

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2749

To establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2000

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

A BILL

To establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States.

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 “California Trail Inter-
5 pretive Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) the nineteenth century westward movement
2 in the United States over the California National
3 Historic Trail, which occurred from 1840 until the
4 completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869,
5 was an important cultural and historical event in—

6 (A) the development of the western land of
7 the United States; and

8 (B) the prevention of colonization of the
9 west coast by Russia and the British Empire;

10 (2) the movement over the California Trail was
11 completed by over 300,000 settlers, many of whom
12 left records or stories of their journeys; and

13 (3) additional recognition and interpretation of
14 the movement over the California Trail is appro-
15 priate in light of—

16 (A) the national scope of nineteenth cen-
17 tury westward movement in the United States;
18 and

19 (B) the strong interest expressed by people
20 of the United States in understanding their his-
21 tory and heritage.

22 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

23 (1) to recognize the California Trail, including
24 the Hastings Cutoff and the trail of the ill-fated

1 Donner-Reed Party, for its national, historical, and
2 cultural significance; and

3 (2) to provide the public with an interpretive fa-
4 cility devoted to the vital role of trails in the West
5 in the development of the United States.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CALIFORNIA TRAIL.—The term “California
9 Trail” means the California National Historic Trail,
10 established under section 5(a)(18) of the National
11 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(18)).

12 (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the
13 California Trail Interpretive Center established
14 under section 4(a).

15 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
17 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

18 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
19 of Nevada.

20 **SEC. 4. CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the pur-
23 poses of section 7(c) of the National Trails System
24 Act (16 U.S.C. 1246(c)), the Secretary may estab-
25 lish an interpretation center to be known as the

1 “California Trail Interpretive Center”, near the city
2 of Elko, Nevada.

3 (2) PURPOSE.—The Center shall be established
4 for the purpose of interpreting the history of devel-
5 opment and use of the California Trail in the set-
6 tling of the West.

7 (b) MASTER PLAN STUDY.—To carry out subsection
8 (a), the Secretary shall—

9 (1) consider the findings of the master plan
10 study for the California Trail Interpretive Center in
11 Elko, Nevada, as authorized by page 15 of Senate
12 Report 106–99; and

13 (2) initiate a plan for the development of the
14 Center that includes—

15 (A) a detailed description of the design of
16 the Center;

17 (B) a description of the site on which the
18 Center is to be located;

19 (C) a description of the method and esti-
20 mated cost of acquisition of the site on which
21 the Center is to be located;

22 (D) the estimated cost of construction of
23 the Center;

24 (E) the cost of operation and maintenance
25 of the Center; and

1 (F) a description of the manner and extent
2 to which non-Federal entities shall participate
3 in the acquisition and construction of the Cen-
4 ter.

5 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out subsection (a),
6 the Secretary may—

7 (1) acquire land and interests in land for the
8 construction of the Center by—

9 (A) donation;

10 (B) purchase with donated or appropriated
11 funds; or

12 (C) exchange;

13 (2) provide for local review of and input con-
14 cerning the development and operation of the Center
15 by the Advisory Board for the National Historic
16 California Emigrant Trails Interpretive Center of
17 the city of Elko, Nevada;

18 (3) periodically prepare a budget and funding
19 request that allows a Federal agency to carry out
20 the maintenance and operation of the Center;

21 (4) enter into a cooperative agreement with—

22 (A) the State, to provide assistance in—

23 (i) removal of snow from roads;

24 (ii) rescue, firefighting, and law en-
25 forcement services; and

1 (iii) coordination of activities of near-
2 by law enforcement and firefighting de-
3 partments or agencies; and

4 (B) a Federal, State, or local agency to de-
5 velop or operate facilities and services to carry
6 out this Act; and

7 (5) notwithstanding any other provision of law,
8 accept donations of funds, property, or services from
9 an individual, foundation, corporation, or public en-
10 tity to provide a service or facility that is consistent
11 with this Act, as determined by the Secretary, in-
12 cluding 1-time contributions for the Center (to be
13 payable during construction funding periods for the
14 Center after the date of enactment of this Act)
15 from—

16 (A) the State, in the amount of
17 \$3,000,000;

18 (B) Elko County, Nevada, in the amount
19 of \$1,000,000; and

20 (C) the city of Elko, Nevada, in the
21 amount of \$2,000,000.

22 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
24 this Act \$12,000,000.

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