

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 695

To establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. MASCARA, Ms. HART, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. KANJORSKI) 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; DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Oil Region National Heritage Area Act”.

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

8 (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage
9 Area” means the Oil Region National Heritage Area
10 established in section 3(a).

1 (2) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term “man-
2 agement entity” means the Oil Heritage Region,
3 Inc., or its successor entity.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

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
13 physical and natural resources and possesses a story
14 of State, national, and international significance.

15 (2) The single event of Colonel Edwin Drake’s
16 drilling of the world’s first successful oil well in
17 1859 has affected the industrial, natural, social, and
18 political structures of the modern world.

19 (3) Six national historic districts are located
20 within the State Heritage Park boundary, in
21 Emlenton, Franklin, Oil City, and Titusville, as well
22 as 17 separate National Register sites.

23 (4) The Allegheny River, which was designated
24 as a component of the national wild and scenic riv-
25 ers system in 1992 by Public Law 102–271, tra-

1 verses the Oil Region and connects several of its
2 major sites, as do some of the river's tributaries
3 such as Oil Creek, French Creek, and Sandy Creek.

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

8 (6) Remnants of the oil industry, visible on the
9 landscape to this day, provide a direct link to the
10 past for visitors, as do the historic valley settle-
11 ments, riverbed settlements, plateau developments,
12 farmlands, and industrial landscapes.

13 (7) The Oil Region also represents a cross sec-
14 tion of American history associated with Native
15 Americans, frontier settlements, the French and In-
16 dian War, African Americans and the Underground
17 Railroad, and immigration of Swedish and Polish in-
18 dividuals, among others.

19 (8) Involvement by the Federal Government
20 shall serve to enhance the efforts of the Common-
21 wealth of Pennsylvania, local subdivisions of the
22 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, volunteer organiza-
23 tions, and private businesses, to promote the cul-
24 tural, national, and recreational resources of the re-
25 gion in order to fulfill their full potential.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to enhance
2 a cooperative management framework to assist the Com-
3 monwealth of Pennsylvania, its units of local government,
4 and area citizens in conserving, enhancing, and inter-
5 preting the significant features of the lands, water, and
6 structures of the Oil Region, in a manner consistent with
7 compatible economic development for the benefit and in-
8 spiration of present and future generations in the Com-
9 monwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States.

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

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
12 the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

13 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the Heritage
14 Area shall include all of those lands depicted on a map
15 entitled “Oil Region National Heritage Area”, numbered
16 ____ and dated _____. The map shall be on file in the ap-
17 propriate offices of the National Park Service. The Sec-
18 retary of the Interior shall publish in the Federal Register,
19 as soon as practical after the date of the enactment of
20 this Act, a detailed description and map of the boundaries
21 established under this subsection.

22 (c) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The management entity
23 for the Heritage Area shall be the Oil Heritage Region,
24 Inc., the locally based private, nonprofit management cor-

1 poration which shall oversee the development of a manage-
2 ment plan in accordance with section 5(b).

3 **SEC. 4. COMPACT.**

4 To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary
5 shall enter into a compact with the management entity.
6 The compact shall include information relating to the ob-
7 jectives and management of the area, including a discus-
8 sion of the goals and objectives of the Heritage Area, in-
9 cluding an explanation of the proposed approach to con-
10 servation and interpretation and a general outline of the
11 protection measures committed to by the Secretary and
12 management entity.

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT**
14 **ENTITY.**

15 (a) **AUTHORITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—**

16 The management entity may use funds made available
17 under this Act for purposes of preparing, updating, and
18 implementing the management plan developed under sub-
19 section (b). Such purposes may include—

- 20 (1) making grants to, and entering into cooper-
21 ative agreements with, States and their political sub-
22 divisions, private organizations, or any other person;
23 (2) hiring and compensating staff; and
24 (3) undertaking initiatives that advance the
25 purposes of the Heritage Area.

