

# National Heritage Areas: A Legislative History

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# Executive Summary

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National heritage areas (NHAs) grow out of grassroots movements to preserve heritage and ways of life at a landscape scale. The federal government established the first NHA in 1984, when President Ronald W. Reagan signed into law the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act. This new entity would be managed by a local commission with some support from the National Park Service (NPS), and the federal government would not purchase any new land to create it. The first NHAs built on the historic preservation and heritage movements of the 1960s and 1970s, and grew out of models developed by states, especially Illinois, New York, and Pennsylvania. Their partnership-based structures were embraced by Congress as an alternative park model that avoided increasingly expensive land acquisition costs.

After Congress created the first NHA, other communities worked with their congressional representatives to establish others. Congress designated four NHAs in the 1980s, all of which were in post-industrial areas in the upper Midwest or Northeast, where de-industrialization had left vacant canals, railroads, and other facilities that communities were beginning to repurpose for recreational uses and heritage-based tourism. As Congress created more NHAs in subsequent decades, they spanned the country and the gamut of historic, lived-in landscapes. Congress created a total of sixty-two NHAs between 1984 and 2023, but not until the end of that period did Congress create an NHA system or agree to standard parameters on what, exactly, an NHA should be.

Almost forty years of patchwork legislative solutions created confusing regulatory environments for NPS managers of this program, as well as the local managers of NHAs. It also presented difficulty for members of Congress and congressional committees when seeking to amend or standardize the varied and voluminous previously passed legislation on NHAs. This lack of clarity made it difficult for local or federal managers to make informed decisions about how to manage the NHAs as efficiently and effectively as possible.

This report untangles the complex, piecemeal legislative history of NHAs in order to help these federal and local managers, as well as congressional staff, more clearly understand the legislative origins of NHAs and how that shaped what the system is today. Since congressional legislation directs the actions of federal executive agencies, bringing a better understanding to the origins and evolution of the historic legislation behind a program can help federal agencies more effectively carry out the directives given to them by Congress.

The following legislative history includes a narrative report and several charts with summary information, embedded as tables or attached to the end of the report as appendices. The narrative report sheds light on how the NHA idea evolved, the intent of lawmakers, and

why certain provisions became standard while others faded from use. The appendices and tables are designed to be quick references for staff at individual NHAs, NPS employees who work with NHAs, congressional representatives and staff, and the many partners of NHAs. They include:

- A brief timeline of the creation of all sixty-two NHAs (see Table 1);
- Complete legislative chronologies for each NHA (see Appendix A);
- A legislative chronology of system-enabling NHA legislation (see Appendix B);
- Funding and authorization requirements for all NHAs, as determined by each NHA's designating legislation (see Appendix C); and
- Feasibility study, management plan, and evaluation requirements, as determined by each NHA's designating legislation (see Appendix D).

Together, the narrative report and charts compile large amounts of information previously buried in a myriad of congressional documents and other materials. They are intended to be a resource for all who manage or encounter NHAs and might need to know more about why these areas function as they do.

This report focuses on legislative actions and may not, therefore, answer every question related to the history and development of both individual NHAs and an NHA system. The conclusion presents possible topics for future exploration, such as how the requirement for federal matching funds developed within the larger context of shifts occurring within the federal government more broadly (see Table 11). There are also many opportunities for further research on the history of federal administration of NHAs and the development of specific NHAs.

In legislating NHAs, one of the most persistent legislative hurdles Congress encountered was to define what an NHA was. An early definition appeared in a bill drafted by the Department of the Interior (Interior) in 1994, which called NHAs:

a place where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Heritage Partnership Program Act of 1994, submitted by the National Park Service (NPS) to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources, March

Today, the NPS has distilled this early definition into a more succinct description of NHAs as “places where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes.”<sup>2</sup> The 2023 National Heritage Area Act defined NHAs self-referentially, stating that an NHA “means a component of the National Heritage Area System,” which the law defined as any previously designated “National Heritage Area, National Heritage Corridor, National Heritage Canalway, Cultural Heritage Corridor, National Heritage Route, and National Heritage Partnership,” or any NHA designated by Congress in the future.<sup>3</sup>

The form of NHAs changed over time as Interior and congressional committees attempted to better define and standardize heritage areas. Management entities shifted from being federally appointed commissions to non-profits (with a few exceptions). Feasibility studies became a standard item required before designation, although Congress still established some NHAs without a completed or favorable feasibility study. An evaluation requirement began with new NHAs in the mid-2000s and became standard for a period, until the 2023 NHA Act made evaluations optional rather than required. Management plan requirements also standardized over time, including how long NHAs had to complete them (which generally settled on three years) and when in the process of creating an NHA they occurred (after congressional designation of the NHA). For details on the evolution of these requirements in each NHA’s designating legislation, see Appendix D.

Funding also evolved and standardized. Some of the earliest NHA legislation authorized federal appropriation ceilings per fiscal year, whereas others had no ceiling or an unspecified timeframe. Only some of the earliest NHAs had a requirement for matching funds, but by the mid-1990s, that provision became standard. Almost all early NHA legislation specified a date when federal funding for the area would cease, and when these dates approached, Congress regularly amended the earlier legislation to extend these sunset dates. As the number of NHAs increased, this continuous scramble for reauthorization of federal funding eventually grew so legislatively burdensome to NHAs, the NPS, and congressional committees that it helped galvanize support around NHA system-enabling legislation. For details on the evolution of funding-related provisions in NHA legislation, see Appendix C.

The many discrepancies between each NHA’s distinct legislation served as an impetus for Congress formally to establish an NHA program or system. Starting in 1994, Congressional representatives introduced over two dozen systemic NHA bills, none of which became law until

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21, 1994. See *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 65–81 (March 22, 1994) (draft bill included in statement of Roger Kennedy, Director, NPS).

<sup>2</sup> NPS, “National Heritage Areas,” updated June 4, 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/index.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> National Heritage Area Act, Pub. L. No. 117-339, 136 Stat. 6158 (2023).

the NHA Act in 2023. The House Natural Resources Committee and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held multiple hearings over almost three decades on the need for systemic NHA legislation. Perhaps the most scrutiny came in the early 2000s, under the chairmanship of Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY). Thomas’s investigations led to a 2004 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on NHAs. That report and a subsequent report by the National Park System Advisory Board, “Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas” (2006), significantly shaped future NHA legislation, along with major changes to the earmarking process in 2009. Systemic NHA legislation still did not pass in the 2000s, but Congress created thirty-one new NHAs during that decade, and language from systemic NHA bills, even those that failed to move through Congress, was often used in other bills to establish new NHAs. The evolution of systemic NHA legislation is therefore quite important to understanding how individual NHA legislation changed over time.

From the beginning, NHAs garnered bipartisan support. The strongest opposition they faced came from private property rights advocates. After years of discussion on the matter, a 2007 report by The Heritage Foundation publicized the issue broadly. This led to standardized language protecting private property rights in all NHA-related legislation.

While systemic NHA legislation was driven by leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and House Natural Resources Committees in the 2000s, in the 2010s, it was led by leaders of the newly established NHA Caucus. The first leaders of this bipartisan caucus were Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Rep. Charles Dent (R-PA). They worked closely with relevant House and Senate committees, Interior and NPS staff, and the Alliance for National Heritage Areas (the Alliance) to organize legislation to reauthorize, amend, or create NHAs, in addition to introducing systemic NHA legislation.

Their efforts culminated in what are perhaps the two most important laws for NHAs: the Dingell Act (2019) (see Table 9) and the National Heritage Areas Act (2023) (see Table 10).<sup>4</sup> The Dingell Act established six new NHAs after a decade-long lapse in new designations and, for the first time, included standard provisions that applied to all NHAs in the legislation. The NHA Act formally established the NHA System, created seven new NHAs, uniformly extended federal funding authorization sunsets for many NHAs, and issued clarifying amendments in an attempt to better standardize provisions across all NHAs. The following report tells the story of these and previous legislative efforts in detail.

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<sup>4</sup> John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Pub. L. No. 116-9, 133 Stat. 580 (2019); and National Heritage Area Act, Pub. L. No. 117-339, 136 Stat. 6158 (2023).

# Table of Contents

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Executive Summary	iii
Table of Contents	vii
List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	ix
Abbreviations and Acronyms	x
1. Introduction	1
1.1 A Note on Sources and Methodology	2
1.2 A Note on the Appendices and Tables	3
2. An Expanding National Park System	11
3. From Concept to Reality: Creating the first National Heritage Corridors	18
3.1 98th Congress: Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor (1983–1984)	18
3.2 99th and 100th Congresses: The Heritage Corridor Concept Catches On (1984–1988)	22
4. First Attempts to Establish a System of Heritage Areas	25
4.1 101st Congress: Early Ideas for Programs, Frameworks, and Systems (1989–1990)	25
4.2 102nd Congress: The Vail Agenda and First Legislative Proposals (1991–1992)	28
4.3 103rd Congress: Congress Considers NHA Program Legislation (1993–1994)	31
4.4 104th Congress: First NHA Omnibus Bill (1995–1996)	37
5. Moving Forward Without a System	42
5.1 105th Congress: Administrative Actions in Lieu of Program Legislation (1997–1998)	42
5.2 106th Congress: Stalled NHA System Bills (1999–2000)	43
5.3 107th Congress: Five New NHAs (2001–2002)	44
6. NHAs Proliferate Without a System	46
6.1 108th Congress: First Thomas Bill (2003–2004)	46

6.2	109th Congress: Charting a Future for NHAs (2005–2006)	54
6.3	110th Congress: NHA Debate Reaches a Fever Pitch (2007–2008)	60
6.4	111th Congress: More NHAs, Still No System (2009–2010)	69
7.	NHA Caucus: Working Together to Lay Groundwork for an NHA System	73
7.1	112th Congress: NHA Caucus Leads the Way (2011–2012)	73
7.2	113th Congress: Evaluating NHAs (2013–2014)	75
7.3	114th Congress: Building Momentum (2015–2016)	80
7.4	115th Congress: Nothing Doing (2017–2018)	82
8.	System Achieved: NHA System Legislation Enacted	83
8.1	116th Congress: The Dingell Act (2019–2020)	83
8.2	117th Congress: The NHA Act (2021–2022)	86
9.	Conclusion	96
Appendix A. Chronology of Individual NHA Designations (listed alphabetically)		A-1
Appendix B. Chronology of Legislation to Create an NHA System		B-1
Appendix C. Funding Parameters of Individual NHA-Designating Legislation		C-1
Appendix D. Feasibility, Evaluation, and Management Plan Parameters of Individual NHA-Designating Legislation		D-1
Bibliography		E-1

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Map showing locations of the sixty-two current National Heritage Areas. An interactive version of this map is also available on the NPS NHA program website: <a href="https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/discover-nhas.htm">https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/discover-nhas.htm</a> .	5
Figure 2: President Ronald W. Reagan signed into law S. 746 on August 24, 1984, creating the Illinois and Michigan Canal NHC. Reagan was joined by Illinois Governor Jim Thompson, Sen. Charles Percy, Rep. Henry Hyde, Rep. Lynn Martin, and Rep. Tom Corcoran.	21
Figure 3: Graphic produced by the Alliance showing the “train wreck” of NHA reauthorizations approaching in Congress.	87
Figure 4: NPS staff, including Director Chuck Sams, and NHA members celebrate the passage of the NHA Act with the unveiling of a new system graphic.	92



# List of Tables

Table 1: List of National Heritage Areas	6
Table 2: Provisions of NHA System Legislation proposed by NPS (March 1994)	32
Table 3: NHA-Related Provisions in the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 104-333)	40
Table 4: Provisions in the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-338)	57
Table 5: Members of Congress who Spoke During the House Floor Debate on the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), October 27, 2007	67
Table 6: NHA-Related Provisions in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229)	68
Table 7: NHA-related Provisions in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)	71
Table 8: Chairs of the National Heritage Area Caucus since the 112th Congress	72
Table 9: NHA-Related Provisions in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (P.L. 116-9)	84
Table 10: Provisions in the National Heritage Area Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-339)	94
Table 11: Topics for Future Research	97

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

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<b>Alliance, the</b>	Alliance for National Heritage Areas
<b>AHA</b>	American Heritage Area
<b>AIHP</b>	America’s Industrial Heritage Project
<b>CBO</b>	Congressional Budget Office
<b>CRS</b>	Congressional Research Service
<b>FRC</b>	Federal Records Center
<b>GAO</b>	Government Accountability Office (formerly the Government Accounting Office)
<b>GPO</b>	Government Printing Office
<b>I&amp;M</b>	Illinois & Michigan, as in I&M Canal or I&M Canal NHC
<b>Interior</b>	Department of the Interior
<b>NARA</b>	National Archives and Records Administration
<b>NCHA</b>	National Coalition for Heritage Areas
<b>NHA</b>	National Heritage Area
<b>NHC</b>	National Heritage Corridor
<b>NHL</b>	National Historic Landmark
<b>NHPA</b>	National Historic Preservation Act
<b>NPCA</b>	National Parks Conservation Association
<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
<b>NRHP</b>	National Register of Historic Places
<b>OMB</b>	Office of Management and Budget
<b>RDA</b>	Recreational Demonstration Area
<b>RTCA</b>	Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
<b>USFS</b>	US Forest Service
<b>WASO</b>	NPS Washington, DC Headquarters Office

# 1. Introduction

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In the mid-twentieth century, local communities sought to preserve the nature and history around them. Many saw the National Park Service (NPS) as an ideal partner in these efforts, and they pushed Congress to create new national parks. The subsequent expansion of the National Park System in the postwar period led to concerns about ballooning federal spending. As political will to fund expensive land acquisition for new national parks dwindled, citizens looked for new ways to partner with the federal government to protect natural and cultural resources and promote tourism in their regions. Groups in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and New York led the way in developing a new way to preserve and promote the unique heritage of a region.

Their efforts led to the establishment of the Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal National Heritage Corridor in 1984, the first federal National Heritage Area (NHA).<sup>5</sup> This and other early NHAs were established through congressional legislation but developed from the ground up, with each area's unique designating legislation reflecting specific local circumstances. This was part of the appeal of the NHA model to early proponents: an NHA could be crafted to a locale rather than slotted into a uniform federal program. As former NPS Deputy Director Denis Galvin put it, "Everyone has something they want to save. National Heritage Areas allow them to do that at their own scale."<sup>6</sup>

That each NHA had unique designating legislation presented management challenges for the NPS. Early on, the agency encouraged Congress to define what a uniform system of NHAs might look like. In 1993, Department of the Interior (Interior) staff submitted a draft bill establishing an NHA program to Congress. This started a decades-long process to set legislative standards for designating and managing NHAs. By the time that Congress established an NHA System in 2023, they had also established a total of sixty-two NHAs through dozens of distinct pieces of legislation.

This legislative history untangles this complex story. It shows how Congress continued to create new NHAs with broad bipartisan support from the public and legislators, even amid concerns about creating new areas for a system that did not exist. While this report tells the broad legislative history of the NHA System, the stories of specific NHAs protected as part of this

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<sup>5</sup> Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984. Pub. L. No. 98-398. 98 Stat. 1456 (1984).

Note that NHAs include areas with a variety of naming conventions, including National Heritage Area, National Heritage Corridor, National Heritage Canalway, Cultural Heritage Corridor, National Heritage Route, and National Heritage Partnership. These inconsistencies arose as a result of the piecemeal legislative origins of the NHAs.

<sup>6</sup> Denis P. Galvin, interview by Antoinette Condo, January 20, 2016, National Park Service (NPS) Oral History Collection (HFCA 1817), National Heritage Areas Administrative History Project (Harpers Ferry, WV) (hereafter NHA Oral History Project): 5.

system are numerous and unique, unable to fit into this larger synthesis. To hear those stories, we encourage readers to learn more about the NHAs in their regions.<sup>7</sup> See Figure 1 for a map NHA locations around the United States. Table 1 provides a complete list of current NHAs.

## 1.1 A Note on Sources and Methodology

To research the legislative history of the NHA System, the authors of this report located and read through thousands of congressional documents, including bills, laws, committee reports, committee hearings, and more. They also read relevant secondary source literature, especially on the history of the NPS and the heritage and historic preservation movements. The online publication *The Living Landscape Observer* is a particularly useful resource for those who wish to learn more about NHAs. They searched major national newspapers, such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, and local newspapers, when possible, for discussion of NHAs. Government reports, often available through the Government Printing Office (GPO) or through partner organizations, were also critical to understanding the history of NHAs.

Elizabeth Vehmeyer of the NPS arranged access to relevant NHA Program files from the Federal Records Center (FRC) and helped locate more recent documents pertinent to the program. She also shared material from an earlier effort to compile an administrative history of the NHA Program, led by Antoinette Condo, which proved an invaluable resource. Condo's files and the fifty-nine oral histories she conducted in the late 2010s were critical foundations upon which the authors built an understanding of the history of NHAs.

The authors also conducted original oral interviews as part of this research and would like to thank those who participated in these interviews: Sara Capen (Niagara Falls NHA), Augie Carlino (Rivers of Steel NHA), Annie Harris (Essex NHA), Jon Hoekstra (Mountains to Sound Greenway NHA), Melissa Kuckro (NPS Legislative Affairs Office), Cara Miller and Candy Streed (Silos and Smokestacks NHA), and Shawn Pomaville-Size (MotorCities NHA). Audio from all interviews is on file with the NPS.

There remains a myriad of potential historical research that could be done on NHAs. In focusing on the entire system and just its legislative history, the authors only scratched the surface of this program's history. The report's conclusion presents possible topics for future exploration, such as how the requirement for federal matching funds developed within the larger context of shifts occurring within the federal government more broadly (see Table 11).

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<sup>7</sup> NPS, "Discover NHAs," updated September 30, 2024, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/discover-nhas.htm>.

For further research into the history of specific NHAs, below is a list of several types of repositories or collections that could be useful:

- County and city repositories, which may contain minutes of relevant meetings or efforts by local elected officials to establish an NHA in the area.
- State libraries and archives, which maintain collections of government documents that would have papers of state agencies involved in efforts to establish any particular NHA.
- College and university libraries and special collections, which often hold papers for significant individuals and/or organizations. The University of Rhode Island Archives and Special Collections, for example, is home to the John H. Chafee Senatorial Papers covering his time in the U.S. Senate between 1976 and 1999. Chafee was instrumental in the designation of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, one of the first NHAs, which was renamed in his honor in 2014.<sup>8</sup>
- Local historical societies and museums, which collect material related to important individuals and organizations (such as chambers of commerce or tourism-related organizations) within a community. For example, the Minnesota Historical Society maintains the Bruce F. Vento Papers, who represented Minnesota's 4th Congressional District from 1977 to 2000 and was influential in early attempts to legislate an NHA system.<sup>9</sup>
- Local libraries, especially their local history sections and archival collections.

