

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3190

To establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

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 “Oil Region National
5 Heritage Area Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Oil Region of Northwestern Pennsyl-
9 vania, with numerous sites and districts listed on the
10 National Register of Historic Places, and designated
11 by the Governor of Pennsylvania as one of the State
12 Heritage Park Areas, is a region with tremendous

1 physical and natural resources and possesses a story
2 of State, national, and international significance.

3 (2) The single event of Colonel Edwin Drake's
4 drilling of the world's first successful oil well in
5 1859 has affected the industrial, natural, social, and
6 political structures of the modern world.

7 (3) Six national historic districts are located
8 within the State Heritage Park boundary, in
9 Emlenton, Franklin, Oil City, and Titusville, as well
10 as 17 separate National Register sites.

11 (4) The Allegheny River, which was designated
12 as a component of the national wild and scenic riv-
13 ers system in 1992 by Public Law 102-271, tra-
14 verses the Oil Region and connects several of its
15 major sites, as do some of the river's tributaries
16 such as Oil Creek, French Creek, and Sandy Creek.

17 (5) The unspoiled rural character of the Oil Re-
18 gion provides many natural and recreational re-
19 sources, scenic vistas, and excellent water quality for
20 people throughout the United States to enjoy.

21 (6) Remnants of the oil industry, visible on the
22 landscape to this day, provide a direct linkage to the
23 past for visitors, as do the historic valley settle-
24 ments, riverbed settlements, plateau developments,
25 farmlands, and industrial landscapes.

1 (7) The Oil Region also represents a cross-section
2 of American history associated with Native
3 Americans, frontier settlements, the French and In-
4 dian War, African-Americans and the Underground
5 Railroad, and immigration of Swedish and Polish in-
6 dividuals, among others.

7 (8) Involvement by the Federal Government will
8 serve to enhance the efforts of the Commonwealth of
9 Pennsylvania, local subdivisions of the Common-
10 wealth of Pennsylvania, volunteer organizations, and
11 private businesses, to promote the cultural, national,
12 and recreational resources of the region in order to
13 fulfill their full potential.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to enhance
15 a cooperative management framework to assist the Com-
16 monwealth of Pennsylvania, its units of local government,
17 and area citizens in retaining, enhancing, and interpreting
18 the significant features of the lands, water, and structures
19 of the Oil Region, in a manner consistent with positive
20 economic impact and development for the benefit and in-
21 spiration of present and future generations in the Com-
22 monwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
3 the Oil Region National Heritage Area (in this Act re-
4 ferred to as the “Heritage Area”).

5 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall be com-
6 prised of all or parts of the counties of Venango and
7 Crawford in Pennsylvania, determined pursuant to the
8 compact under section 4.

9 (c) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The management entity
10 for the Heritage Area shall be the Oil Heritage Region,
11 Inc., the locally based private, nonprofit management cor-
12 poration which will oversee the development of the Oil Re-
13 gion National Heritage Park, as described in the “Plan
14 for the Oil Region Heritage Park”, dated March 1994 (in
15 this Act referred to as the “management entity”).

16 **SEC. 4. COMPACT.**

17 To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary
18 of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
19 shall enter into a compact with the management entity.
20 The compact shall include information relating to the ob-
21 jectives and management of the area, including each of
22 the following:

23 (1) A delineation of the boundaries of the Her-
24 itage Area.

25 (2) A discussion of the goals and objectives of
26 the Heritage Area, including an explanation of the

1 proposed approach to conservation and interpreta-
2 tion and a general outline of the protection measures
3 committed to by the Secretary and management en-
4 tity.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT**
6 **ENTITY.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—**
8 The management entity may, for purposes of preparing
9 and implementing the management plan developed under
10 subsection (b), use funds made available through this Act
11 for the following:

12 (1) To make loans and grants to, and enter
13 into cooperative agreements with States and their
14 political subdivisions, private organizations, or any
15 other person.

16 (2) To hire and compensate staff.

17 (b) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.—**

18 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The management entity
19 shall develop a management plan for the Heritage
20 Area that—

21 (A) presents comprehensive recommenda-
22 tions for the Heritage Area's conservation,
23 funding, management, and development;

24 (B) takes into consideration existing State,
25 county, and local plans and involve residents,

1 public agencies, and private organizations work-
2 ing in the Heritage Area;

3 (C) includes actions to be undertaken by
4 units of government and private organizations
5 to protect the resources of the Heritage Area;
6 and

7 (D) specifies the existing and potential
8 sources of funding to protect, manage, and de-
9 velop the Heritage Area.

10 (2) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.—The management
11 plan shall include the following:

12 (A) An inventory of the resources con-
13 tained in the Heritage Area, including a list of
14 any property in the Heritage Area that is re-
15 lated to the themes of the Heritage Area and
16 that should be preserved, restored, managed,
17 developed, or maintained because of its natural,
18 cultural, historic, recreational, or scenic signifi-
19 cance.

20 (B) A recommendation of policies for re-
21 source management which considers and details
22 application of appropriate land and water man-
23 agement techniques, including, but not limited
24 to, the development of intergovernmental and
25 interagency cooperative agreements to protect

1 the Heritage Area's historical, cultural, rec-
2 reational, and natural resources in a manner
3 consistent with supporting appropriate and
4 compatible economic viability.

