

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1641

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of the
Cascadia Marine Trail.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. SMITH of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for
a study of the Cascadia Marine Trail.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Cascadia Marine Trail Study Act”.

6 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds as follows:

7 (1) The Cascadia Marine Trail stretches from
8 near the State capitol of Olympia north to the Cana-
9 dian border.

1 (2) The Cascadia Marine Trail was designated
2 a National Recreation Trail in 1994.

3 (3) The Cascadia Marine Trail’s “theme is to
4 honor and preserve 5,000 years of marine travel”.

5 (4) The Cascadia Marine Trail was granted Na-
6 tional Millennium Trail status by the White House
7 in 1999.

8 (5) The Cascadia Marine Trail designated by
9 American Canoe Association as a ACA-Rec-
10 ommended Water Trail in 2005.

11 (6) The Cascadia Marine Trail is specifically
12 designed for use by nonmotorized, beachable boats
13 and no reservations are required at 90 percent of
14 sites.

15 (7) The goal of Cascadia Marine Trail is to
16 have a site every 5 to 8 miles along Puget Sound for
17 the comfort and safety of recreational kayakers, row-
18 ers, canoeists, and small-boat sailors.

19 (8) The Cascadia Marine Trail hosts an entirely
20 public network of waterways and shorelines includ-
21 ing salt and fresh water areas in a vital estuarine
22 environment.

23 (9) The marine mammals protected by the Ma-
24 rine Mammal Protection Act, including seals, otters,
25 porpoise, and whales (including 3 pods of resident

1 Orca whales) are residents throughout the range of
2 the Cascadia Marine Trail.

3 (10) The area of Puget Sound estuary, where
4 water that falls on the Cascade and Olympic Moun-
5 tains flows to meet the marine waters of the Sound
6 land and water, is 2,458 square miles, and has ap-
7 proximately 2,500 miles of marine shorelines.

8 (11) Approximately 10,000 rivers and streams
9 flow into Puget Sound.

10 (12) Puget Sound is home to a diverse popu-
11 lation of fish and wildlife including 200 species of
12 marine fish, 26 species of marine mammals, 625
13 species of marine seaweeds and sea grasses, 200 spe-
14 cies of marine birds, and at least 3,000 species of
15 invertebrates.

16 (13) The Puget Sound area is home to approxi-
17 mately 3,500,000 people.

18 (14) Fifteen Indian tribes in the region have
19 historically relied upon marine travel in non-
20 motorized vessels and continue to engage in cul-
21 turally relevant canoe travel through the Puget
22 Sound.

23 (15) Puget Sound is home to important com-
24 mercial and economic activity and the annual num-
25 ber of cargo vessels in the Sound in 2006 was 2,451

1 and the number of boats registered to residents liv-
2 ing on or near Puget Sound was 168,374 in 2003.

3 (16) There are many recreational activities on
4 Puget Sound and 35 State parks are located on
5 Puget Sound.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF TRAIL FOR STUDY.**

7 Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16
8 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(____) Cascadia Marine Trail, a series of water trail
11 routes encompassing approximately 2,300 miles of shore-
12 line in the State of Washington, extending from Point
13 Roberts near the Canadian border to the southern reach
14 of Puget Sound near Olympia. In conducting the study,
15 the Secretary shall coordinate with State and local govern-
16 ments and private entities, and may study connections to
17 nearby sites of recreational, scenic, or historic significance
18 that are not connected by the Cascadia Marine Trail.”.

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