In addition to these local repositories, presidential libraries, federal agency records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the NPS oral history collection, issues of the NHA newsletter, and secondary sources identified in the accompanying bibliography may contain or point to documents helpful in telling the history of individual NHAs, as well as the system as a whole.

## 1.2 A Note on the Appendices and Tables

At the end of this report are several appendices that provide more detailed timelines of legislative milestones for each existing NHA and attempts to create and define an NHA system. They also provide additional details on the parameters of individual NHA-designating legislation.

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<sup>8</sup> University Archives and Special Collections, University of Rhode Island, "John H. Chafee Senatorial Papers, 1976–1999," accessed August 1, 2025, [https://web.uri.edu/specialcollections/political\\_papers\\_list2/chafeetitle/](https://web.uri.edu/specialcollections/political_papers_list2/chafeetitle/).

<sup>9</sup> Minnesota Historical Society, "Bruce F. Vento: An Inventory of His Papers at the Minnesota Historical Society," accessed August 1, 2025, <https://storage.googleapis.com/mnhs-finding-aids-public/library/findaids/00265.html>.

Appendix A lists, by NHA, a chronological timeline of the legislative history of that NHA, from the legislation authorizing initial studies of an area (if applicable) to the final public law signed by a president. The timelines are arranged alphabetically by NHA name. Because the reauthorization legislation for many NHAs is so voluminous, the chronologies for the most part only include the legislative history behind the original designating legislation, not the subsequent reauthorization laws.

Appendix B presents a legislative chronology of attempts to create an NHA system, beginning with the first systemic NHA legislation introduced in 1993 and culminating with the passage of the National Heritage Area Act in 2023. It is organized by Congress (e.g., 104th Congress, 105th Congress, etc.) to facilitate tracking changes to legislation over time.

For both of the above appendices, we have included party affiliation of legislators to demonstrate the often-bipartisan nature of NHA designation. As discussed later in the report, some lawmakers expressed concerns related to private property rights and the amount of NPS funding that NHAs received and introduced legislation to regulate these aspects of NHAs. Examples of these bills can be found in Appendix B and are also discussed in greater detail in the narrative report. In the interests of easier navigation, readability, and length, we opted not to use footnotes in the legislative chronologies. However, we have provided simplified parenthetical references to relevant Senate and House reports, hearing transcripts, and volumes of the Congressional Record. Bills and public laws can all be referenced through Congress.gov.

The remaining two appendices provide more detailed information regarding the parameters in legislation and how it changed over time. Appendix C presents funding details in each NHA's designating legislation, including authorized appropriations, whether a cumulative budget cap existed and its amount, and the sunset date of federal funding authorization. Appendix D provides information related to feasibility studies, management plans, and evaluation requirements of NHA legislation. These appendices could be useful for readers to contextualize the changes in individual NHA legislation over time as narrated in the report below, and to see how systemic NHA legislation mirrored or differed from legislation of the same era that designated individual NHAs.

There are also several tables embedded in the report that are quick references for a reader. Table 1 (below) lists each NHA and its year of designation, location, designating legislation, and the name and organizational structure of its local coordinating entity. Other subsequent tables in the report list specifics from laws that were especially important in the legislative history of NHAs: P.L. 104-333 (Table 3), P.L. 109-338 (Table 4), P.L. 110-229 (Table 6), P.L. 111-11 (Table 7), P.L. 116-9 (Table 9) and P.L. 117-339 (Table 10).



Table 1: List of National Heritage Areas

Date of Authorization	NHA Name	State(s)	Designating Legislation	Current Local Coordinating Entity (LCE)	Type of LCE <sup>10</sup>
1984.08.24	Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor	IL	P.L. 98-398	Canal Corridor Association	Nonprofit*
1986.11.10	John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor	MA, RI	P.L. 99-647	Blackstone Heritage Corridor	Nonprofit*
1988.11.18	Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor	PA	P.L. 100-692	Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.	Nonprofit*
1988.11.19	Path of Progress (Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission) <sup>11</sup>	PA	P.L. 100-698	Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation	Nonprofit*
1994.11.02	Cane River National Heritage Area	LA	P.L. 103-449	Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc.	Nonprofit*
1994.11.02	The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor (Quinebaug & Shetucket Rivers)	CT, MA	P.L. 103-449	The Last Green Valley, Inc.	Nonprofit
1996.10.19	Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area	CO	P.L. 104-323	Poudre Heritage Alliance	Nonprofit*
1996.11.12	Augusta Canal National Heritage Area	GA	P.L. 104-333	Augusta Canal Authority	Governmental authority
1996.11.12	Essex National Heritage Area	MA	P.L. 104-333	Essex National Heritage Commission, Inc.	Nonprofit
1996.11.12	Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area	NY	P.L. 104-333	Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council; Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc.	Government agency; public benefit corporation with a nonprofit affiliate
1996.11.12	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District <sup>12</sup>	VA	P.L. 104-333	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation	Nonprofit*

<sup>10</sup> In this column, an asterisk (\*) indicates that the entity was originally a federally authorized commission.

<sup>11</sup> Currently inactive (federal funding authorization sunsetted and was not renewed).

<sup>12</sup> Considered by the NPS to be an NHA but not a part of the NHA System.



Date of Authorization	NHA Name	State(s)	Designating Legislation	Current Local Coordinating Entity (LCE)	Type of LCE <sup>10</sup>
1996.11.12	National Coal Heritage Area	WV	P.L. 104-333	State of West Virginia, Divisions of Tourism and Culture & History	Government agency
1996.11.12	Ohio and Erie National Heritage Canalway (Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor)	OH	P.L. 104-333	Ohio & Erie Canal Association	Nonprofit
1996.11.12	Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area	PA	P.L. 104-333	Rivers of Steel Corporation	Nonprofit
1996.11.12	Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area (America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership)	IA	P.L. 104-333	Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Inc.	Nonprofit
1996.11.12	South Carolina National Heritage Corridor	SC	P.L. 104-333	South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, Inc.	Nonprofit
1996.11.12	Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area	TN	P.L. 104-333	Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University	University
1998.11.06	MotorCities National Heritage Area (Automobile National Heritage Area)	MI	P.L. 105-355	MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership	Nonprofit
2000.10.06	Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area	PA	P.L. 106-278	Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority	State-authorized County Authority
2000.10.06	Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area	PA	P.L. 106-278	Schuylkill River Greenway Association	Nonprofit
2000.10.11	Wheeling National Heritage Area	WV	P.L. 106-291	Wheeling Heritage	Nonprofit
2000.10.19	Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area	AZ	P.L. 106-319	Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Corporation	Nonprofit
2000.12.21	Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor	NY	P.L. 106-554	Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission; Erie Canalway Heritage Fund	Federally appointed commission; nonprofit
2003.11.10	Blue Ridge National Heritage Area	NC	P.L. 108-108	Blue Ridge National Heritage Area	Nonprofit

Date of Authorization	NHA Name	State(s)	Designating Legislation	Current Local Coordinating Entity (LCE)	Type of LCE <sup>10</sup>
2004.12.08	Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area	MS	P.L. 108-447	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources	Government agency
2004.12.08	National Aviation Heritage Area	OH	P.L. 108-447	National Aviation Heritage Alliance	Nonprofit
2004.12.08	Oil Region National Heritage Area	PA	P.L. 108-447	Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area	GA	P.L. 109-338	Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Atchafalaya National Heritage Area	LA	P.L. 109-338	Atchafalaya Trace Commission	Government agency
2006.10.12	Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership	NY, VT	P.L. 109-338	Lake Champlain Basin Program	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area	NJ	P.L. 109-338	Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, Inc.	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area	KS, MO	P.L. 109-338	Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Great Basin National Heritage Area (Great Basin National Heritage Route)	NV, UT	P.L. 109-338	Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor	FL, GA, NC, SC	P.L. 109-338	Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, Inc.	Federally authorized commission; nonprofit
2006.10.12	Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area	UT	P.L. 109-338	Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area	NM	P.L. 109-338	Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, Inc.	Nonprofit
2006.10.12	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area	CT, MA	P.L. 109-338	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, Inc.	Nonprofit
2008.05.08	Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area	IL	P.L. 110-229	Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition	Nonprofit
2008.05.08	Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area	MD, PA, VA, WV	P.L. 110-229	Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership	Nonprofit

Date of Authorization	NHA Name	State(s)	Designating Legislation	Current Local Coordinating Entity (LCE)	Type of LCE <sup>10</sup>
2008.05.08	Niagara Falls National Heritage Area	NY	P.L. 110-229	Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, Inc.	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Baltimore National Heritage Area	MD	P.L. 111-11	Baltimore Heritage Area Association, Inc.	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Freedom's Way National Heritage Area	MA, NH	P.L. 111-11	Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc.	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area	AK	P.L. 111-11	Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor Communities Association	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area	MS	P.L. 111-11	Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area Partnership	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area	MS	P.L. 111-11	Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area	AL	P.L. 111-11	Muscle Shoals Regional Center at the University of North Alabama	University
2009.03.30	Northern Plains National Heritage Area	ND	P.L. 111-11	Northern Plains Heritage Foundation	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area	CO	P.L. 111-11	Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Board of Directors	Nonprofit
2009.03.30	South Park National Heritage Area	CO	P.L. 111-11	Park County Dept. of Heritage, Tourism, and Community Development	Government agency
2019.03.12	Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area	MD, WV	P.L. 116-9	Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc.	Nonprofit
2019.03.12	Maritime Washington National Heritage Area	WA	P.L. 116-9	Washington Trust for Historic Preservation	Nonprofit
2019.03.12	Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area	WA	P.L. 116-9	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	Nonprofit
2019.03.12	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area	CA	P.L. 116-9	Delta Protection Commission	Government agency
2019.03.12	Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area	AZ	P.L. 116-9	Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance, Inc.	Nonprofit

Date of Authorization	NHA Name	State(s)	Designating Legislation	Current Local Coordinating Entity (LCE)	Type of LCE <sup>10</sup>
2019.03.12	Susquehanna National Heritage Area	PA	P.L. 116-9	Susquehanna Heritage Corporation	Nonprofit
2023.01.05	Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area	AL	P.L. 117-339	The Center for the Study of the Black Belt at the University of West Alabama	University
2023.01.05	Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area	IL	P.L. 117-339	Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission	Nonprofit
2023.01.05	Downeast Maine National Heritage Area	ME	P.L. 117-339	Sunrise County Economic Council	Nonprofit
2023.01.05	Northern Neck National Heritage Area	VA	P.L. 117-339	Northern Neck Tourism Commission	Government agency
2023.01.05	Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor	NC, SC	P.L. 117-339	University of South Carolina	University
2023.01.05	Southern Maryland National Heritage Area	MD	P.L. 117-339	Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Nonprofit
2023.01.05	St. Croix National Heritage Area	USVI	P.L. 117-339	Virgin Island State Historic Preservation Office	Government agency

## 2. An Expanding National Park System

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In 1872, with a few strokes of the pen, President Ulysses S. Grant created Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park. The Yellowstone National Park Act protected and preserved the natural wonders of the area “for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.”<sup>13</sup> Over the following decades, Congress carved additional land out of the public domain to create parks.<sup>14</sup> In 1906, the Antiquities Act allowed the President, in addition to Congress, to set aside lands for protection. That led to the creation of many national monuments, especially in the Southwest.<sup>15</sup> In 1916, legislation created a unified NPS within Interior to manage the nation's growing number of park units.

As American citizens saw national parks being created across the nation, some started asking for parks in their backyards. Congresses and presidents responded to these grassroots efforts by continuing to add lands to the NPS portfolio. This led to different types of national parks, like Everglades National Park, the first park created to preserve a unique biological and wildlife habitat.<sup>16</sup> Congress also continued to protect battlefields and military forts, which had started in the 1890s. These military history sites were primarily managed by the War Department.<sup>17</sup> Many of these newer parks were in the East, where there was not the same federally administered public domain from which the government could carve out land as in the West. In the eastern United States, most land was in private ownership already. That meant that the federal government would need to purchase land—something that Congress did not seem enthusiastic about in the early twentieth century—or convince wealthy donors to buy the land and donate it to the government. The latter was a less costly and therefore often more appealing option. Acadia

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<sup>13</sup> An Act to set apart a certain Tract of Land lying near the Head-waters of the Yellowstone River as a public Park, 17 Stat. 32, Chap. XXIV (March 1, 1872); and Richard Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History* (New Haven, CT: Yale University, 1997), Chapter 1, [https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/sellars/chap1.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sellars/chap1.htm).

<sup>14</sup> Much of the land that Congress designated as national parks was still used by Indigenous peoples at the time of establishment. For more on the history of parks and Indigenous land see Mark David Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2000).

<sup>15</sup> Hal K. Rothman, *America's National Monuments: The Politics of Preservation* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1994).

<sup>16</sup> Robert W. Blythe, *Wilderness on the Edge: A History of Everglades National Park* (NPS, 2017): 41–138.

<sup>17</sup> Timothy B. Smith, “The Land Before the National Park Service Began,” American Battlefield Trust, July 18, 2016, <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/land-national-park-service-began>. For examples of the history of War Department management of military sites, see J. Faith Meader and Cameron Binkley, *Fort Pulaski National Monument: Administrative History* (NPS, 2003), 16–2; Patrick Sullivan, *Fort McKenry National Monument and Historic Shrine: Administrative History* (NPS, 2013), 21–34; and John C. Paide and Jerome A. Greene, *Administrative History of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park* (NPS, 1983), 9–88.

National Park in Maine, for example, was created when John D. Rockefeller and others donated the land to the NPS.<sup>18</sup>

By the early 1930s, there was a dizzying array of national parks, national monuments, national military parks, and other sites managed by the NPS, the War Department, and the US Forest Service (USFS). In an effort to streamline the various sites, in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved into the NPS twelve natural areas previously overseen by the USFS, forty-four historic areas that had been managed by the War Department, and other lands previously managed by the Office of Buildings and Grounds in Washington, DC. Overnight, the NPS managed seventy new units,<sup>19</sup> ranging from national military parks to urban areas in Washington, DC.<sup>20</sup>

In 1935, Congress passed the Historic Sites Act, which “established a clear mandate for NPS to reach out beyond the boundaries of the park system and assume responsibility as the nation’s principal agency for historic and cultural preservation.”<sup>21</sup> The following year, Congress passed the Parks, Parkway and Recreation Study Act, which expanded the recreational focus of the NPS and expanded the types of resources the agency could protect, and authorized the NPS to assist states with recreational planning efforts.<sup>22</sup> Congress had now legislatively tasked the NPS with protecting both natural and cultural resources for the American people, and making federal and non-federal lands available for recreation and educational purposes.

Congress and the executive branch aimed in the 1930s to expand recreational development, particularly to create spaces for outdoor recreation that were more accessible for people living in densely populated areas. The Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) program, introduced as

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<sup>18</sup> On Acadia and other examples of wealthy individuals donating land and resources to the NPS (such as those in the Rockefeller and Mellon families), see Conrad Wirth, *Parks, Politics, and the People* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 44, 54–58. For a brief summary of the Rockefeller’s legacy related to National Parks, see NPS, Grand Teton National Park, “The Rockefeller Legacy: Philanthropy and Conservation,” 2017, [https://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/upload/Rockefeller\\_17-access.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/upload/Rockefeller_17-access.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> NPS “units” are sites that are managed, staffed, overseen, and often (but not always) owned by the NPS. These units comprise the National Park System, and include national parks, national monuments, national historic sites, national seashores, and many other classifications. Units can only be designated by an Act of Congress or Presidential Proclamation. Sites that the NPS offer technical assistance or maintain official partnerships with are often called “affiliated areas.” NHAs are related areas. For more, see Congressional Research Service (CRS), *National Park System: Establishing New Units*, Laura B. Comay, RS20158, April 6, 2022.

<sup>20</sup> Executive Order 6166 of June 10, 1933, “Organization of Executive Agencies”; Rothman, *America’s National Monuments*; Harlan D. Unrau and G. Frank Williss, *Expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s: Administrative History* (Denver: NPS, 1983), 43–74; and NPS, *The National Parks: Shaping the System* (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, 2005), [https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/mackintosh1/sts2b.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/mackintosh1/sts2b.htm).

<sup>21</sup> Rolf Diamant, “From Management to Stewardship: The Making and Remaking of the U.S. National Park System,” *The George Wright Forum* 17, no. 2 (2000): 35. See also Historic Sites Act of 1935, 16 U.S.C. § 461–467.

<sup>22</sup> An Act to authorize a study of the park, parkway, and recreational-area programs in the United States, 49 Stat. 1894 (P.L. 770 ½); Wirth, *Parks, Politics, and the People*, 166–176; and *Living Landscape Observer*, “A Study of the Park and Recreation Problems of the United States,” undated, <https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/1936-nps-recreation-study/>.

part of Roosevelt's New Deal, used federal funds to purchase unused or unproductive agricultural land. The NPS would then develop these tracts. The program was never intended to create new national parks as such, but rather to turn unwanted land into recreational space for residents of nearby urban areas which would eventually be turned over to state or local governments. By 1946, non-federal entities controlled most of the RDAs developed by NPS. The last transfer took place in 1956.<sup>23</sup> Although not a formal partnership in the same vein as later NHAs, the RDA program was an early example of the NPS working with non-federal entities to preserve land and natural resources.

Federal interest in securing land for recreational use, especially near large population centers, continued in the post-World War II years.<sup>24</sup> In the mid-1950s, the NPS commissioned a series of studies, funded by the Mellon Foundation, to identify coastal resources (on the Pacific, Atlantic, and Great Lakes coasts) that could be protected for "recreational or other purposes."<sup>25</sup> The NPS had conducted a similar study on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in the 1930s, but the onset of WWII stymied its implementation.<sup>26</sup> In the meantime, extensive building had occurred along the nation's coasts and rendered the earlier studies "ghosts of departed opportunities."<sup>27</sup> The NPS recommended that federal, state, and local governments attempt to purchase coastal land when possible for recreational use, especially near the nation's large metropolitan areas. In total, these reports identified twenty-six proposed national seashores or lakeshores (sixteen on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, five on the Great Lakes, and five on the Pacific coast). Congress acted on these recommendations and established fourteen national seashores and lakeshores between 1961 and 1975.<sup>28</sup>

When legislation to create Cape Cod National Seashore was signed into law in 1961, it was the first time Congress had appropriated large sums of money to purchase the bulk of the land

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<sup>23</sup> Unrau and Williss, *Expansion of the National Park Service*; and Wirth, *Parks, Politics, and the People*, 176–190.

<sup>24</sup> Diamant, "From Management to Stewardship," 37; and Robin W. Winks, *Laurance S. Rockefeller: Catalyst For Conservation* (Washington, DC and Covelo, CA: Island Press, 1997), 122–134.

