

“(B) MAP.—A map generally depicting the trail shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

“(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—No land or interest in land outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the United States for the trail except with the consent of the owner of the land or interest in land.

“(E) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION; CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

“(i) encourage communities and owners of land along the trail, native Hawaiians, and volunteer trail groups to participate in the planning, development, and maintenance of the trail; and

“(ii) consult with affected Federal, State, and local agencies, native Hawaiian groups, and landowners in the administration of the trail.”

### LOESS HILLS PRESERVATION STUDY ACT OF 1999

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 776) to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study for the preservation of the Loess Hills in western Iowa, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in *italic*.)

S. 776

*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 “Loess Hills Preservation Study Act of 1999”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Loess Hills encompasses 600,000 acres in western Iowa, having been formed by ancient glaciers and hundreds of centuries of westerly winds blowing soil across the Missouri River, which were then deposited in Iowa;

(2) this area is the largest Loess formation in the United States, and one of the two largest in the world, supporting several species of rare native prairie grasses;

(3) portions of the Loess Hills remain undeveloped and provide an important opportunity to protect and preserve an historic, rare and unique natural resource;

(4) a program to study the Loess Hills can only be successfully implemented with the cooperation and participation of affected local governments and landowners;

(5) in 1986, the Loess Hills area was designated as a National Natural Landmark in recognition of the area’s nationally significant natural resources;

(6) although significant natural resources remain in the area, increasing development in the area has threatened the future stability and integrity of the Loess Hills area; and

(7) the Loess Hills area merits further study by the National Park Service, in cooperation with the State of Iowa, local governments, and affected landowners, to determine appropriate means to better protect, preserve, and interpret the significant resources in the area.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a *suitability and feasibility* study to determine what measures should be taken to preserve the Loess Hills in western Iowa.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) the term “Loess Hills” means the natural geological formation of soils in the State of Iowa located between Waubansie State Park and Stone Park, and which includes Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills, and Fremont counties;

(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior; and

(3) the term “State” means the State of Iowa.

#### SEC. 4. LOESS HILLS STUDY.

(a) The Secretary shall undertake a study of the Loess Hills area to review options for the protection and interpretation of the area’s natural, cultural, and historical resources. The study shall include, but need not be limited to, an analysis of the suitability and feasibility of designating the area as—

(1) a unit of the National Park System;

(2) a National Heritage Area or Heritage Corridor; or

(3) such other designation as may be appropriate.

(b) The study shall examine the appropriateness and feasibility of cooperative protection and interpretive efforts between the United States, the State, its political subdivisions, and non-profit groups or other interested parties.

(c) The Secretary shall consult in the preparation of the study with State and local governmental entities, affected landowners, and other interested public and private organizations and individuals.

(d) The study shall be completed within one year after the date funds are made available. No later than 30 days after its completion, the Secretary shall transmit a report of the study, along with any recommendations, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act *not to exceed* \$275,000.

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 776), as amended, was considered read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 776

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

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(3) portions of the Loess Hills remain undeveloped and provide an important opportunity to protect and preserve an historic, rare and unique natural resource;

(4) a program to study the Loess Hills can only be successfully implemented with the cooperation and participation of affected local governments and landowners;

(5) in 1986, the Loess Hills area was designated as a National Natural Landmark in recognition of the area’s nationally significant natural resources;

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#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act *not to exceed* \$275,000.

### BLACK CANYON NATIONAL PARK AND GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT OF 1999

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 323) to redesignate the Black