

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 983

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 1993

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

AN ACT

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the El Camino Real Para Los Texas for potential addition to the National Trails 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 “El Camino Real Para
5 Los Texas Study Act of 1993”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds—

3 (1) El Camino Real Para Los Texas was the
4 Spanish road established to connect a series of mis-
5 sions and posts extending from Monclova, Mexico to
6 the mission and later Presidio Nuestra de Pilar de
7 los Adaes which served as the Spanish capital of the
8 province of Texas from 1722 to 1772;

9 (2) El Camino Real, over time, comprised an
10 approximately 1,000-mile corridor of changing
11 routes from Saltillo through Monclova and Guerrero,
12 Mexico; San Antonio and Nacogdoches, Texas and
13 then easterly to the vicinity of Los Adaes in present
14 day Louisiana; and constituted the only major over-
15 land route from the Rio Grande to the Red River
16 Valley during the Spanish Colonial Period;

17 (3) the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nine-
18 teenth century rivalries among the European colo-
19 nial powers of Spain, France, and England and after
20 their independence, Mexico and the United States,
21 for dominion over lands fronting the Gulf of Mexico
22 were played out along the evolving travel routes
23 across this immense area; and, as well, the future of
24 several American Indian nations were tied to these
25 larger forces and events;

1 (4) El Camino Real and the subsequent San
2 Antonio Road witnessed a competition that helped
3 determine the United States southern and western
4 boundaries; and

5 (5) the San Antonio Road, like El Camino Real,
6 was a series of routes established over the same cor-
7 ridor but was not necessarily the same as El Camino
8 Real; and that from the 1830's, waves of American
9 immigrants, many using the Natchez Trace, trav-
10 elled west to Texas via the San Antonio Road, as did
11 Native Americans attempting to relocate away from
12 the pressures of European settlement.

13 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF TRAIL.**

14 Section 5(c) of the National Trail System Act (16
15 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding the following new
16 paragraph at the end thereof:

17 “(36)(A) El Camino Real Para Los Texas, the ap-
18 proximate series of routes from Saltillo, Monclova, and
19 Guerrero, Mexico across Texas through San Antonio and
20 Nacogdoches, to the vicinity of Los Adaes, Louisiana, to-
21 gether with the evolving routes later known as the San
22 Antonio Road.

23 “(B) The study shall—

24 “(i) examine the changing roads within the his-
25 toric corridor;

1 “(ii) examine the major connecting branch
2 routes;

3 “(iii) determine the individual or combined suit-
4 ability and feasibility of routes for potential national
5 historic trail designation;

6 “(iv) consider the preservation heritage plan de-
7 veloped by the Texas Department of Transportation
8 entitled ‘A Texas Legacy: The Old San Antonio
9 Road and the Caminos Reales’, dated January,
10 1991; and

11 “(v) make recommendations concerning the
12 suitability and feasibility of establishing an inter-
13 national historical park where the trail crosses the
14 United States-Mexico border at Maverick County,
15 Texas, and Guerrero, Mexico.

16 “(C) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to
17 work in cooperation with the government of Mexico (in-
18 cluding, but not limited to providing technical assistance)
19 to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing
20 an international historic trail along the El Camino Real
21 Para Los Texas.

22 “(D) The study shall be undertaken in consultation
23 with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and De-
24 velopment and the Texas Department of Transportation.

1 “(E) The study shall consider alternative name des-
2 ignations for the trail.

3 “(F) The study shall be completed no later than two
4 years after the date funds are made available for the
5 study.”.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

 Passed the Senate July 21 (legislative day, June
30), 1993.

Attest:

WALTER J. STEWART,

Secretary.