<sup>25</sup> NPS, *Our Vanishing Shoreline* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1955), 23; NPS, Report on the Seashore Recreation Area Survey of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1955); NPS, Pacific Coast Recreation Area Survey (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1959); and NPS, "Our Fourth Shore: Great Lakes Shoreline Recreation Area Survey" (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1959).

<sup>26</sup> Oscar L. Chapman, Acting Secretary of the Interior, to Honorable Rene L. DeRouen, Chair, Committee on the Public Lands, July 19, 1937, Report to accompany H.R. 7022, Establishment of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. August 9, 1937, Calendar No. 1247, 75th Congress, 1st Session, Senate, Report No. 1196; and Cameron Binkley, *The Creation and Establishment of Cape Hatteras National Seashore: The Great Depression through Mission 66* (Atlanta: NPS Southeast Regional Office, August 2007), 15–26.

<sup>27</sup> NPS, *Our Vanishing Shoreline*, 23.

<sup>28</sup> For more on this coastal conservation movement, see Jacqueline A. Mirandola Mullen, "Coastal Parks for a Metropolitan Nation: How Postwar Politics and Urban Growth Shaped America's Shores," PhD diss., University at Albany, SUNY, 2015.

that would become an NPS unit.<sup>29</sup> Seashores and lakeshores were patchworks of privately owned land that the federal government planned to purchase, in part, but the land had dramatically increased in value as more people built summer homes at the beach. Prices shot up even further when landowners realized the federal government had deep pockets to purchase their tracts. Costs for land purchases at all of the national seashores and lakeshores greatly exceeded congressional appropriations. The NPS came back for more money, but Congress eventually grew wary of this very expensive way to create parkland.<sup>30</sup>

In response to these concerns, the General Accounting Office (GAO) conducted an investigation in 1970 regarding “concern over the rising cost of acquisition land” for national seashores and recreation areas.<sup>31</sup> GAO found rampant speculation in these areas that led to rising federal costs. They recommended the NPS (1) “consider adjusting the boundaries of certain national recreation areas to exclude expensive properties located on or near the boundary lines of the recreation areas,” and (2) “establish and consistently apply procedures for estimating land acquisition costs.”<sup>32</sup>

Almost a decade later, a 1979 GAO report found that the NPS, the Bureau of Land Management, and USFS “generally followed the practice of acquiring as much land as possible without regard to need and alternatives to purchase unless specially spelled out in legislation. Consequently, lands have been purchased not essential to achieving project objects, and before planning how the land was to be used and managed.”<sup>33</sup> The report’s authors suggested that similar project goals could be achieved using alternatives to ownership such as easements, zoning, or other regulatory controls. The legislation authorizing some seashores and lakeshores required the Secretary of the Interior to approve local zoning ordinances, which prompted another GAO investigation. That resulted in a 1981 GAO report criticizing the restrictive zoning standards at Fire Island National Seashore.<sup>34</sup> Language from that report was similar to later

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<sup>29</sup> For example, enabling legislation for Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961 and Fire Island National Seashore in 1964 each authorized \$16 million dollars in appropriations. See An Act to provide for the establishment of Cape Cod National Seashore, Pub. L. 87-126, 75 Stat. 284 (1961); and An Act to establish Fire Island National Seashore, Pub. L. 88-587, 78 Stat. 928 (1964). For a discussion of whether this was the first time Congress appropriated money to purchase land for an NPS site, see Mirandola Mullen, “Coastal Parks for a Metropolitan Nation,” 14–15.

<sup>30</sup> Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, “A Report on Recreation Land Price Escalation,” 1967.

<sup>31</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), Comptroller General, “Report to the Congress: Problems in Land Acquisition for National Recreation Areas, National Park Service, Department of the Interior,” April 29, 1970. Note that the GAO was renamed the Government Accountability Office in 2004.

<sup>32</sup> GAO, “Problems in Land Acquisition,” 2, 25, 34.

<sup>33</sup> GAO, “The Federal Drive to Acquire Private Lands Should Be Reassessed,” CED-80-14 (December 14, 1979): i.

<sup>34</sup> GAO, Report to the Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan, US Senate, “The National Park Service Should Improve Its Land Acquisition And Management At The Fire Island National Seashore,” May 8, 1981.



criticism of the potential for NHAs to restrict private property rights through excessive zoning regulations or federal overreach in local zoning laws.

Other legislative developments in the postwar period paved the way for more unique forms of cultural and natural preservation. The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) solidified NPS's congressional mandate to protect cultural spaces. It created the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), to be overseen by the Secretary of the Interior. It also established State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.<sup>35</sup> A decade later, the administration of President James E. Carter created a short-lived "National Heritage Trust" within Interior that would "identify, acquire, and protect" cultural and natural resources in a way that was more efficient and effective than just creating new national parks every time citizens wanted to protect something.<sup>36</sup>

The 1970s also saw the growth of the "greenline" parks, or greenways, movement. Charles Little, an environmental and land conservation activist, described greenline parks as,

Sizable areas, still in relatively natural condition, designated by state legislators for recreational management with special emphasis on service to urban populations. . . . greenline parks are a mix of public and private land, controlled and managed to maintain existing recreational, scenic, environmental and cultural values.<sup>37</sup>

These private-public spaces were often linear and near urban areas. The states of New York and New Jersey established the first formally recognized greenline parks. Maurice Hinchey, whose name Congress would later add to the Hudson River Valley NHA, spoke in favor of the concept while serving in the New York State Assembly. He gave introductory remarks at a conference on greenline parks held in Albany in 1983, citing the state's protection of the Adirondacks in the 1890s as an important precursor to this new large-scale landscape conservation movement.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), a program established in 1960, were not mentioned by name in the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) legislation but were folded into the duties of the Secretary of the Interior. An Act to establish a program for the preservation of additional historic properties throughout the Nation, and for other purposes, 80 Stat. 915 (P.L. 89-665); and William T. Spitzer, Steven Elkinton, and Samuel N. Stokes, "A Proposal to Recognize America's National Heritage Corridors and Areas," draft, July 2, 1991, 8, file 1991 NPS Proposal for an American Heritage System (Report & Correspondence), box 12, National Heritage Areas Program Administration Records 1986–2012 (PT-079-17-0188), Federal Records Center, Washington, DC (hereafter NHA Program Records). For more on the NHPA, see Kimball M. Banks and Ann M. Scott, eds., *The National Historic Preservation Act: Past, Present, and Future* (New York: Routledge, 2016).

<sup>36</sup> President James E. Carter, "The Environment Message to Congress," May 23, 1977, *The American Presidency Project*, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/the-environment-message-the-congress>.

<sup>37</sup> Quoted in Elisabeth M. Hamin, "The U.S. National Park Service's Partnership Parks: Collaborative Responses to Middle Landscapes," *Land Use Policy* 18 (2001): 126.

<sup>38</sup> Maurice D. Hinchey, "Welcoming Remarks," in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, State of New York (Mario M. Cuomo, Governor), "Proceedings: Greenline and Urbanline Parks Conference" (Albany, NY: May 20, 1983): 1–2.

Hinchey would later become a leading advocate for NHAs while serving in the US House of Representatives.

As methods to conserve cultural and natural resources shifted, so did the model of creating new NPS units. In 1978, Congress created the Lowell National Historical Park—which included various sites in Lowell, Massachusetts related to the city’s long history of textile manufacturing—as a new unit of the National Park System.<sup>39</sup> The park grew out of existing local and state efforts to preserve part of the city’s industrial past as a sort of living museum. In addition to preserving important history, proponents of the park also saw the potential for economic revitalization as the park’s special status drew tourists and businesses to an area in need of development.<sup>40</sup>

The creation of the Lowell National Historical Park is one of the first examples of local, state, and federal partners coming together in a complex public-private patchwork around heritage preservation. This combination of historic preservation and local economic development set an example that later NHAs followed, especially those in northeastern and midwestern communities undergoing rapid deindustrialization in the 1970s and 1980s. When speaking in favor of legislation to create the first National Heritage Corridor in 1984, Sen. Alan Dixon (D-IL) referenced the success of the Lowell National Historical Park as an example. Dixon noted in his remarks on the Senate floor that the park had led to new businesses opening in Lowell and an increase in tourism to the city. He remarked, “The Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor will, I hope, do the same thing for the beleaguered State of Illinois,” which had an unemployment rate of 9.9 percent at the time.<sup>41</sup>

Although unique in many ways, the enabling legislation for Lowell National Historical Park required the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, through purchase or donation, specific properties listed in the enabling legislation—just like the national seashores and lakeshores that preceded it. But the Lowell purchases took place right around the time that the aforementioned GAO reports criticized expensive federal land purchases and restrictive zoning limitations on local governments. Lowell was a new model, but the land acquisition piece of its legislation appeared increasingly to be a vestige of earlier times, when land was cheaper and congressional budgets were more generous.

Political changes at the national level further shifted the trend away from private land acquisition. What became known as the “Sagebrush Rebellion” in the western US in the 1970s and 1980s brought to national attention conflicts over federal management of land historically

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<sup>39</sup> An act to provide for the establishment of the Lowell National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Pub. L. No. 95-290, 92 Stat. 290 (1978).

<sup>40</sup> National Park Service, *Lowell: The Story of an Industrial City* (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior Division of Publications, 1992), accessed online <https://www.nps.gov/lowe/learn/historyculture/park-handbook.htm>.

<sup>41</sup> 130 Cong. Rec. 3491 (February 27, 1984) (statement of Senator Alan Dixon).

used for ranching, logging, and mining. Leaders of the movement protested what they perceived as onerous requirements set by environmental laws passed starting in the early 1970s. In particular, “Sagebrush Rebels” objected to the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 which broadened the Bureau of Land Management’s purpose to include greater emphasis on managing public lands for environmental preservation rather than resource extraction.<sup>42</sup> Although largely focused in parts of the West with large areas of federally-owned public lands, the conflict received national attention and even made it into the 1980 presidential campaign, with candidate Ronald Reagan telling an audience of supporters in Salt Lake City, “I happen to be one who cheers and supports the sagebrush rebellion. Count me in as a rebel.”<sup>43</sup>

President Reagan went on to appoint James G. Watt, a property-rights advocate, as Secretary of the Interior. Watt’s appointment quelled the rebellion, at least for a time. In 1981, Reagan proposed a federal moratorium on land acquisition, effectively forcing Federal agencies to look at alternatives for land conservation and preservation. Watt created a Lands Policy Work Group within Interior in April 1981. Later that year, a GAO report cited work done by the group that suggested “creating partnerships with State and local governments and the private sector to allow the Federal government to develop shared responsibility for other nationally important areas appropriate to the roles, authorities and capabilities of the partners...”<sup>44</sup> It was in this new partnership-based spirit, amid dwindling political will for federal land acquisition, that citizens began advocating for National Heritage Areas in their backyards.

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<sup>42</sup> Jonathan Thompson, “The first Sagebrush Rebellion: What sparked it and how it ended,” *High Country News*, January 14, 2016, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/a-look-back-at-the-first-sagebrush-rebellion/>.

<sup>43</sup> David F. Salisbury, “Sagebrush rebels see open range in Reagan’s victory,” *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 18, 1980, <https://www.csmonitor.com/1980/1118/111828.html>.

<sup>44</sup> Quoted in GAO, “Federal Land Acquisition and Management Practices,” CED-81-135 (September 11, 1981): 9.

### 3. From Concept to Reality: Creating the first National Heritage Corridors

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The first National Heritage Corridors emerged in the 1980s amid shifting strategies on land conservation, the evolving historic preservation movement, and rapid deindustrialization of the Northeast and Midwest. The first NHAs were called National Heritage Corridors (NHCs) because they followed the paths of canals or rivers. They were built on the public-private partnership concept that had become increasingly common in the NPS, and combined elements of greenline parks, historic parks, and industrial heritage conservation, all in a model that promoted local economic development.<sup>45</sup> The first to be designated by Congress was the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, in 1984. What follows tells the story of how that first heritage area came to be.

#### 3.1 98th Congress: Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor (1983–1984)

*(Republican majority in the Senate, Democratic majority in the House, Republican President)*

Since its construction in the 1840s, the Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal provided an important connection between the city of Chicago, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River. The canal created a transportation route both for passengers and freight that bypassed less direct overland routes. But after the Illinois Waterway replaced the I&M Canal in 1933, the earlier canal ceased to be a critical economic connector.

Gradually, the canal and the land surrounding it became used in other ways. Thousands of acres of natural areas, held by both public and public/private ownership, surrounded the canal. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps created trails and picnic areas in these natural areas, and restored parts of the canal and towpath for recreation. In 1964, part of the canal was designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL).<sup>46</sup> The next decade, a Chicago-based group called the Open Lands Project, saw potential in the canal for combining economic and recreational development with protection of the canal's natural and historic features.<sup>47</sup> Open

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<sup>45</sup> Spitzer, Elkinton, and Stokes, "A Proposal to Recognize America's National Heritage Corridors and Areas." NHA Program Records.

<sup>46</sup> Canal Corridor Association, "Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor: A Roadmap for the Future," Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Steering Committee, July 2011, 2-14, <https://npshistory.com/publications/nha/illinois-michigan-canal/roadmap-2011-2021.pdf>.

<sup>47</sup> The group is now called "Openlands." Richard K. Quateman, "The Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor," *Illinois Parks and Recreation* 15 (November/December 1982), <https://www.lib.niu.edu/1982/ip821110.html>.

Lands asked a young graduate of a historic preservation program, Gerald Adelman, to conduct an inventory of the history and natural assets along the canal. Adelman's findings were published in a six-part series in the *Chicago Tribune*, and Adelman started working for Open Lands.<sup>48</sup> A new group, the Canal Volunteers, formed under the LaSalle Rotary Club to maintain parts of the canal, and several publications in the 1970s examined its potential for economic development through recreational tourism.<sup>49</sup>

These groups worked with elected officials to elevate the issue of conserving the canal. In 1978, with help from Adelman and Illinois Governor James R. Thompson, US Rep. Tom Corcoran (R-IL) introduced a bill asking the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability of making the I&M Canal a national historic park.<sup>50</sup> Although Congress took no action on the bill, Corcoran and Sen. Charles Percy (R-IL) earmarked funding to study the canal's recreational potential.<sup>51</sup> The federal funding for the study was supplemented with state and private funding. With funding secured, NPS conducted a reconnaissance survey of the canal in 1980 and, the following year, published a concept plan for the I&M Canal Corridor. The concept plan built on the findings of the reconnaissance survey, proposing a canal commission made up mostly of private citizens living within the corridor area who would work with federal and state partners to implement the concept plan. The plan proposed three strategies for implementation which differed only in how the canal commission would gain its authority: through federal legislation; a combination of federal and state legislation; or from state legislation only. The goal was to use "existing authorities for resource protection and enhancement" within the canal corridor, rather than create new bureaucracy.<sup>52</sup> The plan made clear that it emphasized "interpretation and technical assistance, rather than acquisition and land regulation, as the key tools for making the most of the corridor's resources."<sup>53</sup>

This approach fit well within the political climate of the early 1980s which was shifting away from federal acquisition of park property. Despite his opposition to acquiring new federal

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<sup>48</sup> In 1988, Adelman became the executive director of Open Lands. Gerald W. Adelman, Interview by Antoinette Condo, October 4, 2017, NHA Oral History Project; and Openlands, "Gerald W. Adelman," accessed 2025, <https://openlands.org/people/gerald-w-adelman/>.

<sup>49</sup> Antoinette Condo, *A Brief Administrative History of the National Park Service National Heritage Area Coordinating Office 1984–2019*, Draft report, Compiled for the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas Program, Undated [c. 2021]. Condo also notes that a very early study of the I&M Canal was completed in 1936. Charles Gates wrote special report for the NPS on the historical importance of the canal as a response to the passage of the Historic Sites Act in 1935 and the Parks, Parkway, and Recreational Study Act in 1936.

<sup>50</sup> A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to make a study for purposes of determining which, if any, lands encompassing the Illinois and Michigan Canal would be suitable as a national historical park, H.R.14334, 95th Cong. (1978).

<sup>51</sup> 130 Cong. Rec. 3491 (February 27, 1984) (statement of Senator Charles Percy).

<sup>52</sup> NPS, "Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor: A Concept Plan" (Ann Arbor: NPS, September 1981): 57.

<sup>53</sup> NPS, I&M Concept Plan, 92.

parkland, Secretary of the Interior James Watt reportedly called the canal corridor idea “daring and precedent setting,” with the caveat that state and private sector interests demonstrate strong involvement in the project with minimal federal support. In communications about potential plans for the I&M Corridor, Senator Percy’s staff reminded the public that he was “a fiscal conservative,” and that “this would be a National park on a shoestring.”<sup>54</sup>

Over the next several years, Representative Corcoran, Senator Percy, and Rep. George O’Brien (R-IL) introduced several bills to establish the I&M Canal as an NHC. Senator Percy reminded Congress of the massive grassroots coalition behind the effort.

Following completion of the Park Service report, I worked with local community leaders and members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation to draft legislation establishing the Heritage Corridor. The bill before us today in large measure reflects the contributions of Illinois environmental, business and government leaders, and it is for this reason that the measure has drawn enthusiastic support in Illinois. The Illinois General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution in support of the legislation. The Governor, Jim Thompson, has pledged \$13 million over ten years toward the project. Three local forest preserve districts have committed approximately \$3 million over the next three to five years for trail improvements and land acquisition. Hundreds of local residents have formed an advocacy group, the Friends of the I&M Canal, and major industries in the corridor have formed the Upper Illinois Valley Association to promote the project. . . . [T]his unique legislation was introduced with the bipartisan co-sponsorship of the entire Illinois congressional delegation and represents literally years of consensus building at the Federal, State, and local levels.<sup>55</sup>

Congressional hearings on these bills brought representatives of diverse groups, most of whom supported the creation of the heritage corridor. After a field hearing held at the canal in October 1983, Rep. John Seiberling (D-OH), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, remarked that he was, “quite impressed not only with the diversity of the resources of the area but also with the complex socioeconomic interrelationships involved. It was heartening to see the degree of support, and I really mean amazing degree of support, that the proposal has received from all levels of government and the private sector.”<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Bob Wiedrich, “A National Park for Illinois?” *Chicago Tribune*, December 11, 1981. It should be noted that after the initial legislative proposal to make the I&M Corridor a national historic park, none of the proposed plans included reference to the corridor as an official NPS unit. All sought some sort of federal, state, and local partnership with the involvement of public and private organizations.

<sup>55</sup> 130 Cong. Rec. 3490–91 (February 27, 1984) (statement of Senator Charles Percy).

<sup>56</sup> *Public Land Management Policy Oversight: Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives*, 98th Cong. 155 (November 4, 1983).