1 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The management entity
2 shall develop a management plan for the Heritage Area
3 that—

4 (1) presents comprehensive strategies and rec-
5 ommendations for conservation, funding, manage-
6 ment, and development of the Heritage Area;

7 (2) takes into consideration existing State,
8 county, and local plans and involves residents, public
9 agencies, and private organizations working in the
10 Heritage Area;

11 (3) includes a description of actions that units
12 of government and private organizations have agreed
13 to take to protect the resources of the Heritage
14 Area;

15 (4) specifies the existing and potential sources
16 of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Her-
17 itage Area;

18 (5) includes an inventory of the resources con-
19 tained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any
20 property in the Heritage Area that is related to the
21 themes of the Heritage Area and that should be pre-
22 served, restored, managed, developed, or maintained
23 because of its natural, cultural, historic, recreational,
24 or scenic significance;

1 (6) recommends policies for resource manage-
2 ment which consider and detail application of appro-
3 priate land and water management techniques, in-
4 cluding, but not limited to, the development of inter-
5 governmental and interagency cooperative agree-
6 ments to protect the Heritage Area's historical, cul-
7 tural, recreational, and natural resources in a man-
8 ner consistent with supporting appropriate and com-
9 patible economic viability;

10 (7) describes a program for implementation of
11 the management plan by the management entity, in-
12 cluding plans for restoration and construction, and
13 specific commitments for that implementation that
14 have been made by the management entity and any
15 other persons for the first 5 years of implementa-
16 tion;

17 (8) includes an analysis of ways in which local,
18 State, and Federal programs, including the role for
19 the National Park Service in the Heritage Area, may
20 best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this
21 Act;

22 (9) lists any revisions to the boundaries of the
23 Heritage Area proposed by the management entity
24 and requested by the affected local government; and

1 (10) includes an interpretation plan for the
2 Heritage Area.

3 (c) DEADLINE; TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—

4 (1) DEADLINE.—The management entity shall
5 submit the management plan to the Secretary within
6 2 years after the funds are made available for this
7 Act.

8 (2) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If a manage-
9 ment plan is not submitted to the Secretary in ac-
10 cordance with this subsection, the management enti-
11 ty shall not qualify for Federal assistance under this
12 Act.

13 (d) DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The man-
14 agement entity shall—

15 (1) give priority to implementing actions set
16 forth in the compact and management plan;

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

19 (A) establishing and maintaining interpre-
20 tive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

21 (B) developing recreational resources in
22 the Heritage Area;

23 (C) increasing public awareness of and ap-
24 preciation for the natural, historical, and archi-

1 tectural resources and sites in the Heritage
2 Area;

3 (D) the restoration of any historic building
4 relating to the themes of the Heritage Area;

5 (E) ensuring that clear, consistent, and en-
6 vironmentally appropriate signs identifying ac-
7 cess points and sites of interest are put in place
8 throughout the Heritage Area; and

9 (F) carrying out other actions that the
10 management entity determines to be advisable
11 to fulfill the purposes of this Act.

12 (3) encourage by appropriate means economic
13 viability in the Heritage Area consistent with the
14 goals of the management plan;

15 (4) consider the interests of diverse govern-
16 mental, business, and nonprofit groups within the
17 Heritage Area; and

18 (5) for any year in which Federal funds have
19 been provided to implement the management plan
20 under subsection (b)—

21 (A) conduct public meetings at least annu-
22 ally regarding the implementation of the man-
23 agement plan;

24 (B) submit an annual report to the Sec-
25 retary setting forth accomplishments, expenses

1 and income, and each person to which any
2 grant was made by the management entity in
3 the year for which the report is made; and

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

11 (e) PROHIBITION ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL
12 PROPERTY.—The management entity may not use Fed-
13 eral funds received under this Act to acquire real property
14 or an interest in real property.

15 **SEC. 6. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

16 (a) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—

18 (A) OVERALL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
19 may, upon the request of the management enti-
20 ty, and subject to the availability of appropria-
21 tions, provide technical and financial assistance
22 to the management entity to carry out its du-
23 ties under this Act, including updating and im-
24 plementing a management plan that is sub-
25 mitted under section 5(b) and approved by the

1 Secretary and, prior to such approval, providing
2 assistance for initiatives.

3 (B) OTHER ASSISTANCE.— If the Sec-
4 retary has the resources available to provide
5 technical assistance to the management entity
6 to carry out its duties under this Act (including
7 updating and implementing a management plan
8 that is submitted under section 5(b) and ap-
9 proved by the Secretary and, prior to such ap-
10 proval, providing assistance for initiatives),
11 upon the request of the management entity the
12 Secretary shall provide such assistance on a re-
13 imburseable basis. This subparagraph does not
14 preclude the Secretary from providing non-
15 reimburseable assistance under subparagraph
16 (A).

