

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1725

To amend the National Trails System Act to create a third category of long-distance trails to be known as national discovery trails and to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first national discovery trail, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 1996

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SIMON, Mr. ROTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KERREY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. EXON, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. JEFFORDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to create a third category of long-distance trails to be known as national discovery trails and to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first national discovery trail, 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 “National Discovery  
5 Trails Act of 1996”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 Section 2(b) of the National Trails System Act (16  
3 U.S.C. 1241(b)) is amended by striking “recreation, sce-  
4 nic and historic” and inserting “recreation, scenic, his-  
5 toric, and discovery”.

6 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS.**

7 Section 3(a) of the National Trails System Act (16  
8 U.S.C. 1242(a)) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
10 graph (5); and

11 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the follow-  
12 ing:

13 “(4) National discovery trails, established by  
14 section 5(a), which shall—

15 “(A) be extended, continuous, interstate  
16 trails;

17 “(B) be located so as to—

18 “(i) provide for outstanding outdoor  
19 recreation and travel; and

20 “(ii) represent metropolitan, urban,  
21 rural, and back-country regions of the  
22 United States;

23 “(C) connect representative examples of  
24 United States trails and communities; and

25 “(D) provide for the conservation and en-  
26 joyment of significant natural, cultural, and his-

1           toric resources associated with each trail cor-  
2           ridor.”.

3 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY**  
4                                   **TRAIL AS A NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAIL.**

5           (a) DESCRIPTION.—Section 5(a) of the National  
6 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by  
7 adding at the end the following:

8           “(20) The American Discovery Trail, a trail of ap-  
9 proximately 6,000 miles extending from Cape Henlopen  
10 State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes National Seashore  
11 in California, traveling through Delaware, Maryland, the  
12 District of Columbia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio,  
13 near Cincinnati splitting into the Northern Midwest route  
14 through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Colo-  
15 rado and the Southern Midwest route through Indiana,  
16 Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado, rejoining in Den-  
17 ver, and continuing through Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and  
18 California. The trail is generally described in volume 2 of  
19 the National Park Service feasibility study dated June  
20 1995, which shall be on file and available for public inspec-  
21 tion in the office of the Director of the National Park  
22 Service. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary  
23 of the Interior in cooperation with a nonprofit organiza-  
24 tion and other affected land managing agencies. The trail  
25 shall not be subject to section 5(d), 7(a)(2), 7(e), or 7(f).”.

1           (b) PLAN FOR NEW NATIONAL DISCOVERY  
2 TRAILS.—Section 5(e) of the National Trails System Act  
3 (16 U.S.C. 1244(e)) is amended by striking “Continental  
4 Divide” and all that follows through “as part of the sys-  
5 tem” and inserting “Continental Divide National Scenic  
6 Trail or the North Country National Scenic Trail, or a  
7 national discovery trail, except for the American Discovery  
8 Trail, as part of the system”.

9           (c) PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL.—  
10 Section 5 of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C.  
11 1244) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12           “(g) PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL.—  
13 Not later than 3 full fiscal years after the date of enact-  
14 ment of this subsection, the responsible nonprofit organi-  
15 zation for the American Discovery Trail established by  
16 subsection (a)(20) shall, after consultation with the Sec-  
17 retary of the Interior, other affected land managing agen-  
18 cies, the Governors of affected States, county and local  
19 political jurisdictions, and local organizations maintaining  
20 component trails, submit to the Committee on Resources  
21 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
22 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a com-  
23 prehensive plan for the protection, management, develop-  
24 ment, and use of the trail, not to conflict with any agency  
25 direction, including—

1           “(1) specific objectives and practices to be ob-  
2           served in the administration and management of the  
3           trail, including—

4                   “(A) the identification of all significant  
5                   natural, historical, and cultural resources to be  
6                   preserved;

7                   “(B) model agreements necessary for joint  
8                   trail administration among interested parties;

9                   “(C) an identified carrying capacity of the  
10                  trail; and

11                  “(D) an implementation plan;

12           “(2) a 10-year trail corridor protection plan to  
13           preserve the values for which the trail was estab-  
14           lished and recognized by the United States;

15           “(3) general and site-specific development  
16           plans, including anticipated costs; and

17           “(4) the process to be followed by the nonprofit  
18           organization in partnership with the Secretary of the  
19           Interior to implement the trail markers described in  
20           section 7(c) to conform to approved trail logo or em-  
21           blem requirements.”.

22 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

23           Section 7 of the National Trails System Act (16  
24           U.S.C. 1246) is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
25           ing:

1       “(1) NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS.—The Secretary  
2 charged with the overall administration of a trail under  
3 section 5(a) shall administer a national discovery trail in  
4 cooperation with a nonprofit organization.”.

5 **SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

6       (a) Section 5 of the National Trails System Act (16  
7 U.S.C. 1244) is amended—

8           (1) in the section heading, by striking “AND  
9 NATIONAL HISTORICAL” and inserting “, NATIONAL  
10 HISTORIC, AND NATIONAL DISCOVERY”; and

11           (2) in the second sentence of subsection (a), by  
12 striking “National Scenic and National Historic  
13 Trails” and inserting “national scenic, national his-  
14 toric, and national discovery trails”.

15       (b) The National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241  
16 et seq.) is amended—

17           (1) by striking “scenic and national historic”  
18 each place it appears and inserting “scenic, national  
19 historic, and national discovery”;

20           (2) by striking “scenic or national historic”  
21 each place it appears and inserting “scenic, national  
22 historic, or national discovery”; and

- 1 (3) by striking “scenic, or national historic”
- 2 each place it appears and inserting “scenic, national
- 3 historic, or national discovery”.

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