Finally, at the end of June 1984, the US Senate and House passed S. 746, the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act, introduced by Senator Percy the previous year. On August 24, 1984, President Reagan signed a bill to create the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the first such designation in the nation. (See Figure 2.) In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Reagan reinforced the idea that the conservation and preservation efforts enabled by the creation of the NHC would “stimulate tourism, jobs, and economic growth, as well as greater cooperation between local, State, and Federal Governments.”<sup>57</sup>



Figure 2: President Ronald W. Reagan signed into law S. 746 on August 24, 1984, creating the Illinois and Michigan Canal NHC. Reagan was joined by Illinois Governor Jim Thompson, Sen. Charles Percy, Rep. Henry Hyde, Rep. Lynn Martin, and Rep. Tom Corcoran.

(Courtesy of National Park Service, National Heritage Areas Program.)

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<sup>57</sup> “Remarks on Signing a Bill To Commemorate the Illinois and Michigan Canal,” *The Public Papers of President Ronald W. Reagan*, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/remarks-signing-bill-commemorate-illinois-and-michigan-canal> (accessed May 30, 2025). A video of President Reagan’s speech on signing S. 746 is available here: <https://youtu.be/PJLoKQywGzE?feature=shared>.

The designating legislation for the I&M Canal NHC established the boundaries of the corridor and created a nineteen-member Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission to oversee the implementation of the NPS concept plan. Commission members would include the NPS director (or a delegate) and representatives from local governments and nature preserves within the corridor, as well as stakeholders representing the interests of historic preservation, recreation, conservation, business, and industry. The law established the commission for a period of ten years with the possibility to extend for an additional five years with congressional approval. It authorized \$250,000 per fiscal year for the commission to carry out its duties as enumerated in the act. Those duties included assisting state, local, and non-profit organizations within the corridor to preserve and enhance the area's assets; enhancing public awareness and appreciation of the corridor; and encouraging economic and industrial development.<sup>58</sup> This became the blueprint for other groups who wanted to create a new type of partnership-based park.

## 3.2 99th and 100th Congresses: The Heritage Corridor Concept Catches On (1984–1988)

*(99th Congress: Republican majority in the Senate, Democratic majority in the House, Republican President; 100th Congress: Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, Republican President)*

Two years after creating the I&M Canal NHC, Congress passed legislation to create the Blackstone River Valley NHC in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.<sup>59</sup> Like the I&M, the designating legislation for Blackstone created a commission, which would manage the corridor for ten years. The legislation required the Commission to submit a “Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan” to the Secretary of the Interior and the governors of both Massachusetts and Rhode Island for review and approval within its first year.<sup>60</sup> This differed from the I&M Canal NHC, where the Concept Plan was completed three years prior to its designation. This new sequence of congressional designation before formally developing a management plan became the norm moving forward.

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<sup>58</sup> Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-398, 98 Stat. 1456 (1984).

<sup>59</sup> An Act to establish the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Pub. L. No. 99-647, 100 Stat. 3625 (1986).

<sup>60</sup> See Section 6(a), An Act to establish the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Pub. L. No. 99-647, 100 Stat. 3625 (1986)



Blackstone legislation also introduced the concept of non-federal matching funds, explicitly stating that federal financial contribution could not exceed 50 percent of the annual operating costs of the commission. This would become one of the defining characteristics of future NHAs.

In 1988, legislation that created the Delaware and Lehigh (D&L) Navigation Canal NHC followed the blueprint of I&M and Blackstone. It created a commission to develop and implement a management plan, but this time gave the commission two years instead of one to complete it. Authorized appropriations increased slightly (to \$350,000) and required the 50 percent non-federal match for commission operating expenses.<sup>61</sup>

The fourth heritage area to be created by congressional action had been brewing since the late 1970s. Planning commissions in several counties in southwestern Pennsylvania completed studies of important historic sites related to the iron, steel, and coal industries in the area, and came up with an idea for what they called America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) championed the cause and found federal funding for studies of the area. This resulted in a 1985 reconnaissance survey conducted by NPS, which looked at the possibility of designating some of the region's roads as national parkways, and a 1987 report, "Action Plan: America's Industrial Heritage Project," completed at the direction of Congress with federal funds.<sup>62</sup> Some of sites in the region were already recognized as National Historic Sites or listed on the National Register; the survey and action plan proposed ways to raise public awareness of the cultural resources in the area through regional tourism. In 1988, Congress passed a bill to establish within Interior the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, which would implement the aforementioned action plan.<sup>63</sup> Unlike previous heritage commissions, the designating legislation gave the Heritage Preservation Commission the power to make loans and grants, intended "for the purpose of conserving and protecting sites, buildings, and objects" related to the industrial development of the area.<sup>64</sup>

The main goal of these designations was, as summarized by a later Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, "to facilitate grassroots preservation of natural resources and economic development in areas containing industries and historic structures," with the federal government

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<sup>61</sup> Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1988, Pub. L. No. 100-692, 102 Stat. 4552 (1988).

<sup>62</sup> NPS, "Reconnaissance Survey of Western Pennsylvania Roads and Sites," September 1985; Heritage Preservation Commission, "Action Plan: America's Industrial Heritage Project," August 1987; and Randall Cooley, interview by Antoinette Condo, August 18, 2016, NHA Oral History Project: 1-3.

<sup>63</sup> The papers of the commission are held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. See "Guide to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Collection," <https://libweb1.library.iup.edu/depts/speccol/ead/mg75.html>. Note that federal authorization for the Heritage Preservation Commission sunsetted in 2008 and was not renewed, though Path of Progress is still formally recognized as an NHA.

<sup>64</sup> An Act to establish in the Department of the Interior the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, and for other purposes, Pub. L. No. 100-698, 102 Stat. 4618 (1988).

as a partner but not a leader in the efforts.<sup>65</sup> States, local governments, and community organizations saw the benefits of such partnerships, especially as interest grew in cultural heritage tourism. The ad hoc approach that Congress took towards designating the first NHAs reflected responses to unique needs of distinct areas. As interest in the idea grew, however, it became clear within NPS that a more formal system might be needed to bring order to the process of designation and administration.

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<sup>65</sup> Congressional Research Service (CRS), “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, CRS-1.

## 4. First Attempts to Establish a System of Heritage Areas

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The success of the first four National Heritage Corridors increased interest in the heritage areas concept. Citizens, especially in deindustrializing areas, saw the potential advantage that heritage designation might bring in increased federal support to their localities. Businesses saw the benefits to the economy. Lawmakers at all levels saw the potential to kickstart struggling economies and bring some federal money back to the home district. The early 1990s saw the introduction of bills to establish another six heritage areas. Although many supported creating new heritage areas, some expressed concern that congressional support and generous funding for the new NHCs amounted to “park barrel” spending. Others worried about the potential impact any new additions would have on NPS employees and resources already spread thin.<sup>66</sup> An internal NPS memo in 1989 raised concerns that the agency was trying to be “too many things for too many people,” with a growing workload unaccompanied by commensurate increase in staff or budget.<sup>67</sup> NPS Director James Ridenour echoed these concerns, expressing apprehensions about “thinning the blood” of the National Park System by adding areas of less than national significance.<sup>68</sup>

### 4.1 101st Congress: Early Ideas for Programs, Frameworks, and Systems (1989–1990)

*(Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, Republican President)*

Within the NPS, staff looked for ways to respond to increased demand for their services. In 1989, a group led by John J. Reynolds at the Denver Service Center met to develop recommendations for how to respond to the rise in congressional requests to the NPS, particularly for preauthorization studies like those that preceded the designation of the I&M Canal NHC and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission. In its draft recommendations, the group noted that even though no funds had been formally budgeted for the

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<sup>66</sup> Brenda Barrett, “New National Parks in the 1990s: Thinning of the Blood or a Much Needed Transfusion?” (July 10, 1991) (unpublished manuscript), available at <http://livinglandscapeobserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/New-National-Parks-in-the-1990s.pdf>.

<sup>67</sup> NPS Denver Service Center, “Draft Recommendations for Preauthorization Studies and Other Congressional Requests,” April 1989, 2, file NPS Planning Pre-1992, box 12, NHA Program Records.

<sup>68</sup> James Ridenour, “The Director’s Report: Thinning the Blood,” *Courier: Newsmagazine of the National Park Service* 35, no. 11 (November/December 1990): 1. See also Brenda Barrett, “NHA@30: New National Parks in the 1990s: Thinning of the Blood or a Much Needed Transfusion?” *Living Landscape Observer* (January 30, 2014): <https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/nha30-new-national-parks-in-the-1990s-thinning-of-the-blood-or-a-much-needed-transfusion/>.

NPS to study areas outside its existing system since 1981, “the National Park System has continually been directed by Congress to conduct such studies.”<sup>69</sup>

The group proposed initiating an “America’s heritage program” in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies, Congress, and the private sector to develop a national inventory of heritage resources and prepare heritage partnership studies “to determine the level of resource significance and to recommend how resource areas should be managed and used.”<sup>70</sup> Not everyone agreed that such a systematic or programmatic approach would benefit the NPS. In handwritten comments on a draft of the recommendations, Peggy Lipson from the NPS office in Washington, DC (WASO), wrote “No new programs!” James Stewart, Assistant Director of Planning at WASO, echoed this sentiment, commenting that a new program “is not feasible at this time for budgetary, political, and policy reasons.”<sup>71</sup>

The question of how to navigate the growing interest in heritage areas continued. Several NPS employees in partnership-based roles (William Spitzer, head of the Recreation Resources Assistance Division; Steven Elkinton, National Trails System Office; and Samuel Stokes, Office of Assistance to the States on River Conservation) shared with colleagues a draft proposal of a legal framework in which to organize existing and proposed heritage areas and corridors. The authors suggested that Congress pass a National Heritage Area and Corridor Act “to give consistency and definition to these projects.” They argued four principles should provide the foundation for the legislation:

- 1) State and local governments and agencies must play key roles in selection and managing corridors and areas;
- 2) Designated heritage corridors and areas “should incorporate natural, cultural, and recreational resources of outstanding significance;”
- 3) Federal funding and technical assistance, including time involved, should be limited; and
- 4) “State and local planning with a commitment to protect the key resources in question must precede, rather than follow, official designation.”<sup>72</sup>

The proposed legislation would create a consistent definition of a National Heritage Corridor and provide criteria and guidelines for planning and implementation.

The concept was well received by the corridors themselves. Jim Pepper, an NPS employee who served as executive director of the Blackstone River NHC Commission and had previously

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<sup>69</sup> NPS Denver Service Center, “Draft Recommendations for Preauthorization Studies,” 2.

<sup>70</sup> NPS Denver Service Center, “Draft Recommendations for Preauthorization Studies,” 1.

<sup>71</sup> James W. Stewart, Assistant Director, Planning, NPS WASO, to Assistant Manager, Eastern Team, NPS Denver Service Center, memo, “Draft Recommendations for Preauthorization Studies and Other Congressional Requests,” June 13, 1989, 1, file NPS Planning Pre-1992, box 12, NHA Program Records.

<sup>72</sup> Spitzer, Elkinton, and Stokes, “A Proposal to Recognize America’s National Heritage Corridors and Areas.”

helped write the I&M Canal NHC legislation, applauded the ideas presented in the proposal. He told Steven Elkinton that “Without unifying legislation, NPS is in no position to react, administer, and manage in a unified way.”<sup>73</sup> Even Director Ridenour, with his concerns about “thinning the blood” of the National Park System, was intrigued by heritage corridors and areas because “they weren’t new parks” and presented “a preservation and interpretive strategy that could work without regulation, without land acquisition, without park facilities maintenance, without large staff, but with public support and pride.”<sup>74</sup> The warm reception to this paper led to many of its ideas being included in later legislative proposals to create an NHA system.

In early 1991, Director Ridenour initiated a task force within NPS to develop a proposal for an American Heritage Area (AHA) System. The task force report defined the system as a “programmatic framework that addresses planning and development efforts—on a non-permanent basis by the National Park Service—with natural, cultural, recreation, and economic components.” Although the NPS would be involved, the report made clear that a project within the AHA system would not be considered “a unit of the National Park System.”<sup>75</sup> The proposal sought to limit federal involvement with AHAs both in terms of time and money. For example, following congressional designation of an AHA, the NPS would provide technical assistance and other support for a length of time specified by the designating legislation. At the end of that period, the NPS would provide limited oversight “to assure that the purposes of the authorizing legislation are fulfilled.”<sup>76</sup> The report suggested a 50/50 matching requirement (like that in Blackstone and subsequent designating legislation) for any federal funds going to an AHA, which the authors anticipated could save the NPS more than \$100 million over fifty years as compared to the cost of an official unit of the National Park System.<sup>77</sup>

After the task force developed their proposal, Secretary of the Interior James Watt requested that the National Park System Advisory Board “undertake a review of national heritage corridors and prepare a report and recommendations on the appropriate level of effort and response to the evolving planning and management initiative.”<sup>78</sup> The board was specifically asked to use the I&M Canal, Blackstone, and Delaware & Lehigh NHCs as examples.

As agency and Congressional staff worked to develop the beginnings of a heritage area system, legislators introduced several NHA-related bills, including three for new heritage areas

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<sup>73</sup> Steve Elkinton to William Spitzer, Chris B[?], and Sam Stokes, memo, “Heritage Areas and Corridors Paper,” July 19, 1991, file NPS Concept Paper Comments, box 12, NHA Program Records.

<sup>74</sup> James Pepper, Interview by Antoinette Condo, March 29, 2016, NHA Oral History Project.

<sup>75</sup> NPS Director’s Taskforce, “Proposal for an American Heritage Area System,” July 1991, ii, file NHAS – Task Force – Old, box 3, NHA Program Records.

<sup>76</sup> NPS Director’s Taskforce, “Proposal for an American Heritage Area System,” 3.

<sup>77</sup> NPS Director’s Taskforce, “Proposal for an American Heritage Area System,” 8.

<sup>78</sup> Jennifer A. Salisbury, Secretary’s Representative to the Board, to Bryan Wagner, Chairman, National Park System Advisory Board, October 1, 1991, 3, file NPS Planning Pre-1992, box 12, NHA Program Records.

(none of which became law) and one to establish the Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission (H.R. 2174, which became P.L. 101-398), as well as amendments to existing NHAs (Blackstone and I&M).<sup>79</sup>

## 4.2 102nd Congress: The Vail Agenda and First Legislative Proposals (1991–1992)

*(Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, Republican President)*

In Fall 1991, the NPS hosted a symposium in Vail, Colorado to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the NPS and to consider the future of the National Park System. While celebrating successes, organizers also wanted to use the symposium “as a vehicle for constructive criticism, self-examination, and commitment to greater responsibility.”<sup>80</sup> They acknowledged declining morale among NPS staff in the face of “an increasingly diffuse set of park units and programs that it is mandated to manage, serious fiscal constraints, and personnel and organizational structures that often impede its performance.”<sup>81</sup> To address these challenges, a steering committee and working groups brought together nearly 700 experts and stakeholders from inside and outside the NPS, including representatives from state governments, national non-profit organizations, and universities.

One of the topics of discussion was the growth of non-traditional park areas like National Heritage Corridors and Areas. Brenda Barrett, who had helped build the heritage conservation program in Pennsylvania and would later serve as the NPS national coordinator for NHAs, wrote a paper for one of the Vail working groups that addressed how to handle heritage areas within the NPS. She acknowledged in the 1991 paper, that “It is indeed difficult to welcome these unfamiliar and possibly very expensive newcomers.”<sup>82</sup> Barrett’s background with heritage conservation in Pennsylvania, which included two of the earliest NHAs, made her familiar with the partnerships needed to make the model work, and she became an important leader in the NHA movement.

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<sup>79</sup> The new heritage area bills that did not pass were Cache La Poudre National Heritage Corridor Act, H.R. 5172, 101st Cong. (1990); Fox River National Heritage Corridor Act of 1990, S. 2982, 101st Cong. (1990); and Morris and Delaware and Raritan Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1989, H.R. 3571, 101st Cong. (1989). See also Mississippi River Corridor Study Commission Act of 1989, H.R. 2174, 101st Cong. (1989); An Act to amend Public Law 99-647, establishing the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize the Commission to take immediate action in furtherance of its purposes and to increase the authorization of appropriations for the Commission, Pub. L. No. 101-441, 104 Stat. 1017 (1990); and A bill to amend the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1984 to extend the boundaries of the corridor, S. 3048, 101st Cong. (1990).

<sup>80</sup> NPS, *National Parks for the 21st Century The Vail Agenda* (Washington, DC: NPS, 1992): 4.

<sup>81</sup> NPS, *National Parks for the 21st Century*, 1.

<sup>82</sup> Barrett, “New National Parks in the 1990s.”

Barrett understood that overseeing the new areas presented challenges for the NPS, problems that were compounded by “the arbitrary and political process by which some of these areas have been designated.” She presented several proposals to the working group on the potential role of the NPS in these new areas, including a heritage preservation program modeled after the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund. Barrett concluded that heritage areas were not a fleeting phenomenon, and that the NPS must find a way to respond to the surge in new proposals. “The phenomena of heritage areas and partnerships parks,” she wrote, “is already too deeply rooted. . . . This is not just a trickle, it’s a flood. The NPS has the opportunity to be out front taking the leadership role.”<sup>83</sup>

In April 1992, the NPS published the final report from the Vail Symposium, titled *National Parks for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Vail Agenda*. The report proposed “creating a new program to preserve heritage areas,” noting that the experience of the 1980s “indicates that there is a widespread public acceptance of new approaches to conservation emphasizing multi-level participation of public and private organizations.” The new program of “American Heritage Areas” would be established “to protect and conserve areas that are of significant regional value and are worthy of national recognition, but which do not meet the requirements necessary for inclusion in the National Park System.”<sup>84</sup> The Vail Agenda reinforced an ongoing shift within the NPS away from direct land ownership and management to one of partnership with public and private groups.

NPS staff used the ideas that emerged from the Director’s Task Force and the Vail Symposium to develop a formal legislative proposal to create an NHA system, with clear criteria, goals, and benchmarks for new heritage areas. Toward the end of 1992, the NPS circulated a draft Heritage Partnership Program among NPS and Interior staff, as well as interested outside groups like the National Coalition for Heritage Areas (NCHA).<sup>85</sup> Reviewers provided comments on topics ranging from the efficacy of federally created commissions and the amount of bureaucracy involved, to specifics on technical assistance and grant funding. Reviewers wondered how involved the NPS should be, both pre- and post-designation, and how the

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<sup>83</sup> Barrett, “New National Parks in the 1990s.”

<sup>84</sup> NPS, *National Parks for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 114, 115.

