

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 276

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources

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## AN ACT

To designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding  
4 Natural Area Act of 2007”.

5 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this Act, the  
6 following definitions apply:

7 (1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

9 (2) **LIGHT STATION.**—The term “Light Sta-  
10 tion” means Piedras Blancas Light Station.

11 (3) **PUBLIC LANDS.**—The term “public lands”  
12 has the meaning stated in section 103(e) of the Fed-  
13 eral Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43  
14 U.S.C. 1703(e)).

15 (4) **OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.**—The term  
16 “Outstanding Natural Area” means the Piedras  
17 Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural  
18 Area established pursuant to section 3.

19 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

20 Congress finds as follows:

21 (1) The publicly owned Piedras Blancas Light  
22 Station has nationally recognized historical struc-  
23 tures that should be preserved for present and fu-  
24 ture generations.

25 (2) The coastline adjacent to the Light Station  
26 is internationally recognized as having significant

1 wildlife and marine habitat that provides critical in-  
2 formation to research institutions throughout the  
3 world.

4 (3) The Light Station tells an important story  
5 about California's coastal prehistory and history in  
6 the context of the surrounding region and commu-  
7 nities.

8 (4) The coastal area surrounding the Light Sta-  
9 tion was traditionally used by Indian people, includ-  
10 ing the Chumash and Salinan Indian tribes.

11 (5) The Light Station is historically associated  
12 with the nearby world-famous Hearst Castle (Hearst  
13 San Simeon State Historical Monument), now ad-  
14 ministered by the State of California.

15 (6) The Light Station represents a model part-  
16 nership where future management can be success-  
17 fully accomplished among the Federal Government,  
18 the State of California, San Luis Obispo County,  
19 local communities, and private groups.

20 (7) Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station  
21 Outstanding Natural Area would make a significant  
22 addition to the National Landscape Conservation  
23 System administered by the Department of the Inte-  
24 rior's Bureau of Land Management.

1           (8) Statutory protection is needed for the Light  
2           Station and its surrounding Federal lands to ensure  
3           that it remains a part of our historic, cultural, and  
4           natural heritage and to be a source of inspiration for  
5           the people of the United States.

6 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC**  
7                   **LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL**  
8                   **AREA.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to protect, conserve, and  
10          enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and fu-  
11          ture generations the unique and nationally important his-  
12          torical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic,  
13          and recreational values of certain lands in and around the  
14          Piedras Blancas Light Station, in San Luis Obispo Coun-  
15          ty, California, while allowing certain recreational and re-  
16          search activities to continue, there is established, subject  
17          to valid existing rights, the Piedras Blancas Historic Light  
18          Station Outstanding Natural Area.

19          (b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—The bound-  
20          aries of the Outstanding Natural Area as those shown on  
21          the map entitled “Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station:  
22          Outstanding Natural Area”, dated May 5, 2004, which  
23          shall be on file and available for public inspection in the  
24          Office of the Director, Bureau of Land Management,  
25          United States Department of the Interior, and the State

1 office of the Bureau of Land Management in the State  
2 of California.

3 (c) BASIS OF MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall  
4 manage the Outstanding Natural Area as part of the Na-  
5 tional Landscape Conservation System to protect the re-  
6 sources of the area, and shall allow only those uses that  
7 further the purposes for the establishment of the Out-  
8 standing Natural Area, the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
9 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other  
10 applicable laws.

11 (d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
12 and in accordance with the existing withdrawal as set  
13 forth in Public Land Order 7501 (Oct. 12, 2001, Vol. 66,  
14 No. 198, Federal Register 52149), the Federal lands and  
15 interests in lands included within the Outstanding Natural  
16 Area are hereby withdrawn from—

17 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal  
18 under the public land laws;

19 (2) location, entry, and patent under the public  
20 land mining laws; and

21 (3) operation of the mineral leasing and geo-  
22 thermal leasing laws and the mineral materials laws.

1 **SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HIS-**  
2 **TORIC LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NAT-**  
3 **URAL AREA.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the  
5 Outstanding Natural Area in a manner that conserves,  
6 protects, and enhances the unique and nationally impor-  
7 tant historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational,  
8 scenic, and recreational values of that area, including an  
9 emphasis on preserving and restoring the Light Station  
10 facilities, consistent with the requirements section 3(c).

11 (b) USES.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Sec-  
12 retary shall only allow such uses of the Outstanding Nat-  
13 ural Area as the Secretary finds are likely to further the  
14 purposes for which the Outstanding Natural Area is estab-  
15 lished as set forth in section 3(a).

