

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4294

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 2005

Mr. PORTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System, 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 “Natural Resource Pro-
5 tection Cooperative Agreement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR NATIONAL PARK**
2 **NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (re-
4 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) may enter into
5 cooperative agreements with State, local, or tribal govern-
6 ments, other public entities, educational institutions, pri-
7 vate nonprofit organizations, or participating private land-
8 owners for the purpose of protecting natural resources of
9 units of the National Park System through collaborative
10 efforts on land inside and outside of National Park System
11 units.

12 (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A cooperative agree-
13 ment entered into under subsection (a) shall provide clear
14 and direct benefits to park natural resources and—

15 (1) provide for—

16 (A) the preservation, conservation, and res-
17 toration of coastal and riparian systems, water-
18 sheds, and wetlands;

19 (B) preventing, controlling, or eradicating
20 invasive exotic species that are within a unit of
21 the National Park System or adjacent to a unit
22 of the National Park System; or

23 (C) restoration of natural resources, in-
24 cluding native wildlife habitat or ecosystems;

25 (2) include a statement of purpose dem-
26 onstrating how the agreement will—

1 (A) enhance science-based natural resource
2 stewardship at the unit of the National Park
3 System; and

4 (B) benefit the parties to the agreement;

5 (3) specify any staff required and technical as-
6 sistance to be provided by the Secretary or other
7 parties to the agreement in support of activities in-
8 side and outside the unit of the National Park Sys-
9 tem that will—

10 (A) protect natural resources of the unit of
11 the National Park System; and

12 (B) benefit the parties to the agreement;

13 (4) identify any materials, supplies, or equip-
14 ment and any other resources that will be contrib-
15 uted by the parties to the agreement or by other
16 Federal agencies;

17 (5) describe any financial assistance to be pro-
18 vided by the Secretary or the partners to implement
19 the agreement;

20 (6) ensure that any expenditure by the Sec-
21 retary pursuant to the agreement is determined by
22 the Secretary to support the purposes of natural re-
23 source stewardship at a unit of the National Park
24 System; and

1 (7) include such other terms and conditions as
2 are agreed to by the Secretary and the other parties
3 to the agreement.

4 (c) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary shall not use any
5 funds associated with an agreement entered into under
6 subsection (a) for the purposes of land acquisition, regu-
7 latory activity, or the development, maintenance, or oper-
8 ation of infrastructure, except for ancillary support facili-
9 ties that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the
10 completion of projects or activities identified in the agree-
11 ment.

12 (d) FUNDING.—Funds available to carry out the pro-
13 visions of this Act shall be limited to programs and
14 amounts specified in the statute for such use in the annual
15 appropriation Act for the National Park Service.

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