<sup>85</sup> The National Coalition for Heritage Areas (NCHA) formed in 1993 out of a Heritage Area Roundtable hosted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Shelley Mastran, Director of the Trust’s Rural Heritage Program, was the group’s first executive director. The Coalition worked with and provided feedback on Interior’s first legislative proposal for an NHA system. Its goal was “to build a broadly based alliance to support federal legislation and development of a program that can provide a central focus and national framework for existing and new heritage areas, based on principles currently being circulated for endorsement by Coalition members; and seeks to increase the knowledge and practice of the many community-building tools and techniques as applied in heritage areas.” Draft legislation, 20 May 1993, file National Coalition for Heritage Areas (1993), box 11, NHA Program Records. For more on Mastran, see Condo, *A Brief Administrative History*; and Shelley Mastran, Interview by Antoinette Condo, April 8, 2016, NHA Oral History Project.

program would be funded. There was discussion of whether these new areas should be called “American Heritage Areas” or “National Heritage Areas.”

Early drafts also included a national advisory commission to help oversee the system. The commission was eliminated from the proposal based on feedback from various reviewers, although the NCHA continued to push for its inclusion.<sup>86</sup> Although most commenters acknowledged that a new approach was needed for heritage areas, many thought the legislation as initially drafted was overly complicated and did not do enough to address budget concerns within the NPS.<sup>87</sup> NPS Chief Historian Edwin Bearss recommended, “In the current political climate with the overriding public mandate for deficit reduction, it would seem advisable to avoid the appearance of creating a new federal program.”<sup>88</sup>

The Interior draft legislation provided one of the earliest definitions of an NHA. Section 2(c) of the bill defined a National Heritage Area as,

a place where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.<sup>89</sup>

This definition, with only minor changes, remained in use for many years.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Denis P. Galvin, Associate Director, Planning and Development, NPS, to Regional Directors, “Heritage Partnerships: Draft Legislation, FYI,” March 4, 1994, file Administration Bill Drafts – 1993, box 5, NHA Program Records. Note that Rep. Maurice Hinchey’s H.R. 2416, the National Partnership System of Heritage Areas Act, included a twenty-five-member National Heritage Area Advisory Commission to “advise the Secretary [of the Interior] in the creation and administration of the National Partnership System of Heritage Areas.” (National Partnership System of Heritage Areas Act. H.R. 2416. 103rd Cong. [1993].)

<sup>87</sup> See files Comments on NPS Proposed Bill 1992 (1), Comments on NPS Proposed Bill 1992 (2), and 1993 – Legislation, box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>88</sup> Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, NPS, to John Bradley, Chief, Recreation Resources Assistance Division, NPS, July 8, 1993, 2, file Comments on NPS Proposed Bill 1992 (2), box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>89</sup> Heritage Partnership Program Act of 1994, submitted by NPS to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources, March 21, 1994. See *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 65–81 (March 22, 1994).

<sup>90</sup> Denis Galvin, Deputy Director, NPS, testimony before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, Committee on Resources, October 26, 1999, <https://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=160139>.



## 4.3 103rd Congress: Congress Considers NHA Program Legislation (1993–1994)

*(Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, Democratic President)*

While NPS was developing its legislative proposal for an NHA system, two members of Congress had introduced their own. On June 15, 1993, Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) introduced the National Partnership System of Heritage Areas Act (H.R. 2416). In November of that year, Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN), chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources, introduced the American Heritage Areas Partnership Program Act (H.R. 3707).

In March 1994, Vento’s subcommittee planned a hearing to discuss the two bills introduced the previous year. Staff at the NPS rushed to finalize revisions on their own bill, to submit to Congress before the hearing. In early March, George T. Frampton, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks wrote to Deputy Director for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Daniel Consenstein asking for prompt review and clearance of the latest version of the bill so that NPS Director Roger Kennedy could testify at the hearing in favor of Interior’s proposal. In a handwritten note, Frampton underscored, “We need to get our bill to Vento quickly!”<sup>91</sup> Denis Galvin, NPS Associate Director of Planning and Development, reminded NPS regional directors, “As Director Kennedy has repeatedly said, this initiative is one of the Service’s highest legislative priorities.”<sup>92</sup> Interior submitted its version of a bill the day before the March 22, 1994 hearings.<sup>93</sup> (See Table 2 for a summary of provisions in that draft.)

The hearing before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands discussed three legislative approaches to an NHA system: Hinchey’s bill (H.R. 2416), Vento’s bill (H.R. 3707), and the Interior draft legislation. Those who provided testimony included current and former members of Congress, Kennedy and Galvin from the NPS, and representatives of various interests, from NPS park staff to historic preservation advocates to people concerned with private property rights. Most everyone in attendance agreed on the need for a more disciplined approach to federal designation of heritage areas. But the details of what that process might look like were still in question. Rep. James Hansen (R-UT), the subcommittee’s ranking member, cautioned that the House and Senate needed to come to a consensus on an approach to heritage areas before designating more to avoid setting “any more

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<sup>91</sup> George T. Frampton, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, to Daniel Consenstein, Deputy Director for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, March 3, 1994, file Heritage Areas: Evolution of NPS Bill, box 6, NHA Program Records (emphasis in original).

<sup>92</sup> Galvin, “Heritage Partnerships: Draft Legislation, FYI.” Galvin would go on to testify at numerous hearings related to NHAs in subsequent years and was an early advocate of heritage areas, seeing them as “a very interesting legislative approach to preserving important features in large landscapes.” Galvin, interview by Antoinette Condo, 3

<sup>93</sup> *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 37 (March 22, 1994).

precedents we can't live with.”<sup>94</sup> According to Vento, by some counts nearly one hundred heritage areas were waiting to receive some level of federal attention.

Debates on the legislation revolved around the order of the designation process, the role of commissions and the federal government, and protections for private property rights. In his testimony, Director Kennedy stated he strongly supported the concepts behind H.R. 2416 and H.R. 3707, but that the NPS had “concerns which have led us to a different approach.” The NPS proposal required development of a management plan before designation, “thus letting Congress and all other affected parties consider, beforehand, what a designation will entail.”<sup>95</sup> Vento, however, was concerned about spending federal funds prior to an area being congressionally designated. The NPS bill also left the choice of management entity to those creating the management plan, thus allowing for alternatives to the commission system common among early NHAs. Representative Hansen raised concerns that a provision in the NPS bill granted “unprecedented power to the Secretary to control private property. . . by subordinating the mission and duties of every other Federal agency to the land use plan approval of the Secretary for heritage areas.”<sup>96</sup> (See “Duties of the Secretary of the Interior” in Table 2.) The hearing adjourned after several hours of discussion.

Table 2: Provisions of NHA System Legislation proposed by NPS (March 1994)<sup>97</sup>

<b>Name of Program</b>	Heritage Partnership Program
<b>Heritage Area Definition</b>	“A ‘National Heritage Area’ is a place where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.”

<sup>94</sup> *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 39 (March 22, 1994) (statement of Rep. James V. Hansen).

<sup>95</sup> *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 62 (March 22, 1994) (statement of Roger Kennedy, Director, National Park Service).

<sup>96</sup> *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 86 (March 22, 1994).

<sup>97</sup> As submitted by NPS to Congress in 1994. See *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 65–81 (March 22, 1994) (draft bill included in statement of Roger Kennedy, Director, NPS).

<b>Designation Process</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requesting entity submits management plan to Secretary of the Interior, with approval of governor of state (or states) relevant to the proposed NHA.</li> <li>2. Secretary of the Interior approves the management plan and submits plan to Congress.</li> <li>3. After receiving an approved management plan, Congress considers designation of proposed NHA.</li> </ol>
<b>Criteria for Eligibility</b>	<p>An area would be considered eligible for designation as an NHA if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It represents one or more important natural or cultural themes of our Nation's heritage.</li> <li>2. It reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the nation's story.</li> <li>3. It provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.</li> <li>4. It provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.</li> <li>5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.</li> <li>6. Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area have demonstrated strong support for designation of the area and implementation of its management plan.</li> <li>7. The principal organization and units of government supporting the designation are willing to work in partnership to implement its management plan.</li> <li>8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.</li> <li>9. The management plan was prepared with full public participation.</li> <li>10. The implementation program recommended in the plan will likely be initiated within a reasonable time after designation and such program will ensure effective implementation of the State and local aspects of the plan.</li> </ol>
<b>Duties of the Secretary of the Interior</b>	<p><b>Grants:</b> "The Secretary may make matching grants to assist in studies to identify the feasibility of establishing a heritage area and studies to prepare a management plan for a heritage area."</p> <p><b>Technical Assistance:</b> May provide technical assistance in the form of "any guidance, advice, help, or aid, exclusive of financial aid" to units of government or non-profit organizations to assist in development of studies, plans, and other early actions. Technical assistance may be formalized through a cooperative agreement with governments or non-profits.</p> <p><b>Property:</b> Section 6(B) authorizes Secretary "to spend Federal funds directly on non-Federally owned property to further the purposes of this Act." This clause raised concerns with some conservative lawmakers who viewed it as granting "unprecedented power to the Secretary to control private property."</p> <p><b>Information:</b> Provide general public with information regarding location and components of the NHA system</p> <p><b>Review and Approve</b> amendments to management plans.</p>

<b>Feasibility Study</b>	Must include sufficient information to determine whether an area meets the criteria for eligibility.
<b>Management Plan</b>	Builds from the feasibility study to "present comprehensive recommendations for the heritage area's conservation, funding, management, and development." The plan would enumerate specific boundaries and provide details about the proposed area's management entity. The plan must also include sources of funding.
<b>Early Actions</b>	Proposal includes a clause related to support for early actions that may be "necessary to protect resources prior to designation of the area."
<b>Management Entity</b>	May be a unit of government or private non-profit organization with legal ability to receive and disburse federal funds. Must provide annual report accounting for those funds and other accomplishments. Must conduct regular public meetings on the progress of implementation of management plan.
<b>Private Property</b>	Includes clause on "Prohibition on the Acquisition of Real Property" for management entity, stating "The management entity may not use Federal funds received through this Act to acquire real property or interest in real property." It does not, however, preclude the management entity from using other federal funds to acquire property.
<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>Feasibility Studies, Management Plans, and Early Actions:</b> \$10 million annually. Individual grants given under this category require a 75 percent match from the grantee and cannot exceed \$500,000 (five percent of annual appropriation). <b>Management Entity Operations:</b> "For the operating costs of each management entity... there is authorized to be appropriated annually such funds as are necessary and reasonable." <b>Implementation of Management Plans:</b> \$25 million annually. Individual grants given under this category require a 50 percent match from the grantee. In a given year, no NHA may receive more than \$2,500,000 (ten percent of annual appropriation).
<b>Program Sunset</b>	Heritage Partnership Program would expire twenty-five years after its approval by Congress.

Over the next several weeks, NPS, committee, and congressional staff worked to adjust the legislative proposal for an NHA system. Representative Hinchey abandoned his bill, H.R. 2416, and put his support behind Vento's H.R. 3707. The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a markup session on that bill in May 1994 and reported it favorably to the full House of Representatives in June. The House took no further actions on the bill.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, American Heritage Areas Partnership Program Act of 1994, H.R. Report 103-570 (June 30, 1994).

Instead, in September, Vento introduced a new bill, H.R. 5044, the American Heritage Areas Act of 1994. This bill used language from H.R. 3707 as a foundation, but incorporated changes based on input from a bipartisan group of legislators on the House Committee on Natural Resources (including Hinchey), staff at Interior, and other interested parties. The House debated H.R. 5044 on September 27, but it failed to pass on an initial roll call vote. Although the bill had received bipartisan support, concerns over property rights, the role of the federal government, and the potential cost of the program continued to be sticking points.<sup>99</sup> After additional debate and several amendments, H.R. 5044 passed the House on October 5, 1994. The Senate received the bill but never considered the legislation.<sup>100</sup>

While Congress debated the details of an NHA system, advocates persisted in their efforts to designate individual heritage areas. In November 1994, Congress designated the first new heritage areas since 1988: the Quinebaug and Shetucket National Heritage Corridor (CT, MA; now The Last Green Valley NHA) and the Cane River National Heritage Area (LA).<sup>101</sup> Cane River was the first to use the designation of heritage area rather than corridor, and was an outlier in how its designating legislation also created an NPS unit (Cane River Creole National Historical Park) and did not require a federal funding match.<sup>102</sup> Unlike Cane River or other previously designated NHAs, Quinebaug and Shetucket did not have a commission as the area's management entity. Instead, Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc., an established nonprofit organization, was named the management entity. This was an important moment in the transition from federally appointed commissions to independent non-profits managing the NHAs.

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<sup>99</sup> This debate occurred during the 1994 midterm elections during which Georgia Rep. Newt Gingrich campaigned on the "Contract with America," emphasizing the need for a balanced budget and to reduce government spending.

<sup>100</sup> 140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27 (September 27, 1994); and 140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045 (October 5, 1994).

<sup>101</sup> Both were designated through Public Law 103-449 (Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994. Pub. L. No. 103-449. 108 Stat. 4752 [1994]). Quinebaug and Shetucket was redesignated The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor in 2014 through Public Law 113-291 (Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. Pub. L. No. 113-291. 128 Stat. 3292 [2014].)

<sup>102</sup> Alan W. Barton, "From Parks to Partnerships: National Heritage Areas and the Path to Collaborative Participation in the National Park Service's First 100 Years," *Natural Resources Journal* 56, no. 1 (Winter 2016): 47; and Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994.

## Management Entity Transition from Federal Commissions to Non-profits

The issue of federally authorized commissions as NHA management entities became more problematic over time. There were questions raised related to their status as “quasi-governmental” organizations and whether the appointment of people to such commissions by authorities outside of the executive branch might be a violation of the Appointments Clause of the US Constitution.<sup>103</sup> The NPS stopped recommending Federal commissions as management entities as early as 1993.<sup>104</sup> Likewise, during discussion of the proposed Essex National Heritage Area in 1994, Denis Galvin testified that, “The National Park Service stands ready to assist local sponsors in completing the management plan and in continuing to provide technical and financial assistance to the management entity. However, we believe the initiative for a heritage area should be a local one. Creating a Federal commission would not appear to be consistent with those goals.”<sup>105</sup>

Congress agreed with NPS representatives about the problems with federal commissions. In its report on H.R. 3707, the House Committee on Natural Resources explained that while previously designated NHAs had been managed by federal commissions established by Congress, future designations should be more “locally initiated and managed,” and that therefore “the Committee does not believe the establishment of federal commissions to be appropriate. Instead, the Committee believes it is the responsibility of nominating entities to provide for the management of the proposed heritage areas.”<sup>106</sup> Although some future NHAs would nonetheless be managed by federally appointed commissions, most of those would eventually be replaced by non-profit organizations. (See Table 1.) In 2006, President George W. Bush clarified lingering concerns over the Appointments Clause and noted that the Secretary of the Interior had “final authority over any disbursement of Federal appropriated funds by a management entity or local coordinating entity.”<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> In discussing private property rights in a 1994 hearing, Rep. James Hansen (R-UT) state that “Land use control must remain locally derived and not subject to second-guessing by some quasi-government board” (emphasis added). *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong., 39 (March 22, 1994) (statement of Rep. James V. Hansen). Galvin brought up potential problems with the Appointments Clause in testimony related to the Cache La Poudre National Water Heritage Area in 1995. *Miscellaneous Colorado Park Bills; New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park; and Walnut Canyon Historic Monument: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*, S. Hrg. 104-375, 104th Cong., 22 (November 9, 1995) (statement of Denis P. Galvin, Associate Director for Planning and Development, National Park Service).

<sup>104</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, *Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area Act*, S. Rep. 103-276, 12 (1994) (Statement of Mary Bradford, NPS Deputy Regional Director, Southwest Region).

<sup>105</sup> *Establishment of Miscellaneous Heritage Areas: Hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives*, Serial No. 103-107, 103rd Cong., 97 (June 28, 1994) (statement of Denis P. Galvin, Associate Director, Planning and Development, National Park Service).

<sup>106</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program Act of 1994*. H.R. Report 103-570, (June 30, 1994): 15.

<sup>107</sup> George W. Bush, “Statement on Signing the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006,” *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States 2006* (October 12, 2006): 1815.

## 4.4 104th Congress: First NHA Omnibus Bill (1995–1996)

*(Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, Democratic President)*

Bipartisan interest in creating a formal NHA system continued in the 104th Congress, during which legislators introduced four pieces of systemic legislation.<sup>108</sup> Vento, former chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, introduced the American Heritage Areas Act of 1995 (H.R. 1301) with essentially the same provisions as H.R. 5044 from the 103rd Congress. Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO) introduced the Technical Assistance Act of 1995 (H.R. 1280), and Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) introduced a companion bill that August, the National Heritage Area Act (S. 1110). Hefley’s bill was a “scaled-back version” of H.R. 5044 meant to “deal with the concerns raised by many that objected to the initial bill.” The bill limited federal spending and strengthened private property protections.<sup>109</sup> The NPS supported Vento’s H.R. 1301, with minor amendments. Galvin noted that it was based on the Interior draft legislation from March 1994. The NPS could also support H.R. 1280, he testified, if it were amended to give the Secretary of the Interior the power to provide grants as well as technical assistance.<sup>110</sup>

Representative Hefley, a member of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands, recognized the debate on NHAs was far from settled, saying, “I doubt a final heritage bill will look wholly like either the one I am presenting or Mr. Vento’s bill. Maybe we will decide we don’t want a heritage bill at all, but it is time we try to get our arms around this issue.”<sup>111</sup> Hefley also sponsored a public lands bill in 1995 unrelated to NHAs, H.R. 260, which would have required the Secretary of the Interior to review all 315 units of the National Park System and recommend units (or portions of units) to eliminate from the system. Conservation groups opposed H.R. 260, and National Parks Subcommittee Chair James Hansen (R-UT) brought it to the House floor, where it failed.<sup>112</sup>

The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a markup session on H.R. 1280 on September 12, 1995. They submitted a significantly amended version to the Committee on

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<sup>108</sup> These were the Technical Assistance Act of 1995 (H.R. 1280); the American Heritage Areas Act of 1995 (H.R. 1301); the National Heritage Act of 1995 (S. 1110); and the National Heritage Areas Act of 1996 (H.R. 3305).

<sup>109</sup> *Technical Assistance and American Heritage Areas Acts of 1995: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the Committee on Resources, U.S. House of Representatives*, Serial No. 104-8, 104th Cong., 2 (March 28, 1995) (statement of Rep. Bill Richardson).

<sup>110</sup> *Technical Assistance and American Heritage Areas Acts of 1995*, Serial No. 104-8, 104th Cong., 5–6 (March 28, 1995) (statement of Denis Galvin, Associate Director for Planning and Development, National Park Service).

<sup>111</sup> *Technical Assistance and American Heritage Areas Acts of 1995*, Serial No. 104-8, 104th Cong., 2 (March 28, 1995) (statement of Rep. Joel Hefley).

