

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 834

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## AN ACT

To amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System, and for other purposes.



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## AN ACT

To amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the 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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Trails System  
3 Willing Seller Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) In spite of commendable efforts by State  
7 and local governments and private volunteer trail  
8 groups to develop, operate, and maintain the na-  
9 tional scenic and national historic trails designated  
10 by Act of Congress in section 5(a) of the National  
11 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)), the rate of  
12 progress towards developing and completing the  
13 trails is slower than anticipated.

14 (2) Nine of the twelve national scenic and his-  
15 toric trails designated between 1978 and 1986 are  
16 subject to restrictions totally excluding Federal au-  
17 thority for land acquisition outside the exterior  
18 boundaries of any federally administered area.

19 (3) To complete these nine trails as intended by  
20 Congress, acquisition authority to secure necessary  
21 rights-of-way and historic sites and segments, lim-  
22 ited to acquisition from willing sellers only, and spe-  
23 cifically excluding the use of condemnation, should  
24 be extended to the Secretary of the Federal depart-  
25 ment administering these trails.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING MULTI-**  
2 **JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY OVER THE NA-**  
3 **TIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM.**

4 It is the sense of the Congress that in order to ad-  
5 dress the problems involving multijurisdictional authority  
6 over the National Trails System, the Secretary of the Fed-  
7 eral department with jurisdiction over a national scenic  
8 or historic trail should—

9 (1) cooperate with appropriate officials of each  
10 State and political subdivisions of each State in  
11 which the trail is located and private persons with  
12 an interest in the trail to pursue the development of  
13 the trail; and

14 (2) be granted sufficient authority to purchase  
15 lands and interests in lands from willing sellers that  
16 are critical to the completion of the trail.

17 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE LANDS FROM WILLING**  
18 **SELLERS FOR CERTAIN TRAILS OF THE NA-**  
19 **TIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT.**

20 (a) INTENT.—It is the intent of Congress that lands  
21 and interests in lands for the nine components of the Na-  
22 tional Trails System affected by the amendments made by  
23 subsection (b) shall only be acquired by the Federal Gov-  
24 ernment from willing sellers.

25 (b) LIMITED ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

1           (1) OREGON NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—  
2           Paragraph (3) of section 5(a) of the National Trails  
3           System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by add-  
4           ing at the end the following new sentence: “No lands  
5           or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries  
6           of any federally administered area may be acquired  
7           by the Federal Government for the trail except with  
8           the consent of the owner thereof.”.

9           (2) MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HISTORIC  
10          TRAIL.—Paragraph (4) of such section is amended  
11          by adding at the end the following new sentence:  
12          “No lands or interests therein outside the exterior  
13          boundaries of any federally administered area may  
14          be acquired by the Federal Government for the trail  
15          except with the consent of the owner thereof.”.

16          (3) CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC  
17          TRAIL.—Paragraph (5) of such section is amended  
18          by adding at the end the following new sentence:  
19          “No lands or interests therein outside the exterior  
20          boundaries of any federally administered area may  
21          be acquired by the Federal Government for the trail  
22          except with the consent of the owner thereof.”.

23          (4) LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC  
24          TRAIL.—Paragraph (6) of such section is amended  
25          by adding at the end the following new sentence:

1 “No lands or interests therein outside the exterior  
2 boundaries of any federally administered area may  
3 be acquired by the Federal Government for the trail  
4 except with the consent of the owner thereof.”.

5 (5) IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—  
6 Paragraph (7) of such section is amended by adding  
7 at the end the following new sentence: “No lands or  
8 interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of  
9 any federally administered area may be acquired by  
10 the Federal Government for the trail except with the  
11 consent of the owner thereof.”.

12 (6) NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC  
13 TRAIL.—Paragraph (8) of such section is amended  
14 by adding at the end the following new sentence:  
15 “No lands or interests therein outside the exterior  
16 boundaries of any federally administered area may  
17 be acquired by the Federal Government for the trail  
18 except with the consent of the owner thereof.”.

19 (7) ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL.—Para-  
20 graph (10) of such section is amended by adding at  
21 the end the following new sentence: “No lands or in-  
22 terests therein outside the exterior boundaries of any  
23 federally administered area may be acquired by the  
24 Federal Government for the trail except with the  
25 consent of the owner thereof.”.

1           (8) POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC  
2 TRAIL.—Paragraph (11) of such section is amended  
3 in the fourth sentence by inserting before the period  
4 the following: “except with the consent of the owner  
5 thereof.”.

6           (9) NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—  
7 Paragraph (14) of such section is amended in the  
8 fourth sentence by inserting before the period the  
9 following: “except with the consent of the owner  
10 thereof.”.

11       (c) PROTECTION FOR WILLING SELLERS.—Section 7  
12 of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1246) is  
13 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
14 section:

15       “(1) PROTECTION FOR WILLING SELLERS.—If the  
16 Federal Government fails to make payment in accordance  
17 with a contract for the sale of land or an interest in land  
18 for one of the national scenic or historic trails designated  
19 by section 5(a), the seller may utilize any of the remedies  
20 available to the seller under all applicable law, including  
21 electing to void the sale.”.

22       (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 10(c) of  
23 the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1249(c)) is  
24 amended—

25           (1) by striking paragraph (1); and

1           (2) by striking “(2) Except” and inserting “Ex-  
2           cept”.

          Passed the House of Representatives March 13,  
2001.

Attest:

*Clerk.*