

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1801

To authorize the United States Man and the Biosphere Program, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California (for himself and Mr. MILLER of California)
introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To authorize the United States Man and the Biosphere
Program, 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. AUTHORITY.**

4 The President is authorized to carry out the United
5 States Man and the Biosphere Program, and to designate
6 a lead agency for the Program. In collaboration with the
7 lead agency, other Federal agencies may participate in the
8 United States Man and the Biosphere Program.

1 **SEC. 2. ACTIVITIES.**

2 The activities of the United States Man and the Bio-
3 sphere Program shall include—

4 (1) promotion of interagency cooperation to de-
5 velop scientific information pertaining to the rela-
6 tionship between human activities and the biosphere;

7 (2) funding of scientific research, with particu-
8 lar focus on interdisciplinary methodologies, pertain-
9 ing to the relationship between human activities and
10 the biosphere;

11 (3) promotion of public and private partner-
12 ships and linkages that sponsor and promote sci-
13 entific study, education, and information exchange
14 on options for prudent management of natural re-
15 sources and the relationship between the environ-
16 ment and human health; and

17 (4) coordination of the United States Biosphere
18 Reserve Network to facilitate the study of biological
19 diversity and encourage the sustainable use of natu-
20 ral resources.

21 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES.**

22 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—The lead agency designated
23 under section 1 for the United States Man and the Bio-
24 sphere Program may designate as additions to the United
25 States Biosphere Reserve Network only areas—

1 (1) that are determined by the lead agency to
2 include—

3 (A) little-disturbed areas of natural habitat
4 that are reasonably expected to remain so be-
5 cause of protection or management under Fed-
6 eral, State, or local law or regulation in effect
7 before designation under this section; and

8 (B) managed use areas;

9 (2) that are suitable to serve as models of out-
10 standing stewardship fostering a harmonious rela-
11 tionship between human activities and the conserva-
12 tion of natural resources;

13 (3) that have been nominated for designation
14 by the party or parties holding title to the site, or
15 in the case of public lands, by the governmental au-
16 thority administering the site, after local public com-
17 ment has been obtained and considered; and

18 (4) with respect to which the State in which
19 they are located has concurred in designation under
20 this section.

21 (b) PUBLICATION.—The lead agency shall use appro-
22 priate means to publicize nationally the nomination of an
23 area for designation under this section.

24 (c) LIMITATION.—Designation of an area as a United
25 States Biosphere Reserve shall not convey any additional

1 protections or use restrictions to included areas or impose
2 any obligations upon third parties, including private par-
3 ties, nor does it convey any restrictions or requirements
4 upon private rights or private property land uses within
5 the area or adjacent to the area. Recognition as a United
6 States Biosphere Reserve in no way affects United States
7 sovereignty over such area.

8 (d) REPORTING.—Upon receiving a nomination for
9 designation of an area under this section, the lead agency
10 shall transmit to the Congress the information received
11 with respect to the nomination. No area shall be des-
12 ignated under this section until at least 90 days have
13 passed after the transmittal of information under this sub-
14 section.

15 **SEC. 4. FUNDING AUTHORITY.**

16 In order to support the activities of the United States
17 Man and the Biosphere Program, the Department of
18 State, the Department of the Interior, the Department of
19 Agriculture, and any other Federal agency with authority
20 over the management, protection, or study of natural re-
21 sources and the environment may provide financial sup-
22 port or other resources to the United States Man and the
23 Biosphere Program, including the provision of grants, con-
24 tracts, interagency agreements, and cooperative agree-

1 ments to support research, science education, information
2 exchange, and scientific cooperation.

3 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

4 For purposes of this Act—

5 (1) the term “biosphere” means the part of the
6 Earth and its atmosphere in which living things
7 exist;

8 (2) the term “managed use area” means an
9 area that is—

10 (A) adjacent to a protected area;

11 (B) useful in defining the relationship be-
12 tween human activities and the biosphere in
13 that protected area; and

14 (C) subject to environmental protection or
15 management under Federal, State, or local law
16 or regulation in effect before designation under
17 this section;

18 (3) the term “protected area” means an area
19 described in section 3(a)(1)(A); and

20 (4) the term “State” means each of the several
21 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
22 of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American
23 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

- 1 Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or
- 2 possession of the United States.

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