<sup>112</sup> League of Conservation Voters, “Closing National Parks,” House Roll Call Vote 667, 1995; and 141 Cong. Rec. H9151 (daily ed. September 19, 1995).

Resources, but no further action was taken on the legislation. According to an internal NPS memo, “Current action on these bills appears to be blocked by a few key Members and Senators who believe that H.R. 1280 and S. 1110 still threaten private property rights.” The NPS worked with congressional staff to address the concerns, to no avail. According to Samuel Stokes, Chief of Community Assistance and Partnership Parks at NPS, “Despite several healthy changes, however, the critics are still unconvinced, and we believe that further work on the language would erode the effectiveness of any program that might result.”<sup>113</sup> In another message, Stokes indicated that Rep. Don Young (R-AK), chair of the House Committee on Resources, was “the bottleneck in the House.”<sup>114</sup>

In April 1996, Hefley introduced a new bill, the National Heritage Areas Act of 1996 (H.R. 3305), in an attempt to address concerns related to private property rights. Much of the bill was similar to previous versions but H.R. 3305 included more extensive and explicit protections of private property rights. Significantly, H.R. 3305 incorporated an “opt-out clause” which would allow private owners to remove their property from inclusion within NHA boundaries. The Secretary would also be required to notify all property owners in the NHA of this possibility prior to signing and submitting the feasibility study and compact for a proposed NHA to Congress.<sup>115</sup>

The NPS was particularly concerned about the language allowing property owners to remove their land from an NHA. In a draft letter to Representative Young, NPS staff expressed their belief that the language,

would place a potentially costly management burden on the management entity, yet fail to provide any further protection to property owners. . . . A heritage area could contain a million or more property owners. Even if a small fraction of these owners decided they wanted to opt out, this could become an administrative nightmare.<sup>116</sup>

H.R. 3305 also included stricter language related to appropriations, capping at \$10 million the cumulative amount of federal money an NHA could receive. Despite these changes, 110 property rights and business associations, concerned about “a new national land zoning bureaucracy,” sent

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<sup>113</sup> Samuel N. Stokes, Chief, Community Assistance and Partnership Parks, National Park Service, to interested NPS staff, “Status of Heritage Partnerships Legislation,” n.d. (ca. 1995), file Heritage Bill 95, box 6, NHA Program Records.

<sup>114</sup> Sam Stokes to Bill Spitzer, “Heritage Bill Update,” January 25, 1996, file Legislation 1996, box 7, NHA Program Records.

<sup>115</sup> Sec. 104(b) of H.R. 3305 required the submission to Congress of a compact alongside the feasibility study for a proposed NHA. The compact “shall consist of an agreement between the Secretary and the Governor of each State in which the area is located. Such agreement shall define the area, describe anticipated programs for the area, and include information relating to the objectives and management of the area.” National Heritage Areas Act of 1996, H.R. 3305, 104th Cong. (1996).

<sup>116</sup> Roger Kennedy, Director, NPS, to Rep. Don Young, draft letter, September 19, 1996, file Legislation-1996, box 7, NHA Program Records.



letters formally opposing Hefley's bill, including state legislators in Hefley's home state of Colorado.<sup>117</sup> H.R. 3305 failed to gain traction, and no system legislation passed in either the House or the Senate during the 104th Congress.

Meanwhile, bills to establish new NHAs proliferated. Members of Congress introduced twenty-one pieces of legislation to designate individual NHAs during the 104th Congress. Some of these were the result of a congressional call for heritage area proposals in 1995. The call resulted in forty-one applications, from which eight were selected for further action.<sup>118</sup> All eight were eventually designated through the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act, discussed in greater detail below.

NPS staff were called on to testify at House and Senate hearings on several heritage area bills. During these hearings, it became clear that the NPS sought to apply to individual NHA designations the criteria in the system legislation still moving through Congress. In September 1995, Galvin testified on behalf of the NPS that designation of the South Carolina Heritage Corridor should be deferred until it met the criteria outlined in H.R. 1280 and S. 1110. Galvin recommended a similar course of action on the Cache La Poudre National Heritage Corridor in November 1995.<sup>119</sup> Even in the face of NPS objections, individual legislation moved through committee, but it was difficult to convince the new congressional leadership to pass these bills as standalone legislation.

With system legislation stalled, language to designate nine new heritage areas was included in H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996. When first introduced, H.R. 4236 sought solely "To provide for the administration of certain Presidio properties at minimal cost to the Federal taxpayer." This related back to when the NPS had taken over administration of the Presidio in San Francisco in 1994, with the intention to create a space combining public and commercial uses. But in the run-up to the 1996 presidential election, the issue turned politically volatile and failed to move as a standalone measure, so proponents sought other related provisions to help move the legislation forward.<sup>120</sup> They looked, in part, to NHAs.

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<sup>117</sup> Quoted in Laura Blake Strachla, "National Heritage Areas in the United States: Partnerships, Preservation, Conservation, and Economic Development," MA thesis, University of Georgia, 2003, 67–68.

<sup>118</sup> Strachla, "National Heritage Areas in the United States," 46; Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University, "A Master Plan for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area," October 2001, 3.

The proposals selected were for Augusta Canal NHA (GA), Essex NHA (MA), Hudson River Valley NHA (NY), National Coal Heritage Area (WV), Ohio & Erie Canal NHC (OH), Rivers of Steel NHA (PA), South Carolina NHC (SC), and Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area (TN).

<sup>119</sup> *Miscellaneous Colorado Park Bills*, S. Hrg. 104-375, 104th Cong., 19 (November 9, 1995) (statement of Denis Galvin, Associate Director for Professional Services, National Park Service).

<sup>120</sup> Carolyn Lochhead, "Presidio bill sinks in the Senate," *SFGate*, March 29, 1996, <https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/page-one-washington-presidio-bill-sinks-in-2988198.php>; and Donald J. Hellmann, "The Path of the Presidio Trust Legislation," *Golden Gate University Law Review* 28, no. 3 (January 1998): 319–367.

Members of Congress added various pieces of legislation related to parks and public lands, including NHAs, to the Presidio bill during committee markup and floor debate. Proposed NHAs in the amended H.R. 4236 were located in Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Proponents of H.R. 4236 sought to encourage a ye a vote from members of the delegations of those ten states. Sponsors of the individual NHA bills may have seen this as the only way to get the bills passed given the lack of movement on NHA system legislation. Augie Carlino, former executive director of Rivers of Steel NHA, explained that the heritage areas were “thrown into [H.R. 4236] as a way to get voted for the bill to get the Presidio moved out.”<sup>121</sup> The strategy ultimately worked and on November 12, 1996, President William J. Clinton signed into law the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 104-333). (For a full list of NHA-related provisions in the law, see Table 3). After this bill, it became common practice to combine several heritage areas into one piece of legislation or to add them to other larger bills.

Table 3: NHA-Related Provisions in the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act (P.L. 104-333)<sup>122</sup>

<p><b>Designated new NHAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership (later renamed Silos and Smokestacks NHA) (IA)</li> <li>• Augusta Canal NHA (GA)</li> <li>• Essex NHA (MA)</li> <li>• Hudson River Valley NHA (NY)</li> <li>• National Coal Heritage Area (WV)</li> <li>• Ohio &amp; Erie Canal NHC (OH)</li> <li>• South Carolina NHC (SC)</li> <li>• Steel Industry Heritage Project (later renamed Rivers of Steel NHA) (PA)</li> <li>• Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area (TN)</li> </ul>
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The Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act also marked an important moment in the relative standardization of NHA parameters. The details for each NHA still varied slightly within the legislation, but they followed a blueprint that had been outlined in the systemic NHA bills. Representative Hefley explained this shift, and also his concerns about it.

Beginning with those eight bills in 1996, heritage areas began to resemble what I'd outlined in my 1996 heritage areas bill-10 years, \$10 million, limited Park Service involvement, local control and planning, periodic renewals of local

<sup>121</sup> Augie Carlino, interview by Lindsey Weaver, March 31, 2025.

<sup>122</sup> Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-333, 110 Stat. 4093 (1996).

support. . . . To a large degree, this uniformity has been the result of a gentlemen's agreement between this subcommittee and its appropriations counterpart. My fear is, What happens when that agreement no longer holds? My guess is we will go back to the glorious days of individually crafted heritage areas, each specifically tailored to the needs of their congressional sponsors, with no limits on federal involvement or spending.<sup>123</sup>

For specifics on each area's designating legislation, see Appendices C and D.

Passage of the 1996 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act doubled the number of NHAs under NPS administration. It also added one NHA to the USFS within the Department of Agriculture, America's Agricultural Partnership (now Silos and Smokestacks).<sup>124</sup> Another area in this bill, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, was lumped in with the NHAs by the legislation, even though neither the NPS nor other NHAs considered it to be one.<sup>125</sup> The large increase in NHAs presented challenges for NPS as staff sought ways to support individual areas without the benefit of a legislated NHA system. Some NPS staff feared the rapid growth in the number of NHAs could lead to "an unfunded mandate for an unworkable program."<sup>126</sup> The new areas had been "designated within a system that doesn't exist," to paraphrase Wallace Brittain, the Southeast Region head of the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program.<sup>127</sup> Over the next several years, the NPS sought ways to fulfill their obligations to the new and old heritage areas within their existing budget and staffing constraints.<sup>128</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> *H.R. 1606 and H.R. 2388: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources, U.S. House of Representatives*, Serial No. 107-72, 107th Cong. (November 1, 2001) (statement of Rep. Joel Hefley): 9. (This hearing was originally scheduled for September 11, 2001, but was rescheduled due to the attacks that occurred on that day.)

<sup>124</sup> The Forest Service had never managed heritage areas and had no model or funding for them. The managing entity at America's Agricultural Partnership worked to be moved to Interior, a change eventually authorized in 2000 by the Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act. The NHA was formally redesignated the Silos and Smokestacks NHA in 2023, many years after the NHA had begun using the new name. Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act, Pub. L. No. 106-176, 114 Stat. 23 (2000); and National Heritage Area Act, Pub. L. No. 117-339, 136 Stat. 6158 (2023). See also Cara Miller and Candy Streed, interview by Jackie Gonzales, April 24, 2025.

<sup>125</sup> As early as 1997, NPS did not consider Shenandoah a heritage area "because it authorizes acquisition of land with Federal funds." (Judy Hart, summary of new NHAs, February 7, 1997, file Dave Watts, box 6, NHA Program Records.) Controversy also emerged in later years over appropriations for Shenandoah that other NHAs felt should be coming to them. For more information see, file Correspondence 1997-98, box 3, NHA Program Records.

<sup>126</sup> Unknown author, "Heritage Partnership Program, prepared for Kate's briefing with Frampton," August 26, 1996, file Legislation 1996, box 7, NHA Program Records.

<sup>127</sup> Strachla, "National Heritage Areas in the United States," 51.

<sup>128</sup> Stephen Morris to Sam Stokes, "Note to Denny regarding our meeting with him," August 1, 1996, file NHAs-Task Force-Old, box 3, NHA Program Records.

## 5. Moving Forward Without a System

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### 5.1 105th Congress: Administrative Actions in Lieu of Program Legislation (1997–1998)

*(Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, Democratic President)*

During the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, no Senators or Representatives introduced systemic NHA legislation, and Congress only established one new NHA: the Automobile National Heritage Area (now called MotorCities) in Detroit, Michigan. The NPS stepped back from supporting system-establishing legislation and instead focused on developing specific criteria within NPS for the establishment and management of NHAs. By the start of 1997, the NPS now had seventeen heritage areas within its orbit but no additional staff or funding. Acting Deputy Director Denis Galvin reiterated to staff, “I want to make it clear that we have, and will continue to have, limited funds and time to spend on heritage areas.” He asked staff to prioritize “helping the areas recently designated by Congress,” without ignoring the needs of previously designated NHAs. He acknowledged that NPS must respond to inquiries about new heritage areas but asked staff “to concentrate on the work at hand without encouraging the formation of new National Heritage Areas.”<sup>129</sup>

Staff at NPS sought to create internal guidance by which they could better manage the new and existing NHAs. To this end, in February 1997, Galvin formed a National Heritage Areas Policy Task Group “to develop interim guidelines governing how NPS interacts with NHAs.”<sup>130</sup> After several months of internal discussions, the task group released a draft report in June 1997. The report recognized that “in the absence of a legislated Heritage Partnership Program, the designated areas vary widely and require a variety of approaches and types of assistance from the National Park Service.” However, the NPS saw the need for “fairness and general consistency in funding and staff allocations.” The report presented “a preliminary attempt to establish parameters for major issues, move toward a common vocabulary, and recommend general approaches and policies for NPS to use in addressing the variety of interests and concerns related to NPS involvement in NHAs.” The report clearly stated, however, that it did not attempt to create a “prescriptive guide” or “permanent, official NPS policy” regarding NHAs.<sup>131</sup> The report

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<sup>129</sup> Denis P. Galvin, Acting Deputy Director, National Park Service, to Staff Working with New Heritage Areas, March 21, 1997, file Official Files, box 3, NHA Program Records.

<sup>130</sup> Samuel Stokes, Acting Manager, Community Assistance and Partnership Parks, National Park Service, to “Dear Colleague,” July 9, 1997, file 1997 – NHA’s Policy Task Group, box 3, NHA Program Records.

<sup>131</sup> NPS, “National Heritage Areas Policy Task Group Report,” draft for review (unpaginated), June 27, 1997, file 1997 – NHA’s Policy Task Group, box 3, NHA Program Records.

outlined general policies and devoted sections to explaining how funding and technical assistance would be handled and guidelines for developing agreements and management plans.

The guidelines developed by the NPS were not welcomed by everyone. At a meeting in Annapolis in April 1997, representatives of some of the new NHAs designated by the 1996 Omnibus bill objected to the “well-meaning but top-down approach” taken by the NPS. According to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (the Alliance), which emerged from this meeting, the NHA representatives “felt that the NPS approach to governance was the antithesis of the grassroots tactics that were critical to the creation and long-term success of the NHAs.” The Alliance took the view that the authorizing legislation of existing NHAs should be the source for developing guidelines. They asserted that “NPS’s desire to impose uniform standards runs counter to the nature of NHAs” and raised concerns about developing “other criteria that may run counter to the congressional intent as expressed in the individual NHA legislation.”<sup>132</sup> NPS included the Alliance in later discussions on development of guidelines the NPS would apply to existing or future NHAs.<sup>133</sup>

The 105<sup>th</sup> Congress also saw a shift in funding of NHAs. Before 1997, federal NHA funding had separate lines in NPS budget requests, also referred to as the Greenbook. The NPS would request specific amounts for specific areas which would then be provided directly to each NHA’s independent Federal commission. That approach shifted, however, with the addition of the new NHAs from the 1996 Omnibus bill, many of which had private nonprofits or state agencies as management entities. This change required NPS to establish a fund-transfer mechanism through a grant or cooperative agreement. As a result, in its Fiscal Year 1998 Greenbook, the NPS included specific line items for NHAs designated before 1996 but requested “a single category of ‘grant’ funding that includes ‘operational’ funds for all the new areas.”<sup>134</sup> The agency requested that Congress create a separate category for technical assistance to be distributed as needed to all NHAs.

## 5.2 106th Congress: Stalled NHA System Bills (1999–2000)

*(Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, Democratic President)*

In July 1999, Representative Hefley introduced H.R. 2532, the National Heritage Areas Policy Act. The bill was similar to H.R. 3305, from the 104th Congress. However, it included

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<sup>132</sup> Annie Harris, “Brief History of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas,” Alliance for National Heritage Areas: September 2014, Microsoft Word File, 1–2. The Alliance was the successor organization to the NCHA.

<sup>133</sup> Katherine Stevenson to Sam Stokes and Judy Hart, NPS-WASO-RRAD, “URGENT-REVOKE NLC DECISION?”, September 3, 1997, file NHA-Task Force-Current, box 3, NHA Program Records.

<sup>134</sup> NPS, “National Heritage Areas Policy Task Group Report.”

additional time limits on use of funds by NHAs as well as an additional requirement that the Secretary of the Interior conduct the feasibility study “pursuant to an Act of Congress.”<sup>135</sup> At an October 1999 hearing on the bill, Hefley emphasized that this legislation sought to “bring some order to Congressional actions that at this time have no order.”<sup>136</sup> Reps. James Hansen (R-UT) and Bruce Vento (D-MN) also spoke to the need for the role of the federal government to be limited, though they did not agree on exactly what those limits should be.

The NPS did not support this bill for multiple reasons, in part due to the strict limits placed on the role of the Secretary of the Interior and the NPS. In a hearing on H.R. 2532, Galvin explained the NPS position. “Our primary concerns,” he said, “are that the bill goes too far in trying to establish a one-size-fits-all approach to national heritage areas. It emphasizes resource conservation too little and focuses too much on financial assistance and economic development.”<sup>137</sup> Galvin emphasized that the success of heritage areas stems largely from their grassroots origins and the partnerships that develop between local community stakeholders, which led the NPS to also object to the provision in the bill that required the governor to designate the local coordinating entity, rather than having the management entity develop organically based on the needs of a particular community. After the hearing, Congress took no further action on the legislation.

Although system legislation had stalled, five more NHAs were designated in 2000: Erie Canalway NHC (NY), Lackawanna Valley NHA (PA), Schuylkill River Valley NHA (PA), Wheeling NHA (WV), and Yuma Crossing NHA (AZ). Each new designation added to the workload shouldered by staff at NPS. By the end of the 107th Congress, with system legislation nowhere near passage, NPS officially took the position that designations of new heritage areas should be deferred until system-wide legislation was enacted. This remained the agency’s position for many years.<sup>138</sup>

## 5.3 107th Congress: Five New NHAs (2001–2002)

*(Democratic majority in the Senate, Republican majority in the House, Democratic President)*

Representative Hefley tried again in the 107th Congress to move NHA system legislation. He introduced the National Heritage Areas Policy Act of 2001 (H.R. 2388). This bill responded to

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<sup>135</sup> National Heritage Areas Policy Act of 1999, H.R. 2532, 106th Cong. (1999).

<sup>136</sup> Chris Soller, NPS-WASO-POPS, to Judy Hart, and others, “Final testimony – HR 2532, National Heritage Areas,” October 28, 1999, file July-Dec emails-memos on policy, box 11, NHA Program Records.

<sup>137</sup> Denis Galvin, testimony before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, October 26, 1999,

<sup>138</sup> Straehla, “National Heritage Areas in the United States,” 49.

some of the critiques from the NPS and others. During a hearing on the bill in November 2001, Hefley stated, “The bill before us today is a result of almost seven years of work and was crafted with the help of the Park Service and many interested groups. We have tried to consult, Mr. Chairman, with everybody we can think of.”<sup>139</sup> The legislation changed the requirement that feasibility studies only be undertaken by the Secretary of the Interior after congressional authorization. It also allowed for greater flexibility in the determination of the local coordinating entity.

