

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2900

To establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area
in the State of Washington, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National
Heritage Area in the State of Washington, 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 “Mountains to Sound
5 Greenway National Heritage Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act include—

8 (1) to recognize the national importance of the
9 natural and cultural legacies of the area, as dem-
10 onstrated in the study entitled “Mountains to Sound

1 Greenway National Heritage Area Feasibility
2 Study” dated April 2012;

3 (2) to recognize the heritage of natural resource
4 conservation in the Pacific Northwest and in the
5 Mountains to Sound Greenway;

6 (3) to preserve, support, conserve, and interpret
7 the legacy of natural resource conservation and com-
8 munity stewardship, passed from generation-to-gen-
9 eration within the Heritage Area;

10 (4) to promote heritage, cultural, and rec-
11 reational tourism and to develop educational and
12 cultural programs for visitors and the general public;

13 (5) to recognize and interpret important events
14 and geographic locations representing key develop-
15 ments in the creation of America, particularly the
16 settlement of the American West and the stories of
17 diverse ethnic groups, including Indians and others;

18 (6) to enhance a cooperative management
19 framework to assist Federal, State, local, and tribal
20 governments, the private sector, and citizens resid-
21 ing in the Heritage Area in conserving, supporting,
22 managing, enhancing, natural, and recreational sites
23 in the Heritage Area;

24 (7) to recognize and interpret the relationship
25 between land and people, representing broad Amer-

1 ican ideals demonstrated through the integrity of ex-
2 isting resources within the Heritage Area; and

3 (8) to support working relationships between
4 public land managers and the community by cre-
5 ating relevant linkages between the National Park
6 Service, the Forest Service, other relevant Federal
7 agencies, Indian tribes, State and local governments
8 and agencies, and community stakeholders within
9 and surrounding the Heritage Area in order to pro-
10 tect, enhance, and interpret cultural and natural re-
11 sources within the Heritage area.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage
15 Area” means the Mountains to Sound Greenway Na-
16 tional Heritage Area established in this Act.

17 (2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term
18 “local coordinating entity” means the entity selected
19 by the Secretary under this Act.

20 (3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-
21 ment plan” means the management plan for the
22 Heritage Area required under section 4.

23 (4) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map ti-
24 tled “Mountains to Sound Greenway National Herit-

1 age Area Proposed Boundary” numbered 584/
2 125,484, and dated August 2014.

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

5 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
6 of Washington.

7 (7) TRIBAL.—The term “tribal” means the fed-
8 erally recognized Indian tribes with usual and accus-
9 tomed places in the Heritage Area, including the
10 Snoqualmie, Yakama, Tulalip, Muckleshoot, and
11 Colville Indian tribes.

12 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND**
13 **GREENWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
15 State the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Herit-
16 age Area.

17 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall consist
18 of land located in King and Kittitas Counties in the State,
19 as generally depicted on the map.

20 (c) MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for
21 public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National
22 Park Service, the United States Forest Service, and the
23 local coordinating entity.

24 (d) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Secretary
25 shall designate a willing local unit of government or a non-

1 profit organization to serve as the coordinating entity for
2 the Heritage Area within 120 days of the enactment of
3 this Act.

4 **SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the local coordinating
7 entity shall submit to the Secretary for approval a pro-
8 posed management plan for the Heritage Area.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan shall—

10 (1) incorporate an integrated and cooperative
11 approach for the protection, enhancement, and inter-
12 pretation of the natural, cultural, historic, scenic,
13 and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

14 (2) take into consideration Federal, State, and
15 local plans;

16 (3) include—

17 (A) an inventory of the natural, historical,
18 cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational
19 resources of the Heritage Area which relate to
20 the national importance and themes of the Her-
21 itage Area that should be conserved and en-
22 hanced;

23 (B) a description of strategies and rec-
24 ommendations for conservation, funding, man-

1 agement, and development of the Heritage
2 Area;

3 (C) a description of the actions that gov-
4 ernments, private organizations, and individuals
5 have agreed to take to protect the natural, cul-
6 tural, historical, scenic, and recreational re-
7 sources of the Heritage Area;

8 (D) a program of implementation for the
9 management plan by the local coordinating en-
10 tity, including—

11 (i) performance goals; and

12 (ii) commitments for implementation
13 made by partners;

