

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 471

To establish a new area study process for proposed additions to the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2 (legislative day, JANUARY 5), 1993

Mr. WALLOP introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a new area study process for proposed additions to the National Park System, 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 “New Parks Study Act”
5 of 1993.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 As used in this Act:

8 (1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
9 of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 3. NEW AREA STUDIES FOR POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO**
2 **THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall undertake
4 and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
5 sources and Committee on Appropriations of the United
6 States Senate and to the appropriate committees of the
7 House of Representatives reports on such new area studies
8 or park expansion studies as are herein or may hereafter
9 be authorized by Congress for the purpose of determining
10 the feasibility and suitability of designating such areas (in-
11 cluding boundary expansion of existing units) for addition
12 to the National Park System and any feasible alternatives
13 to such action. The Secretary shall undertake site specific
14 and, where appropriate, thematic studies in preparing
15 such reports. All such studies shall be made in consulta-
16 tion with affected agencies at the Federal, State, and local
17 levels, public and private organizations and concerned
18 landowners and users.

19 (b) FACTORS.—All new area or expansion studies re-
20 ferred to in this section shall consider each of the follow-
21 ing—

22 (1) whether the resource is nationally signifi-
23 cant, including, but not limited to, an evaluation of
24 the area's uniqueness,

25 (2) whether similar resources are already pro-
26 tected in the National Park System, or by other

1 public or private ownership and the degree to which
2 such protection would achieve the purposes sought
3 by inclusion of such resource within the National
4 Park System,

5 (3) whether the unit is of appropriate configu-
6 ration to ensure long-term resource protection and
7 visitor use,

8 (4) the extent of nonconforming existing or po-
9 tential uses that may compromise management as a
10 unit of the System,

11 (5) whether any other management entity other
12 than the National Park Service would be more
13 appropriate,

14 (6) public use potential,

15 (7) resource integrity,

16 (8) the cost of land acquisition and develop-
17 ment, and annual cost for operation and mainte-
18 nance, and

19 (9) any other factors deemed appropriate by the
20 Secretary.

21 (c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within eighteen
22 months after the date that funds are made available for
23 the study of an area the Secretary shall transmit to the
24 Congress a report of such study that specifically addresses
25 all of the factors required to be considered under sub-

1 section (b). Each such report shall indicate the suitability
2 and feasibility of authorizing the area as a unit or expand-
3 ing an existing unit of the National Park System and any
4 feasible alternative to such action. In transmitting the re-
5 port, the Secretary shall identify the preferred alternative
6 and also discuss any outstanding contentious issues relat-
7 ed to each alternative considered.

8 **SEC. 4. PRIORITY LIST OF POTENTIAL PARK SYSTEM ADDI-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 (a) LIST.—The National Park Service shall develop
11 and maintain a single list of potential additions (including
12 major expansion proposals) in order of their numerical pri-
13 ority for potential addition to the National Park System.
14 This list shall be initially comprised of areas for which
15 the agency has completed adequate studies which are con-
16 sistent with section 3. The list shall be updated and repub-
17 lished at least every two years to reflect studies completed
18 under the provisions of this act.

19 (b) ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES.—In addition to the
20 factors referred to in section 3(b), the Secretary shall con-
21 sider each of the following in establishing the numerical
22 priorities for inclusion of new areas or expansion of exist-
23 ing units in the National Park System—

24 (1) imminence of any threats to the resource or
25 nature of ongoing degradation,

1 (2) extent to which similar resources are pro-
2 tected in the National Park System or by any other
3 entity,

4 (3) the numerical priority of land acquisition
5 for the proposed new area or addition relative to the
6 numerical priorities of authorized but unacquired
7 lands for existing units,

8 (4) the numerical priority of development and
9 operation of the new area or addition relative to
10 other proposed additions and existing units,

11 (5) the level of local and general public support,
12 and

13 (6) any other factors deemed appropriate by the
14 Secretary.

15 (c) TRANSMISSION OF PRIORITY LIST TO CON-
16 GRESS.—At the beginning of each Congress, the Secretary
17 shall transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representa-
18 tives and to the President of the Senate, a copy of the
19 most recent numerical priority list prepared under this
20 section. In addition, the Secretary is encouraged to peri-
21 odically transmit any recommendations for new area stud-
22 ies (including expansion proposals) which he deems appro-
23 priate. Such recommendations should be based on an
24 objective preliminary review of such proposals.

1 **SEC. 5. REPEAL OF EXISTING STATUTE.**

2 Section 8 of the Act entitled “An Act to improve the
3 Administration of the national park system by the Sec-
4 retary of the Interior, and to clarify the authorities appli-
5 cable to the system, and for other purposes”, approved
6 August 18, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5), is amended by striking
7 out the first through the seventh sentences of subsection
8 (a).

9 **SEC. 6. CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING STATUTE.**

10 Section 1215(b) of Public Law 101-628 is amended
11 by inserting “, one single document in numerical order,”
12 after the words “A priority listing”.

13 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
15 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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