Katherine Stevenson, Associate Director for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships at NPS, testified that the NPS supported the goal of “creating a framework for the establishment and management of national heritage areas” but had concerns regarding language in the bill. In particular, Stevenson commented on the unclear role of the NPS. “I believe,” she stated, “some of the most successful heritage areas are those with a full partnership with the National Park Service. . . . This bill as written appears to limit the role of the National Park Service to a pass-through grant provider, rather than a convener, a partner or a mentor.”<sup>140</sup> The House Committee on Resources reported H.R. 2388 favorably to the full House on June 11, 2002, but it was never brought to the floor for a vote.

Despite the lack of legislative momentum, the NPS continued to advocate for the creation of a congressionally designated system for heritage areas. In 2001, the National Park System Advisory Board released *Rethinking the National Parks for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The report stated clearly that “A formal Heritage Areas program should be established to support partnerships among communities, so that the full scope of the American experience is revealed.”<sup>141</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> H.R. 1606 and H.R. 2388, Serial No. 107-72, 107th Cong., 8 (November 1, 2001) (statement of Rep. Joel Hefley).

<sup>140</sup> H.R. 1606 and H.R. 2388, Serial No. 107-72, 107th Cong., 10 (November 1, 2001) (statement of Katherine Stevenson, Associate Director for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, NPS).

<sup>141</sup> National Park System Advisory Board, “Rethinking the National Parks for the 21st Century,” July 2001, 9.

## 6. NHAs Proliferate Without a System

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Congressional oversight of NHAs increased significantly from 2003 to 2010. Fueled by concerns of a ballooning and potentially expensive federal program, Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY), chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, spearheaded multiple avenues of review of the creation, management, and funding of NHAs. Thomas's efforts led to two oversight hearings, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, and the beginning of regular Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports on NHAs. Increased scrutiny of the program led to high-profile concerns over how NHAs might affect private property rights. Despite these concerns, Congress created twenty-seven new NHAs from 2004 to 2009, the largest single burst of NHA creation.

### 6.1 108th Congress: First Thomas Bill (2003–2004)

*(Republican majorities in both House and Senate, Republican President)*

Like the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks chairs who came before him, Senator Thomas had concerns about the proliferation of heritage areas without Congress having developed a uniform definition of NHAs.<sup>142</sup> Thomas called an oversight hearing on NHAs on March 13, 2003. In his opening remarks, Thomas explained the impetus of the hearing.

The purpose is to conduct an oversight on the designation and management of National Heritage Areas. This is not designed to decide whether we have them, or [are] opposed to them, or for them. It is just: We have had increasing numbers of heritage areas come before the Senate recently, before the Congress. And we really have not defined what they should be. We have no standardized ideas of what they are. We have no particular notion of what the Federal role is in these things, and the funding, and so on.

So I think what we are doing is saying if we are going to have more and more National Heritage Areas, if that is the direction we are going in, then I think we need to define it somewhat as to how we do it.<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> “Historical Note,” Craig Lyle Thomas papers, 1963-2007, Coll. No. 11679, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, <https://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:80444/xv439316>.

<sup>143</sup> *National Heritage Areas: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 108-23, 108th Cong. (March 13, 2003) (statement of Senator Craig Thomas), 1–2.



Paul Hoffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at Interior, agreed with Thomas that “it would be very beneficial to us to have legislative criteria and guidelines.”<sup>144</sup> He noted that the NPS already considered four critical components when determining whether a site merited NHA designation: completion of feasibility/suitability study; significant public involvement in preparation of the study; demonstration of widespread public support among residents of the area for the designation; and commitment to the proposal by “appropriate players which may include governments, industry, private nonprofit organizations, in addition to the local citizenry”<sup>145</sup> Those benchmarks, however, were designed by the executive branch, not Congress, despite the power to create NHAs resting with Congress. Hence the agreement between Hoffman and Thomas on the need for legislative criteria and guidelines.<sup>146</sup>

Representatives of NHAs agreed that standardized criteria would help existing and future NHAs, provided it remained possible for each NHA to retain its unique structure and identity—the uniqueness that comes from community-led efforts that work in one specific area. Losing the ability to address those distinctive needs could jeopardize the success of individual NHAs. Augie Carlino agreed that there needed to be a legislatively established program, provided it allowed flexibility across NHAs. “Congress, and the heritage area constituency,” he said,

must come to grips with language that will define the guidelines and develop a program that justifies why any national heritage area should be created—or reauthorized. Congress must look at significance—or national importance—as one of the criteria for consideration of whether or not a heritage area should gain national designation. Congress must also create a program that respects the planning process of each heritage area, and ensure that any legislation that creates a program does not create homogenous national heritage areas. After all, the uniqueness of a heritage area is what makes it special.<sup>147</sup>

Like many associated with existing heritage areas, Carlino advocated for a system that balanced enough standardization to help the NPS appropriately administer a program with the flexibility to address the distinctive needs of individual NHAs.

Property rights concerns became a sticking point at the March 2003 oversight hearings, the first time since the 1996 hearings on H.R. 3305 that the issue rose to the forefront of discussions. Peyton Knight, the legislative director for the American Policy

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<sup>144</sup> *National Heritage Areas*, S. Hrg. 108-23, 108th Cong. (March 13, 2003) (statement of Paul Hoffman, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks), 13.

<sup>145</sup> *National Heritage Areas*, S. Hrg. 108-23, 108th Cong. (March 13, 2003) (statement of Paul Hoffman), 5.

<sup>146</sup> In addition to the Interior guidelines, states also had their own methods for approving NHAs, which Congress looked to when considering potential guidelines. Joseph DiBello, “Planning for Heritage Areas,” *Forum Journal* 17, no. 4 (Summer 2003): 24–25.

<sup>147</sup> Carlino, long-time executive director at Rivers of Steel NHA, was very influential in guiding the Alliance’s legislative affairs positions, thanks to his prior experience working with Congress. Brenda Barrett and Augie Carlino, “What Is in the Future for the Heritage Area Movement?” *Forum Journal* 17, no. 4 (Summer 2003): 56.

Center, spoke in opposition to NHAs because of concerns over infringement on property rights. He claimed,

Nearly every heritage area has a management plan or statement of purpose that calls for restrictive zoning regulations, under the auspices of more environmental protection, more open space and more historic preservation. This typically results in more infringements upon the property rights of landowners located within the boundaries of the heritage areas.<sup>148</sup>

Interior disagreed, maintaining that the department had demonstrated its willingness to compromise around property rights issues.<sup>149</sup> Allen Sachse, Executive Director of the Delaware and Lehigh NHC, reminded the committee that existing NHAs did not “have regulatory power over land use . . . . Our public law restricts us from that.”<sup>150</sup>

Representative Hefley took feedback from these hearings and introduced new systemic NHA legislation with expanded private property provisions, the National Heritage Areas Policy Act (H.R. 1427). Before designation as an NHA, the bill would require Interior to, “contact each owner of private property in writing within the boundary of the proposed national heritage area,” and to “provide sufficient information to allow the property owner to make an informed decision within sixty days whether or not to allow their property to be used in the activities of the designated national heritage area.”<sup>151</sup> This was the language that the NPS had opposed in previous congresses as onerous.<sup>152</sup> The Alliance opposed the bill, seeing it as too punitive to NHAs. Their opposition helped prevent Hefley’s bill from moving through committee.<sup>153</sup>

Meanwhile, individual bills to create new NHAs continued to move through Congress. On one very busy fall day (November 17, 2003), the House Committee on Resources favorably reported five bills related to NHAs: to establish Arabia Mountain (GA), Oil Region (PA), National Aviation (OH), and Upper Housatonic Valley (CT, MA) NHAs; and to study a proposed St. Croix (US Virgin Islands) NHA.<sup>154</sup> The House subsequently passed a bill (H.R. 280) that amalgamated the provisions from the four reported bills in one bill (but did not create an NHA program or system) and included private property protection provisions that came out of the Senate committee discussions on the issue. Del. Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa) called the private property provisions in the amended H.R. 280 “a compromise between the

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<sup>148</sup> *National Heritage Areas*, S. Hrg. 108-23, 108th Cong. (March 13, 2003) (statement of Peyton Knight), 26.

<sup>149</sup> *National Heritage Areas*, S. Hrg. 108-23, 108th Cong. (March 13, 2003) (statement of Paul Hoffman), 7.

<sup>150</sup> *National Heritage Areas*, S. Hrg. 108-23, 108th Cong. (March 13, 2003) (statement of Allen Sachse), 20.

<sup>151</sup> National Heritage Areas Policy Act, H.R. 1427, 108th Cong. (2003).

<sup>152</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, January 12, 2004, CRS-11; and National Heritage Areas Policy Act, H.R. 1427, 108th Cong. (2003).

<sup>153</sup> Augie Carlino, interview by Lindsey Weaver, March 31, 2025.

<sup>154</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 12, 2004, CRS-8.

majority and the minority.”<sup>155</sup> The amended bill included the “specific notification and consent provisions” that Interior and the Alliance objected to.<sup>156</sup> Despite this, H.R. 280 passed the House, the only NHA-related bill to have done so at that point in the 108th Congress.<sup>157</sup>

By January 2004, there were over thirty pieces of legislation related to NHAs pending in Congress. The increasing volume and contentiousness around NHA legislation led CRS to publish a report on existing and proposed NHA legislation. It summarized the issues surrounding heritage areas up to that point: “Heritage areas have been supported as protecting public lands and traditions and promoting tourism and community revitalization, but opposed as potentially costly and an initial step that may lead to federal control over nonfederal lands.”<sup>158</sup> It noted that property rights advocates were the most vocal opponents of heritage areas, and that “The lack of a general statute providing for heritage area establishment, management, and funding has prompted some criticism that the process is inconsistent and fragmented.”<sup>159</sup>

Soon after the CRS report, the GAO issued a report on NHAs. Senator Thomas requested this investigation after the previous year’s oversight hearings.<sup>160</sup> The GAO was asked to review four areas of interest: (1) the process for designating heritage areas; (2) the amount of federal funding to these areas; (3) the process for overseeing areas’ activities and use of federal funds; and (4) the effects, if any, they have on private property rights.<sup>161</sup> Its resultant report was released via a statement by the director, Barry Hill, on March 30, 2004, at a second Senate Subcommittee on National Parks oversight hearing on NHAs, a little over a year after the 2003 hearing.<sup>162</sup>

In its findings, the GAO criticized the NPS’s management of NHAs as lacking consistency across regions or financial accountability. The report continued:

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<sup>155</sup> 149 Cong. Rec. H11456–7 (daily ed. November 18, 2003).

<sup>156</sup> Not all individual NHA bills this Congress included these stringent protections. The Interior Appropriations bill included establishment of Blue Ridge NHA. Its enabling clause included private property provisions but lacked the notification and consent provisions that were in H.R. 280. CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 12, 2004, CRS-11; Committee of Conference, Making Appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2004, H.R. Rep. 108-330 (2003) (Conf. Rep.); and Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-108, 117 Stat. 1241 (2003).

<sup>157</sup> 149 Cong. Rec. H11448–59 (daily ed. November 18, 2003); and CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 12, 2004, summary page.

<sup>158</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 12, 2004, CRS-6–7.

<sup>159</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 12, 2004, CRS-6.

<sup>160</sup> Susan Copping, “The Current State of Heritage Areas Research: Challenges and Opportunities,” in John G. Peden, Rudy M. Schuster, comps., eds., *Proceedings of the 2005 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, April 10–12, Bolton Landing, NY*, GTR-NE-341, US Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station (2006): 24–30, here 25.

<sup>161</sup> GAO, Statement before the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, “National Park Service: A More Systemic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas and Actions to Improve Their Accountability Are Needed,” GAO-04-593T (Washington, DC: General Accounting Office, March 30, 2004).

<sup>162</sup> *National Heritage Areas: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 108-551, 108th Cong. (March 30, 2004).

The Park Service oversees heritage areas' activities by monitoring their implementation of the terms set forth in the cooperative agreements. These terms, however, do not include several key management controls. That is, the agency has not (1) always reviewed areas' financial audit reports, (2) developed consistent standards for reviewing areas' management plans, and (3) developed results-oriented goals and measures for the agency's heritage area activities, or required the areas to adopt a similar approach. Park Service officials said that the agency has not taken these actions because, without a program, it lacks adequate direction and funding.<sup>163</sup>

The GAO went on to recommend that the NPS undertake three tasks: (1) develop consistent standards and process for reviewing NHA management plans; (2) require NPS regional staff to review the financial audit reports of NHAs located in their region; and (3) "develop results-oriented goals and measures for the agency's activities and require areas to adopt a similar approach."<sup>164</sup> The report concluded that NHAs had no effect on property rights, noting, "heritage area officials, Park Service headquarters and regional staff, and representatives of national property rights groups that we contacted were unable to provide us with any examples of a heritage area directly affecting—positively or negatively—private property values or use."<sup>165</sup>

The NPS concurred with the GAO's recommendations "that national program legislation is needed to evaluate better and more consistently proposed areas for designation, to ensure consistent Service technical assistance and support, and to strengthen the administration of the program."<sup>166</sup> Future inclusion of evaluation provisions in NHA legislation came from this recommendation (see Section 6.2).

The NPS also concurred with the report's identification of the need "to develop more explicit administrative guidelines and management standards and controls" to provide NPS guidance on administering the program. To do this, the agency argued, more funding would be needed to administer the program. The NPS saw funding of NHAs as "seed money" and appreciated that the GAO report concurred. The NPS also noted in correspondence that it "supports protections for private property owners located within the boundaries of nation[al] heritage areas."<sup>167</sup> In service of the recognized need to pass NHA program legislation, and in response to a request from Senator Thomas for a program bill, the NPS drafted new program legislation and formally

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<sup>163</sup> GAO, "A More Systemic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas," front matter.

<sup>164</sup> GAO, "A More Systemic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas," front matter.

<sup>165</sup> GAO, "A More Systemic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas," front matter.

<sup>166</sup> NPS, Cultural Resources, National Heritage Areas Program, "National Park Service Response to the Unites [sic] States General Accounting Office GAO Report: GAO-04-593T," file Testimony/related/Hearings, box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>167</sup> NPS, "National Park Service Response to the Unites [sic] States General Accounting Office GAO Report."

delivered it to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House on March 30, 2004, the day of the oversight hearings.<sup>168</sup>

Property rights advocates continued to oppose NHAs, even as bills included increasingly thorough protections. Carol W. LaGrasse, President of the Property Rights Foundation of America, said at the March 2004 hearing that NHAs “are plainly greenways, areas where the purpose is landscape preservation by land use regulation and land acquisition by government and its surrogates,” and opposed the “lavish funds” provided for outreach. LaGrasse recommended, among other things, that the geographic area be eliminated and the program be called a general heritage program, prohibiting all partnerships with the NPS and local level or non-profits (especially those involving federal grant money), and handing all trail development to the US Department of Transportation.<sup>169</sup>

Other groups opposed NHAs for their fiscal impacts. Americans for Tax Reform argued that the framing of federal dollars as start-up funding for NHAs was disingenuous. “Let’s be real,” testified Daniel Clifton, the organization’s federal affairs manager, “once this program is established, the program will become permanent and more localities will develop reasons for their areas to be designated.” He argued, “Organized local government officials and special interests will continue to lobby for the program to continue and thus require more federal funding.”<sup>170</sup> Clifton argued that establishing an NHA program would create a perpetual feedback loop of federal funding.

Senator Thomas incorporated feedback from public testimony, the GAO report, and an Interior draft bill, into a new bill, the National Heritage Partnership Act (S. 2543), which he introduced on June 17, 2004. The legislation would create an NHA program to standardize processes and increasing accountability and transparency of the program. On the Senate floor, Thomas explained his rationale for the legislation.

This program is out of control. We are continuing to put unnecessary fiscal and resource demands on the Park Service. We have no established criteria to ensure the recognition of truly nationally significant areas. Consequently, we have compromised the integrity of all existing and future National Heritage Areas. I am

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<sup>168</sup> Copping, “Current State of Heritage Areas Research,” 24–25; Craig Manson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Interior, to Senate President Richard B. Cheney, March 30, 2004, and Manson to Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert, March 30, 2004, file Heritage Partnership Program, both in box 5, , NHA Program Records; Interior, “Interior Department Seeks Legislation for Establishing a National Heritage Area Program,” press release, March 30, 2004, file Testimony/related/Hearings, box 5, NHA Program Records; and CRS, “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, March 9, 2006, CRS-7.

<sup>169</sup> Testimony of Carol W. LaGrasse, President, Property Rights Foundation of America, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Resources, Subcommittee on Forests and Lands, March 30, 2004, file Testimony/related/Hearings, box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>170</sup> Statement of Daniel M. Clifton, Federal Affairs Manager, Americans for Tax Reform, [undated, likely early 2004], file Testimony/related/Hearings, box 5, NHA Program Records.

pleased Senator [Conrad] Burns [R-MT] has joined me in this effort and I look forward to moving this bill through the Senate in the near future.<sup>171</sup>

A week later, the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held hearings on S. 2543. Thomas reiterated in his opening remarks at the June hearing that, from the previous oversight hearings and the GAO report, “The most apparent and consistent finding has been that criteria are needed to establish control over a program with unlimited potential for growth.”<sup>172</sup>

On August 25, 2004, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported the National Heritage Partnership Act (S. 2543), with amendments as suggested by Interior.<sup>173</sup> The two substantial amendments “changed the reference for the standard by which potential heritage areas are to be evaluated from one of ‘national significance’ to ‘national importance’ consistent with the Administration’s recommendations,” and deleted a provision that allowed the Secretary of the Interior to include a recommendation on designation within a feasibility study, reminding legislators that “The purpose of the study is to provide Congress with an analysis of the merits of the proposed area, which may differ from an Administration’s ultimate recommendation whether to support legislation establishing any particular area.”<sup>174</sup>

The “national significance” versus “national importance” decision was reinforced by Interior answers to questions Senator Thomas raised about the legislation. Interior reiterated that NHAs are “living landscapes” without the goal of “preserving resources unimpaired for future generations” in the way of nationally “significant” spaces like parks, historic sites, and places listed on the NRHP or designated as NHLs. This shift from “national significance” to “national importance” remained in draft NHA program legislation for the following decade. Interior reasoned that meeting a “high standard of national importance” justified an NHA retaining a federal name even after federal funding sunsetted. Interior also reiterated support for federal funding eventually ending for an NHA and explained that future technical assistance could come from other NPS grants, like the Rivers and Trails Program, Save America’s Treasures, and the American Battlefield Protection Program.<sup>175</sup>

Thomas’s program legislation (S. 2543) passed the Senate on September 15, 2004.<sup>176</sup> That same day, several individual NHA bills also passed the Senate: the National Aviation Heritage

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<sup>171</sup> 150 Cong. Rec. S7012 (daily ed. June 17, 2004).

