

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2943

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2008

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

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 “Pacific Northwest Na-
5 tional Scenic Trail Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) in accordance with section 5(c)(22) of the
9 National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C.

1 1244(c)(22)), a feasibility study of the proposed Pa-
2 cific Northwest Trail was—

3 (A) conducted by the Director of the Na-
4 tional Park Service and the Chief of the Forest
5 Service; and

6 (B) completed in June 1980;

7 (2) the feasibility study contained—

8 (A) a conclusion that the Pacific North-
9 west Trail “would have the scenic and rec-
10 reational qualities needed for designation as a
11 National Scenic Trail”; but

12 (B) a recommendation against the designa-
13 tion of the Pacific Northwest Trail, citing as
14 obstacles factors that are present in every other
15 national scenic trail that has been designated
16 under the National Trails System Act (16
17 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.);

18 (3) undaunted, the founder of the Pacific
19 Northwest Trail and many supporters—

20 (A) moved forward with the creation of the
21 Pacific Northwest Trail; and

22 (B) established a private volunteer organi-
23 zation to build, maintain, and promote the Pa-
24 cific Northwest Trail;

1 (4) similar to each other national scenic trail
2 designated under the National Trails System Act
3 (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.), the Pacific Northwest
4 Trail stands as an outstanding example of the rec-
5 reational opportunities that can be provided through
6 a partnership among the Federal Government, State
7 and local governments, private nonprofit trail orga-
8 nizations, individual volunteers, and landowners;

9 (5) today, approximately 950 miles of the Pa-
10 cific Northwest Trail are completed and provide sig-
11 nificant outdoor recreational experiences to citizens
12 and visitors of the United States, thus providing on-
13 the-ground proof of the feasibility and desirability of
14 designating the Pacific Northwest Trail as national
15 scenic trail, as required under section 5(b) of the
16 National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(b));

17 (6) 3 segments of the Pacific Northwest Trail
18 have already been designated by Congress as na-
19 tional recreation trails; and

20 (7) because the entire route of the Pacific
21 Northwest Trail was found to qualify for designation
22 as a national scenic trail, Congress should—

23 (A) designate the entire Pacific Northwest
24 Trail as a national scenic trail; and

1 (B) provide administrative, technical, and
2 financial assistance in accordance with the Na-
3 tional Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et
4 seq.).

5 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL**
6 **SCENIC TRAIL.**

7 Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16
8 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(26) PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC
11 TRAIL.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Pacific Northwest
13 National Scenic Trail, a trail of approximately
14 1,200 miles, extending from the Continental Di-
15 vide in Glacier National Park, Montana, to the
16 Pacific Ocean Coast in Olympic National Park,
17 Washington, following the route depicted on the
18 map entitled ‘Pacific Northwest National Scenic
19 Trail: Proposed Trail’, numbered T12/80,000,
20 and dated February 2008 (referred to in this
21 paragraph as the ‘map’).

22 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map
23 shall be on file and available for public inspec-
24 tion in the appropriate offices of the National
25 Park Service.

1 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Pacific
2 Northwest National Scenic Trail shall be ad-
3 ministered by the Secretary of the Interior.

4 “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—The United
5 States shall not acquire for the Pacific North-
6 west National Scenic Trail any land or interest
7 in land outside the exterior boundary of any
8 federally-managed area without the consent of
9 the owner of the land or interest in land.”.

○