17 (2) PRIORITY.—In assisting the management
18 entity, the Secretary shall give priority to actions
19 that assist in the—

20 (A) implementation of the management
21 plan;

22 (B) provision of educational assistance and
23 advice regarding land and water management
24 techniques to conserve the significant natural
25 resources of the region;

1 (C) development and application of tech-
2 niques promoting the preservation of cultural
3 and historic properties;

4 (D) preservation, restoration, and reuse of
5 publicly and privately owned historic buildings;

6 (E) design and fabrication of a wide range
7 of interpretive materials based on the manage-
8 ment plan, including guide brochures, visitor
9 displays, audio-visual and interactive exhibits,
10 and educational curriculum materials for public
11 education; and

12 (F) implementation of initiatives prior to
13 approval of the management plan.

14 (3) DOCUMENTATION OF STRUCTURES.—The
15 Secretary, acting through the Historic American
16 Building Survey and the Historic American Engi-
17 neering Record, shall conduct studies necessary to
18 document the industrial, engineering, building, and
19 architectural history of the Heritage Area.

20 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT
21 PLANS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor
22 of Pennsylvania, shall approve or disapprove a manage-
23 ment plan submitted under this Act not later than 90 days
24 after receiving such plan. In approving the plan, the Sec-
25 retary shall take into consideration the following criteria:

1 (1) The extent to which the management plan
2 adequately preserves and protects the natural, cul-
3 tural, and historical resources of the Heritage Area.

4 (2) The level of public participation in the de-
5 velopment of the management plan.

6 (3) The extent to which the board of directors
7 of the management entity is representative of the
8 local government and a wide range of interested or-
9 ganizations and citizens.

10 (c) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the Sec-
11 retary disapproves a management plan, the Secretary shall
12 advise the management entity in writing of the reasons
13 for the disapproval and shall make recommendations for
14 revisions in the management plan. The Secretary shall ap-
15 prove or disapprove a proposed revision within 90 days
16 after the date it is submitted.

17 (d) APPROVING CHANGES.—The Secretary shall re-
18 view and approve amendments to the management plan
19 under section 5(b) that make substantial changes. Funds
20 appropriated under this Act may not be expended to im-
21 plement such changes until the Secretary approves the
22 amendments.

23 (e) EFFECT OF INACTION.—If the Secretary does not
24 approve or disapprove a management plan, revision, or
25 change within 90 days after it is submitted to the Sec-

1 retary, then such management plan, revision, or change
2 shall be deemed to have been approved by the Secretary.

3 **SEC. 7. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES.**

4 Any Federal entity conducting or supporting activi-
5 ties directly affecting the Heritage Area shall—

6 (1) consult with the Secretary and the manage-
7 ment entity with respect to such activities;

8 (2) cooperate with the Secretary and the man-
9 agement entity in carrying out their duties under
10 this Act and, to the maximum extent practicable, co-
11 ordinate such activities with the carrying out of such
12 duties; and

13 (3) to the maximum extent practicable, conduct
14 or support such activities in a manner that the man-
15 agement entity determines shall not have an adverse
16 effect on the Heritage Area.

17 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

18 The Secretary may not make any grant or provide
19 any assistance under this Act after the expiration of the
20 15-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of
21 this Act.

22 **SEC. 9. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.**

23 Nothing in this Act shall preclude the management
24 entity from using Federal funds available under Acts other

1 than this Act for the purposes for which those funds were
2 authorized.

3 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
5 priated to carry out this Act—

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

8 (2) not more than a total of \$10,000,000.

9 (b) 50 PERCENT MATCH.—Financial assistance pro-
10 vided under this Act may not be used to pay more than
11 50 percent of the total cost of any activity carried out with
12 that assistance.

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