this Act for  
5 a capital project shall not exceed 50 percent of the total  
6 costs of the project to be funded.

7 (3) In making such funds available, the Secretary  
8 shall give consideration to projects which provide a greater  
9 leverage of Federal funds. Any payment made shall be  
10 subject to an agreement that conversion, use, or disposal  
11 of the project so assisted for purposes contrary to the pur-  
12 poses of this Act, as determined by the Secretary, shall  
13 result in a right of the United States of reimbursement  
14 of all funds made available to such project or the propor-  
15 tion of the increased value of the project attributable to  
16 such funds as determined at the time of such conversion,  
17 use, or disposal, whichever is greater.

18 (g) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit  
19 an annual report to Congress on the American Heritage  
20 Partnership Program. Such report shall include—

21 (1) the number, amount, and recipients of any  
22 grants provided by the Secretary and the nature of  
23 any technical assistance provided pursuant to this  
24 Act;

1           (2) a description of the areas nominated for the  
2 program;

3           (3) the Secretary's recommendations for areas  
4 to be designated by Congress, including areas which  
5 have been nominated and those the Secretary has  
6 determined are eligible but have not been nominated;  
7 and

8           (4) the status of the implementation of contrac-  
9 tual agreements entered into by the Secretary under  
10 this program.

11       (h) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12 is authorized to be appropriated from the Historic Preser-  
13 vation Fund—

14           (1) \$500,000 annually for technical assistance  
15 pursuant to subsection (b) for areas before their  
16 nomination, of which not more than \$50,000 in total  
17 may be made available for a specific area;

18           (2) \$2,500,000 annually for the purposes au-  
19 thorized by section 3(b)(1), of which not more than  
20 \$250,000 in total may be made available for a spe-  
21 cific management plan under subsections (b)(1) and  
22 (4); and

23           (3) \$10,000,000 annually for capital projects  
24 and improvements carried out pursuant to an ap-  
25 proved plan, of which not more than \$3,000,000 in

- 1 total may be made available to any one American
- 2 Heritage Area.

○