14 (E) the identification of sources of funding
15 for carrying out the management plan;

16 (F) analysis and recommendations for
17 means by which Federal, State, and local pro-
18 grams may best be coordinated to carry out this
19 section;

20 (G) an interpretive plan for the Heritage
21 Area;

22 (H) recommended policies and strategies
23 for resource management, including the devel-
24 opment of intergovernmental and interagency
25 cooperative agreements to protect the natural,

1 cultural, historical, scenic, and recreational re-
2 sources of the Heritage Area; and

3 (I) a definition of the roles of the National
4 Park Service, the Forest Service and other Fed-
5 eral agencies in the coordination of the Herit-
6 age Area and in otherwise furthering the pur-
7 poses of this Act.

8 (c) DEADLINE.—If a proposed management plan is
9 not submitted to the Secretary by the date that is 3 years
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the local co-
11 ordinating entity shall be ineligible to receive additional
12 funding under this Act until the date on which the Sec-
13 retary receives and approves the management plan.

14 (d) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT
15 PLAN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of receipt of the proposed manage-
18 ment plan, the Secretary, in consultation with the
19 State, shall approve or disapprove the management
20 plan.

21 (2) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining
22 whether to approve the management plan, the Sec-
23 retary shall consider whether—

24 (A) the local coordinating entity has af-
25 forded adequate opportunity, including public

1 hearings, for public and governmental involve-
2 ment in the preparation of the management
3 plan; and

4 (B) the resource protection and interpreta-
5 tion strategies contained in the management
6 plan, if implemented, would adequately protect
7 the natural, cultural, historical, scenic, and rec-
8 reational resources of the Heritage Area.

9 (e) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the Sec-
10 retary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary
11 shall—

12 (1) advise the local coordinating entity in writ-
13 ing of the reasons for the disapproval;

14 (2) make recommendations to the local coordi-
15 nating entity for revisions to the management plan;
16 and

17 (3) not later than 180 days after the receipt of
18 any revised management plan from the local coordi-
19 nating entity, approve or disapprove the revised
20 management plan.

21 (f) AMENDMENTS.—The Secretary shall review and
22 approve or disapprove in the same manner as the original
23 management plan, each amendment to the management
24 plan that makes a substantial change to the management
25 plan, as determined by the Secretary. The local coordi-

1 nating entity shall not carry out any amendment to the
2 management plan until the date on which the Secretary
3 has approved the amendment.

4 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

5 (a) **AUTHORITIES.**—For purposes of implementing
6 the management plan, the Secretary and Forest Service
7 may—

8 (1) provide technical assistance for the imple-
9 mentation of the management plan;

10 (2) enter into cooperative agreements with the
11 local coordinating entity, State and local agencies,
12 and other interested parties to carry out this Act, in-
13 cluding cooperation and cost sharing as appropriate
14 to provide more cost-effective and coordinated public
15 land management; and

16 (3) the authority of the Secretary to provide
17 technical assistance under this Act terminates on the
18 date that is 15 years after the date of the enactment
19 of this Act.

20 (b) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY AUTHORITIES.**—
21 For purposes of implementing the management plan, the
22 local coordinating entity may—

23 (1) make grants to the State or a political sub-
24 division of the State, nonprofit organizations, and
25 other persons;

1 (2) enter into cooperative agreements with, or
2 provide technical assistance to, Federal agencies, the
3 State or political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit
4 organizations, and other interested parties;

5 (3) hire and compensate staff, including individ-
6 uals with expertise in natural, cultural, historical,
7 scenic, and recreational resource protection and her-
8 itage programming;

9 (4) obtain money or services from any source,
10 including any money or services that are provided
11 under any other Federal law or program;

12 (5) contract for goods or services; and

13 (6) undertake to be a catalyst for other activi-
14 ties that—

15 (A) further the purposes of the Heritage
16 Area; and

17 (B) are consistent with the management
18 plan.