16 (c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years  
17 after of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
18 retary shall complete a comprehensive management plan  
19 consistent with the requirements of section 202 of the  
20 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43  
21 U.S.C. 1712) to provide long-term management guidance  
22 for the public lands within the Outstanding Natural Area  
23 and fulfill the purposes for which it is established, as set  
24 forth in section 3(a). The management plan shall be devel-  
25 oped in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and

1 local government agencies, with full public participation,  
2 and the contents shall include—

3 (1) provisions designed to ensure the protection  
4 of the resources and values described in section 3(a);

5 (2) objectives to restore the historic Light Sta-  
6 tion and ancillary buildings;

7 (3) an implementation plan for a continuing  
8 program of interpretation and public education  
9 about the Light Station and its importance to the  
10 surrounding community;

11 (4) a proposal for minimal administrative and  
12 public facilities to be developed or improved at a  
13 level compatible with achieving the resources objec-  
14 tives for the Outstanding Natural Area as described  
15 in subsection (a) and with other proposed manage-  
16 ment activities to accommodate visitors and re-  
17 searchers to the Outstanding Natural Area; and

18 (5) cultural resources management strategies  
19 for the Outstanding Natural Area, prepared in con-  
20 sultation with appropriate departments of the State  
21 of California, with emphasis on the preservation of  
22 the resources of the Outstanding Natural Area and  
23 the interpretive, education, and long-term scientific  
24 uses of the resources, giving priority to the enforce-  
25 ment of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act

1 of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) and the National  
2 Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)  
3 within the Outstanding Natural Area.

4 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In order to better  
5 implement the management plan and to continue the suc-  
6 cessful partnerships with the local communities and the  
7 Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, adminis-  
8 tered by the California Department of Parks and Recre-  
9 ation, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-  
10 ments with the appropriate Federal, State, and local agen-  
11 cies pursuant to section 307(b) of the Federal Land Man-  
12 agement Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
13 1737(b)).

14 (e) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—In order to continue the  
15 successful partnership with research organizations and  
16 agencies and to assist in the development and implementa-  
17 tion of the management plan, the Secretary may authorize  
18 within the Outstanding Natural Area appropriate research  
19 activities for the purposes identified in section 3(a) and  
20 pursuant to section 307(a) of the Federal Land Policy and  
21 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(a)).

22 (f) ACQUISITION.—State and privately held lands or  
23 interests in lands adjacent to the Outstanding Natural  
24 Area and identified as appropriate for acquisition in the

1 management plan may be acquired by the Secretary as  
2 part of the Outstanding Natural Area only by—

- 3 (1) donation;
- 4 (2) exchange with a willing party; or
- 5 (3) purchase from a willing seller.

6 (g) ADDITIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL  
7 AREA.—Any lands or interest in lands adjacent to the  
8 Outstanding Natural Area acquired by the United States  
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be added  
10 to and administered as part of the Outstanding Natural  
11 Area.

12 (h) OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act or the man-  
13 agement plan shall be construed to—

14 (1) restrict or preclude overflights, including  
15 low level overflights, military, commercial, and gen-  
16 eral aviation overflights that can be seen or heard  
17 within the Outstanding Natural Area;

18 (2) restrict or preclude the designation or cre-  
19 ation of new units of special use airspace or the es-  
20 tablishment of military flight training routes over  
21 the Outstanding Natural Area; or

22 (3) modify regulations governing low-level over-  
23 flights above the adjacent Monterey Bay National  
24 Marine Sanctuary.

1 (i) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in  
2 this Act shall be construed to preclude or otherwise affect  
3 coastal border security operations or other law enforce-  
4 ment activities by the Coast Guard or other agencies with-  
5 in the Department of Homeland Security, the Department  
6 of Justice, or any other Federal, State, and local law en-  
7 forcement agencies within the Outstanding Natural Area.

8 (j) NATIVE AMERICAN USES AND INTERESTS.—In  
9 recognition of the past use of the Outstanding Natural  
10 Area by Indians and Indian tribes for traditional cultural  
11 and religious purposes, the Secretary shall ensure access  
12 to the Outstanding Natural Area by Indians and Indian  
13 tribes for such traditional cultural and religious purposes.  
14 In implementing this section, the Secretary, upon the re-  
15 quest of an Indian tribe or Indian religious community,  
16 shall temporarily close to the general public use of one  
17 or more specific portions of the Outstanding Natural Area  
18 in order to protect the privacy of traditional cultural and  
19 religious activities in such areas by the Indian tribe or In-  
20 dian religious community. Any such closure shall be made  
21 to affect the smallest practicable area for the minimum  
22 period necessary for such purposes. Such access shall be  
23 consistent with the purpose and intent of Public Law 95-  
24 341 (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.; commonly referred to as the  
25 “American Indian Religious Freedom Act”).

1 (k) NO BUFFER ZONES.—The designation of the  
2 Outstanding Natural Area is not intended to lead to the  
3 creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around  
4 area. The fact that activities outside the Outstanding Nat-  
5 ural Area and not consistent with the purposes of this Act  
6 can be seen or heard within the Outstanding Natural Area  
7 shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to  
8 the boundary of the Outstanding Natural Area.

9 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
11 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives March 5,  
2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*