5 (C) A program for implementation of the
6 management plan by the management entity,
7 including plans for restoration and construc-
8 tion, and specific commitments for that imple-
9 mentation that have been made by the manage-
10 ment entity and any other persons for the first
11 5 years of implementation.

12 (D) An analysis of ways in which local,
13 State, and Federal programs may best be co-
14 ordinated to promote the purposes of this Act.

15 (E) An interpretation plan for the Herit-
16 age Area.

17 (3) DEADLINE; TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—

18 (A) The management entity shall submit
19 the management plan to the Secretary within 1
20 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

21 (B) If a management plan is not submitted
22 to the Secretary in accordance with this sub-
23 section, the management entity shall not qualify
24 for Federal assistance under this Act after the

1 1-year period beginning on the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act.

3 (c) DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The man-
4 agement entity shall—

5 (1) give priority to implementing actions set
6 forth in the compact and management plan, includ-
7 ing actions to assist units of government, regional
8 planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations
9 in preserving the Heritage Area;

10 (2) assist units of government, regional plan-
11 ning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in—

12 (A) establishing and maintaining interpre-
13 tive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

14 (B) developing recreational resources in
15 the Heritage Area;

16 (C) increasing public awareness of and ap-
17 preciation for the natural, historical, and archi-
18 tectural resources and sites in the Heritage
19 Area;

20 (D) the restoration of any historic building
21 relating to the themes of the Heritage Area;
22 and

23 (E) ensuring that clear, consistent, and en-
24 vironmentally appropriate signs identifying ac-

1 cess points and sites of interest are put in place
2 throughout the Heritage Area;

3 (3) encourage by appropriate means economic
4 viability in the Heritage Area consistent with the
5 goals of the plan;

6 (4) consider the interests of diverse govern-
7 mental, business, and nonprofit groups within the
8 Heritage Area;

9 (5) conduct public meetings at least annually
10 regarding the implementation of the management
11 plan;

12 (6) submit substantial changes (including any
13 increase of more than 20 percent in the cost esti-
14 mates for implementation) to the management plan
15 to the Secretary for the Secretary's approval;

16 (7) for any year in which Federal funds have
17 been provided to implement the management plan
18 under subsection (b)—

19 (A) submit an annual report to the Sec-
20 retary setting forth its accomplishments, its ex-
21 penses and income, and each person to which
22 any loan or grant was made by the manage-
23 ment entity in the year for which the report is
24 made; and

1 (B) require, for all agreements entered into
2 by the management entity authorizing expendi-
3 ture of Federal funds by any other person, that
4 the person making the expenditure make avail-
5 able to the management entity for audit all
6 records pertaining to the expenditure of such
7 funds.

8 (d) PROHIBITION ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL
9 PROPERTY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The management entity may
11 not use Federal funds received under this Act to ac-
12 quire real property or an interest in real property.

13 (2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this Act shall
14 preclude the management entity from using Federal
15 funds from other sources for their authorized pur-
16 poses.

17 **SEC. 6. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

18 (a) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, upon re-
20 quest of the management entity, provide technical
21 and, subject to the availability of appropriations, fi-
22 nancial assistance to the management entity to de-
23 velop and implement a management plan that is
24 submitted under section 5(b) and approved by the
25 Secretary.

1 (2) PRIORITY.—In assisting the management
2 entity, the Secretary shall give priority to actions
3 that in general assist in—

4 (A) conserving the significant natural, his-
5 toric, and cultural resources that support the
6 themes of the management plan; and

7 (B) providing educational, interpretive, and
8 recreational opportunities consistent with the
9 resources and associated values of the Heritage
10 Area.

11 (3) DOCUMENTATION OF STRUCTURES, ETC.—

12 The Secretary, acting through the Historic American
13 Building Survey and the Historic American Engi-
14 neering Record, shall conduct studies necessary to
15 document the industrial, engineering, building, and
16 architectural history of the Heritage Area.

17 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT

18 PLANS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor
19 of Pennsylvania, shall approve or disapprove a manage-
20 ment plan submitted under this Act not later than 90 days
21 after receiving such plan.

22 (c) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the Sec-

23 retary disapproves a management plan, the Secretary shall
24 advise the management entity in writing of the reasons
25 for the disapproval and shall make recommendations for

1 revisions in the plan. The Secretary shall approve or dis-
2 approve a proposed revision within 90 days after the date
3 it is submitted.

4 (d) APPROVING CHANGES.—The Secretary shall re-
5 view amendments to the management plan under section
6 5(b) that make substantial changes required to be sub-
7 mitted under section 5(c)(6). Funds appropriated under
8 the authority of this Act may not be expended to imple-
9 ment such changes until the Secretary approves the
10 amendments.

11 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

12 The Secretary may not make any grant or provide
13 any assistance under this Act after the expiration of the
14 10-year period beginning on the date the Secretary ap-
15 proves a management plan submitted under section 5(b).

16 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
18 priated under this Act—

19 (1) not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal
20 year; and

21 (2) Not more than a total of \$10,000,000.

22 (b) 50 PERCENT MATCH.—Financial assistance pro-
23 vided under this Act may not be used to pay more than

- 1 50 percent of the total cost of any activity carried out with
- 2 that assistance.

