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S. 3399

To authorize studies of certain areas for possible inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2012

Mr. BINGAMAN (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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A BILL

To authorize studies of certain areas for possible inclusion in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Park Service Study Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall conduct special resource studies of—

(1) the Kau Coast, on the island of Hawaii;

(2) on request of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(3)(A) sites in the State of Alaska associated with the forced abandonment of the Aleut villages of Makushin, Kashega, and Biorka around Unalaska Island, and Attu on Attu Island during World War II; and

(B) the 5 relocation sites in the State of Alaska at Funter Bay, Burnett Inlet, Killisnoo, Ward Lake, and the Wrangell Institute;

(4) World War II Japanese American Relocation Center sites, including—

(A) Gila River and Poston sites in the State of Arizona;

(B) Grenada in the State of Colorado;

(C) Heart Mountain in the State of Wyoming;

(D) Jerome and Rohwer sites in the State of Arkansas; and

(E) Topaz in the State of Utah;

(5) American Latino Sites in the San Luis Valley and Central Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the States of Colorado and New Mexico;

(6) the town of Goldfield and outlying mining sites in the State of Nevada;

(7) the Hudson River Valley in the State of New York;

(8) the Norman Studios in Jacksonville, Florida, at which African-American casts and crews were used in the production of silent films;

(9) the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta in the State of Alabama; and

(10) Galveston Bay in the State of Texas.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the studies under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of—

(A) the sites; and

(B) the areas surrounding the sites;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating 1 or more of the sites as units of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the sites by the Federal, State or local governmental entities or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered under paragraph (3).

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The studies required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of the National Park System General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY UPDATES.

(a) STUDIES.—The Secretary shall update the following studies:

(1) The study authorized by section 326(b)(3)(N) of the National Park Service Studies Act of 1999 (as enacted in title III of Appendix C of Public Law 106–113; 113 Stat. 1501A–195) relating to World War II Sites, Republic of Palau.

(2) The 1979 study entitled ''Vermejo Ranch, New Mexico/Colorado: Study of Management Options''.

(b) CONTENTS.—In updating the studies under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) determine whether conditions have changed to justify designation of the site as a unit of the National Park System;

(2) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the site by Federal, State, or local governmental entities or private and nonprofit organizations;

(3) consult with other interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(4) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered under paragraph (2).

SEC. 4. BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL PARKS STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the early years of the National Parks.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a historical assessment of the Buffalo Soldiers that served in National Parks in the years before the establishment of the National Park Service;

(2) evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing a national historic trail commemorating the route traveled by the Buffalo Soldiers from the post of the Buffalo Soldiers in the Presidio of San Francisco to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks and any other National Parks at which the Buffalo Soldiers may have served;

(3) identify properties relating to the Buffalo Soldiers that could satisfy—

(A) the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; or

(B) the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; and

(4) evaluate appropriate ways to enhance historical research, education, interpretation, and public awareness of the story of the stewardship role of the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks, including ways to link the story to the development of National Parks and the story of African-American military service following the Civil War.

SEC. 5. RECONSTRUCTION IN THE SOUTH STUDY THEME STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a national historic landmark theme study (referred to in this section as the ''theme study'') to identify sites and resources in

the southern United States that are significant to the Reconstruction era.

(b) CONTENTS.—The theme study shall include recommendations for commemorating and interpreting sites and resources identified by the theme study, including recommendations for—

(1) sites for which new national historic landmarks should be nominated; and

(2) sites for which further study for potential inclusion in the National Park System is needed.

SEC. 6. CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER BOUNDARY EXPANSION STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the boundary of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (referred to in this section as the ''recreation area'') approximately 45 miles of the Chattahoochee River and land along the river corridor from the southern boundary of the recreation area south to the junction of Coweta, Heard, and Carroll Counties (referred to in this section as the ''study area'').

(b) CONTENTS.—The study authorized under this section shall include an analysis of—

(1) significant resources or opportunities for public enjoyment within the study area relating to the purposes of the recreation area;

(2) operational and management issues that need to be considered if the study area is included within the recreation area;

(3) protection of resources within the study area critical to fulfilling the purposes of the recreation area;

(4) the feasibility of administering the study area as part of the recreation area, taking into account—

(A) the size, configuration, and ownership of the study area;

(B) costs relating to the administration of the study area; and

(C) any other factors that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(5) the adequacy of other alternatives for management and protection of resources within the study area.

SEC. 7. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for each study authorized under this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on

Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the results of the applicable study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary with respect to the area studied.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

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