19 (c) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY DUTIES.—The
20 local coordinating entity shall—

21 (1) in accordance with section 4, prepare and
22 submit a management plan to the Secretary;

23 (2) assist units of Federal, State, and local gov-
24 ernment, regional planning organizations, non-profit

1 organizations, and other interested parties in car-
2 rying out the approved management plan by—

3 (A) carrying out programs and projects
4 that recognize, protect, and enhance important
5 resource values in the Heritage Area;

6 (B) establishing and maintaining interpre-
7 tive exhibits and programs in the Heritage
8 Area;

9 (C) developing recreational and educational
10 opportunities in the Heritage Area; and

11 (D) increasing public awareness of, and
12 appreciation for, the natural, cultural, histor-
13 ical, scenic, and recreational resources of the
14 Heritage Area;

15 (3) consider the interests of diverse units of
16 government, business, organizations, and individuals
17 in the Heritage Area in the preparation and imple-
18 mentation of the management plan;

19 (4) conduct meetings open the public at least
20 semiannually regarding the development and imple-
21 mentation of the management plan;

22 (5) encourage, by appropriate means, economic
23 viability that is consistent with the Heritage Area;

1 (6) submit a report to the Secretary every five
2 years after the Secretary has approved the manage-
3 ment plan, specifying—

4 (A) the expenses and income of the local
5 coordinating entity; and

6 (B) significant grants or contracts made
7 by the local coordinating entity to any other en-
8 tity over the 5-year period that describes the
9 activities, expenses, and income of the local co-
10 ordinating entity (including grants from the
11 local coordinating entity to any other entity
12 during the year that the report is made).

13 (7) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL
14 PROPERTY.—The local coordinating entity may not
15 acquire real property or interest in real property
16 through condemnation.

17 (d) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—Nothing in this Act
18 shall preclude the local coordinating entity from using
19 Federal funds available under other laws for the purposes
20 for which those funds were authorized.

21 **SEC. 7. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects the au-
23 thority of a Federal agency to provide technical or finan-
24 cial assistance under any other law.

1 (b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—Any Fed-
2 eral agency planning to conduct activities that may have
3 an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult
4 and coordinate the activities with the local coordinating
5 entity to the maximum extent practicable.

6 (c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this
7 Act—

8 (1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regu-
9 lation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Fed-
10 eral land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-
11 cy;

12 (2) limits the discretion of a Federal land man-
13 ager to implement an approved land use plan within
14 the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

15 (3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized
16 use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Fed-
17 eral agency.

18 **SEC. 8. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTEC-**
19 **TIONS.**

20 Nothing in this Act—

21 (1) abridges the rights of any owner of public
22 or private property, including the right to refrain
23 from participating in any plan, project, program, or
24 activity conducted within the Heritage Area;

25 (2) requires any property owner—

1 (A) to allow public access (including access
2 by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the
3 property of the property owner; or

4 (B) to modify public access or use of prop-
5 erty of the property owner under any other
6 Federal, State, or local law;

7 (3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation,
8 approved land use plan, or other regulatory of any
9 Federal, State, tribal, or local agency;

10 (4) conveys any land use or other regulatory
11 authority to the local coordinating entity, including
12 but not necessarily limited to development and man-
13 agement of energy or water or water-related infra-
14 structure;

15 (5) authorizes or implies the reservation or ap-
16 propriation of water or water rights;

17 (6) diminishes the authority of the State to
18 manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of
19 fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area;

20 (7) creates any liability, or affects any liability
21 under any other law, of any private property owner
22 with respect to any person injured on the private
23 property;

24 (8) affects current or future grazing permits,
25 leases, or allotment on Federal lands; or

1 (9) affects the construction, operation, mainte-
2 nance or expansion of current or future water
3 projects, including water storage, hydro-electric fa-
4 cilities, or delivery systems.

5 **SEC. 9. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 years after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

8 (1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplish-
9 ments of the Heritage Area; and

10 (2) prepare a report in accordance with sub-
11 section (c).

12 (b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under
13 subsection (a)(1) shall—

14 (1) assess the progress of the local coordinating
15 entity with respect to—

16 (A) accomplishing the purposes of the Her-
17 itage Area; and

18 (B) achieving the goals and objectives of
19 the management plan;

20 (2) analyze the investments of Federal, State,
21 tribal, and local governments and private entities in
22 the Heritage Area to determine the impact of the in-
23 vestments; and

24 (3) review the management structure, partner-
25 ship relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area

1 for purposes of identifying the critical components
2 for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

3 (c) REPORT.—Based on the evaluation conducted
4 under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the
5 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
7 Resources of the Senate a report that includes rec-
8 ommendations for the future role of the National Park
9 Service with respect to the Heritage Area.

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