<sup>172</sup> *National Heritage Areas: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 108-692, 108th Cong. (June 24, 2004).

<sup>173</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, CRS-7.

<sup>174</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, National Heritage Partnership Act, S. Rep. 108-329 (2004), 8.

<sup>175</sup> Jane M. Lyder, Legislative Counsel, Interior to Senator Craig Thomas, Chairman of Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee in Energy and Natural Resources, August 31, 2004, file Testimony/related/Hearings, box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>176</sup> 150 Cong. Rec. S9356-60 (daily ed. September 15, 2004); and CRS, “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, March 9, 2006, CRS-13.

Area Act (S. 180), Northern Rio Grande NHA Act (S. 211), and Atchafalaya NHA Act (S. 323).<sup>177</sup> The amended version of S. 211 would have provided for the establishment of seven additional heritage areas.<sup>178</sup> Amendments to a different bill (S. 1521), originally unrelated to NHAs, would have established nine NHAs (some of which were the same as in S. 211).<sup>179</sup> Yet another NHA omnibus bill, the National Heritage Area Extension Act of 2004 (S. 2836) introduced by Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-OH), would have established three new areas, studied one, and extended federal funding authorizations for others.<sup>180</sup> The sheer volume of NHA legislation moving through Congress was starting to strain committees and become “legislatively burdensome”—a burden that only increased over the following two decades.<sup>181</sup>

As the volume increased, the official Interior stance on new NHAs evolved. In the 107th Congress, Interior had testified in support of individual national heritage areas but asked for remaining resources to go towards the NPS maintenance backlog. Legislators and others had expressed concern about the public lands maintenance backlog for decades. For example, in 1983, Rex Resler, Executive Vice President of the American Forestry Association, testified at a House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks hearing that “There is a backlog of neglected conservation work in the national parks, national forests, and state and municipal public resource and recreation lands.” Over a decade later, in 1994, Rep. James V. Hansen (R-UT) called attention to the “thirty-six-year backlog in funding for projects at parks” during a hearing related to creation of an American Heritage Areas Partnership Program.<sup>182</sup> But by the 108th Congress, Interior had shifted to supporting the NHA program despite the NPS

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<sup>177</sup> National Aviation Heritage Area Act, S. 180, 108th Cong. (2003); Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act, S. 211, 108th Cong. (2003); and Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act, S. 323, 108th Cong. (2003).

<sup>178</sup> Those seven were Northern Rio Grande, National Aviation, St. Croix, Arabia Mountain, Upper Housatonic Valley, Western Reserve, and Gullah/Geechee NHAs. Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act, S. 211 (engrossed in House), 108th Cong. (2004); and 150 Cong. Rec. H8352-65 (daily ed. October 6, 2004).

<sup>179</sup> Those nine were Arabia Mountain, Upper Housatonic Valley, Gullah/Geechee, Great Basin NHR, Bleeding Kansas, National Mormon Pioneer, Champlain Valley, Atchafalaya, and Northern Rio Grande NHAs. Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 Land Conveyance Act, S. 1521 (engrossed amended Senate), 108th Cong. (2004).

<sup>180</sup> National Heritage Area Extension Act of 2004, S. 2836, 108th Cong. (2004).

<sup>181</sup> Melissa Kuckro, interview by Jackie Gonzales, April 1, 2025.

<sup>182</sup> *Public Land Management Policy Oversight*, 98th Cong. 155 (November 4, 1983) (statement of Rexford A. Resler, Executive Vice President, American Forestry Association), 370.; and *American Heritage Areas Partnership Program*, Serial No. 103-78, 103rd Cong. (March 22, 1994) (statement of Rep. James V. Hansen), 39. Interestingly, some legislators saw NHAs as a possible way to address the backlog within NPS units while still working to protect nationally important areas. In 1993, Sen. Frank H. Murkowski (R-AK) stated, “Considering the present backlog of needs in our existing National Park System the National Heritage Area partnership concept might be one of the few options worth considering rather than creating new areas requiring federal funding and management.” *Civil War Battlefields, Wheeling National Heritage Area, and Miscellaneous Park Measures: Hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 103-516, 103rd Cong. (September 21, 1993) (statement of Sen. Frank H. Murkowski), 2.

maintenance backlog, instead recommending that new NHA designations be deferred until the enactment of NHA program legislation.<sup>183</sup>

Despite Interior objections, bills to create new NHAs passed Congress while systemic legislation (S. 2543) languished in the House.<sup>184</sup> The only NHA bills signed into law from the 108th Congress were passed through appropriations packages: the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 (P.L. 108-447) established National Aviation Heritage Area (OH), Oil Region NHA (PA), and Mississippi Gulf Coast NHA (MS), while the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 (P.L. 108-108) created the Blue Ridge NHA (NC).<sup>185</sup>

## 6.2 109th Congress: Charting a Future for NHAs (2005–2006)

*(Republican majorities in both the House and Senate,<sup>186</sup> Republican President)*

In the 109th Congress, individual NHA bills were introduced in an even greater volume than the previous Congress. During January 2005 alone, eleven NHA bills were introduced (in both the House and Senate combined) to establish or study NHAs.<sup>187</sup> Meanwhile, Senator Thomas and Representative Hefley reintroduced legislation to create an NHA system: the National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (S. 243) (identical to Thomas's S. 2543 of the previous Congress) and the National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (H.R. 760).<sup>188</sup> Unlike in the previous Congress, Hefley and Thomas's bills were now identical.<sup>189</sup>

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<sup>183</sup> Lyder to Senator Thomas, August 31, 2004.

<sup>184</sup> The latest legislative action on S. 2543 was a referral to the House. See National Heritage Partnership Act, S. 2543 (referred in House), 108th Cong. (2004).

<sup>185</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Pub. L. No. 108-447, 118 Stat. 3048 (2004); and Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004, Pub. L. No. 108-108, 117 Stat. 1241 (2003).

<sup>186</sup> Caveat that in 2006, "two Independent Senators caucused with the Democrats, giving that party the majority." History, Art, & Archives, US House of Representatives, "Party Government Since 1857," accessed June 1, 2025, <https://history.house.gov/Institution/Presidents-Coinciding/Party-Government/>.

<sup>187</sup> St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act, H.R. 61, 109th Cong. (2005); Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act, H.R. 73, 109th Cong. (2005); Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2003 [sic], H.R. 87, 109th Cong. (2005); Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act, S. 63, 109th Cong. (2005); To amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area and to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance under that Act, H.R. 326, 109th Cong. (2005); National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area Act, S. 163, 109th Cong. (2005); Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Act, H.R. 413, 109th Cong. (2005); Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Act, S. 175, 109th Cong. (2005); Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act, S. 200, 109th Cong. (2005); and Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act, S. 204, 109th Cong. (2005).

<sup>188</sup> National Heritage Areas Partnership Act, S. 243, 109th Cong. (2005); and National Heritage Partnership Act, H.R. 760, 109th Cong. (2005).

<sup>189</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, National Heritage Partnership Act, S. Rep. 109-26 (2005), 2.



This time, when Senator Thomas gave opening remarks, he noted the proliferation of NHAs and the lack of a system or structure to fit them in.

State delegations are planning to introduce legislation to designate thirteen new National Heritage Areas and authorize studies on an additional five. Hundreds of State heritage areas currently exist and all could potentially become National Heritage Areas under the current process. This program is out of control. We are continuing to put unnecessary fiscal and resource demands on the National Park Service at a time when a significant maintenance backlog exists in park units throughout the Nation. We have no established criteria to ensure the recognition of truly nationally important areas.<sup>190</sup>

Thomas noted that his legislation used the term “national importance” rather than “national significance,” based on guidance from the NPS and GAO in the previous Congress.<sup>191</sup>

Senator Thomas’s bill (S. 243) was the only systemic NHA legislation to move forward during the 109th Congress. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee favorably reported S. 243 without amendment on March 8, 2005 (S. Rep. 109-26), and the Senate passed it on July 26. Amendments made on the Senate floor changed the legislation’s language from creating a “National Heritage Areas program” to a “National Heritage Area System.” The amended version also increased the overall annual funding cap for all NHAs from \$15 to \$25 million.

Unlike previous system bills, S. 243 also added an evaluation clause to the duties of the Secretary of the Interior, recommending that Interior should conduct an evaluation of each NHA “three years before cessation of Federal funding for the area” and submit those findings to relevant House and Senate committees.<sup>192</sup> This was the first time Interior evaluation of NHAs was part of program-enabling legislation.

Floor amendments also added a clause clarifying the relationship of NHAs to the NPS, which remained in almost all NHA system bills in future Congresses. The clause stated:

(1) RELATIONSHIP TO NATIONAL PARK UNITS.—The Secretary shall— (A) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, participation and assistance by units of the National Park System located near or encompassed by National Heritage Areas in local initiatives for National Heritage Areas that conserve and interpret resources consistent with an approved management plan; and (B) work with National Heritage Areas to promote public enjoyment of units of the National Park System and park-related resources.

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<sup>190</sup> 151 Cong. Rec. S750 (daily ed. February 1, 2005) (statement of Sen. Craig Thomas).

<sup>191</sup> 151 Cong. Rec. S750 (daily ed. February 1, 2005) (statement of Sen. Craig Thomas).

<sup>192</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, S. Rep. 109-26, 2.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—National Heritage Areas shall not be— (A) considered to be units of the National Park System; or (B) subject to the laws applicable to units of the National Park System.<sup>193</sup>

This was the first time that NHA system legislation explicitly clarified that an NHA was not to be considered a unit of the National Park System and also the first time that proposed system legislation directed NHAs to cooperate with local NPS units.<sup>194</sup>

Interior held the line on opposing any new NHAs until system legislation passed, but Congress continued to create new NHAs anyways.<sup>195</sup> Ten new NHA designations passed in the 109th Congress through an omnibus bill that had originally been about soda ash royalties before being renamed the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203). President George W. Bush signed it into law October 12, 2006 (P.L. 109-338).<sup>196</sup> (See Table 4 for a summary of provisions in P.L. 109-338.) Amendments to I&M Canal NHC were especially significant, a demonstration of how Congress had begun tightening up legislation from earlier NHAs to bring them into closer congruity with current standards. In many cases, those amendments transitioned the local coordinating entity to a nonprofit organization (rather than a federal commission), added private property protections, and stipulated that the updated management plan would need a map and “identification of the geographic boundaries of the corridor.”<sup>197</sup>

The 109th Congress ushered in a westward movement of NHAs. Before 2006, the only NHAs west of the Mississippi River were Yuma Crossing (AZ) and Cache La Poudre (CO). But this Congress more than doubled the number of NHAs in the West, establishing Great Basin (UT), Northern Rio Grande (NM), and Mormon Pioneer (UT).<sup>198</sup> Momentum for these grew in part because of a 2003 workshop on NPS partnerships in the West, where participants agreed that NHAs “are attractive to westerners” despite earlier “suspicion of federal agency involvement.”<sup>199</sup> To build support for the Northern Rio Grande NHA, local groups and NPS staff worked together to bring potential partners together and start conversations about what this model could look like locally, in a way that worked for people in the region.<sup>200</sup> At Great Basin, support coalesced

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<sup>193</sup> National Heritage Areas Partnership Act, S. 243 (engrossed in Senate), 109th Cong. (2005).

<sup>194</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, March 9, 2006, CRS-11–12.

<sup>195</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, CRS-7.

<sup>196</sup> 151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008; 152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615; 152 Cong. Rec. H5648; and 152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59. National Heritage Areas Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-338, 120 Stat. 1783 (2006).

<sup>197</sup> National Heritage Areas Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-338, 120 Stat. 1852 (2006).

<sup>198</sup> GAO, “A More Systemic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas,” 4.

<sup>199</sup> Interior, NPS, “Collaboration and Conservation: Lessons Learned through National Park Service Partnerships in the Western United States: A Report on a Workshop, March 18–19, 2003, Santa Fe, New Mexico,” Conservation and Stewardship Publication No. 6 (Woodstock, Vermont: Conservation Study Institute, 2004), 9.

<sup>200</sup> Interior, NPS, “Collaboration and Conservation,” 32.

Table 4: Provisions in the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-338)<sup>201</sup>

<p><b>Designated ten new NHAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arabia Mountain NHA (GA)</li> <li>• Atchafalaya NHA (LA)</li> <li>• Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (NY, VT)</li> <li>• Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA (NJ)</li> <li>• Freedom's Frontier NHA (KS, MO)</li> <li>• Great Basin National Heritage Route (NV, UT)</li> <li>• Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor (FL, GA, NC, SC)</li> <li>• Mormon Pioneer NHA (UT)</li> <li>• Northern Rio Grande NHA (NM)</li> <li>• Upper Housatonic Valley NHA (CT, MA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Authorized studies of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Western Reserve Heritage Area (OH)</li> <li>• St. Croix NHA (US Virgin Islands)</li> <li>• Southern Campaign of the Revolution (SC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Amended Illinois &amp; Michigan Canal NHC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made the Canal Corridor Association, a non-profit organization, the management entity in place of a commission</li> <li>• Changed authorized appropriations to \$1 million/year with a 50% match</li> <li>• Changed the cumulative budget cap to \$10 million</li> <li>• Added language related to private property protections to bring the legislation in line with other NHAs at the time</li> </ul> <p><b>Reauthorized and amended John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley NHC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reauthorized the Blackstone NHC until 2016</li> <li>• Increased authorized appropriations to \$1 million/year</li> <li>• Increased cumulative budget cap to \$10 million</li> </ul> <p><b>Made technical corrections to National Coal Heritage Area</b></p>
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quickly in part because of the declining mining industry and the reverberating economic effects that shift wreaked on the region. According to historian Eleanor Mahoney,

Many residents had hoped that the creation of Great Basin National Park in 1986 would stimulate investment and job growth. Tourism did increase, but not enough to offset the losses in mining and other industries. Visitors often stayed within the park and did not spend money in neighboring communities, limiting the park's potential economic ripple effects.

The NHA model differed in that it had the potential to promote a much larger landscape.<sup>202</sup>

<sup>201</sup> National Heritage Areas Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-338, 120 Stat. 1852 (2006).

<sup>202</sup> Mahoney, "From skepticism to support," 134–135.

This thought process mirrored that of the earliest NHAs in the East that developed in areas with economies weakened by loss of manufacturing industries.

During the 109th Congress, NHA re-authorizing legislation increased in volume, requiring increased attention from lawmakers and staff.<sup>203</sup> Debate continued over whether federal funding should cease and NHAs should become self-sufficient, or if NHAs needed longer windows of guaranteed federal funding. Susan Copping, NPS Assistant Coordinator for NHAs, elaborated:

Since NPS funding typically ceases five to fifteen years after designation, the heritage areas are consistently running up against time. They are periodically asked by potential funding partners and the National Park Service to provide rationales for continued assistance and involvement. However, in the twenty years since the Illinois and Michigan [Canal NHC] was designated, the consensus among practitioners and academics is that heritage areas took more than two decades to become self-sufficient.<sup>204</sup>

The fundamental questions of the long-term role of federal funding and assistance to NHAs continued to be frequently debated but remained unanswered.

The National Park System Advisory Board sought to answer these questions in a landmark report, “Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas,” presented to NPS Director Fran Mainella on July 25, 2006.<sup>205</sup> The impetus for the report were the 2004 congressional investigations into NHAs, during which the NPS Director asked the Advisory Board “to review and report with recommendations on the appropriate role of the National Park Service in supporting National Heritage Areas.”<sup>206</sup>

The report was “a clear call to action” for NPS leaders. It asked the NPS to commit to NHAs and recognize them as a model for twenty-first-century cultural and natural resource conservation.<sup>207</sup> It called NHAs “a citizens’ movement of high purpose and great benefit to the nation” and noted that, while they are “nationally important,” NHAs were managed by people who live there, not federal employees.<sup>208</sup> The report stressed the importance of partnerships across political boundaries, levels of government, and organizations, and noted, “These broad

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<sup>203</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, CRS-12–13.

<sup>204</sup> Copping, “Current State of Heritage Areas Research,” 25.

<sup>205</sup> The National Park System Advisory Board “is a congressionally chartered body of twelve citizens appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Established under the Historic Sites Act of 1935, it is charged to provide advice on matters relating to operations in the parks and administration of the National Park Service.” National Park System Advisory Board, “Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas,” 2006, 1.

<sup>206</sup> National Park System Advisory Board, “Charting a Future,” 1; and Condo, *A Brief Administrative History*, 72.

<sup>207</sup> “Charting an Uncertain Future for National Heritage Areas,” *Living Landscape Observer*, March 5, 2022, <https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/charting-an-uncertain-future-for-national-heritage-areas/>.

<sup>208</sup> National Park System Advisory Board, “Charting a Future,” 1.

collaborative relationships have demonstrated a capacity to leverage significant funding and support for large-scale preservation projects, which require long-term commitments to build an enduring stewardship ethic.”<sup>209</sup>

The report listed five top-level recommendations, which would shape the future of the program for the next two decades. The first recommendation was an outline of what program legislation should look like, which included the following concepts:

- Creates a system of National Heritage Areas as a component of the greater National Park System, but not as units of the National Park System.
- Requires a feasibility study to demonstrate that future proposed heritage areas meet the following criteria:
  - There is a nationally important story,
  - The area’s heritage resources contribute to telling the story,
  - There is strong public interest and support, and
  - There is the capacity for heritage area leadership and management.
- Sets standards for management planning that include a business plan and close coordination with local communities, and ensure that the plan is reviewed and approved by the Secretary of the Interior in a timely way.
- Recognizes the two-way partnership between National Heritage Areas and adjacent or thematically related national parks and authorizes technical and operational assistance as appropriate.
- Protects the rights of private property owners.
- Requires that for each National Heritage Area, three years prior to cessation of federal funding authority, a study be conducted to recommend the appropriate level of future National Park Service involvement in that National Heritage Area, including but not limited to future federal funding.<sup>210</sup>

Using these recommendations, Interior drafted another NHA system bill and presented the proposed legislation to Congress in summer 2006. Representative Hefley included many provisions of this draft in a new bill introduced on September 29, 2006, the National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (H.R. 6287). This bill was the first NHA system legislation to have a findings and purposes section at the beginning. This section made the case for NHAs and echoed the findings of “Charting a Future.” Hefley’s bill did not pass out of committee, but these provisions became part of future NHA system-enabling legislation.

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<sup>209</sup> National Park System Advisory Board, “Charting a Future,” 3.

<sup>210</sup> National Park System Advisory Board, “Charting a Future,” 25.

## 6.3 110th Congress: NHA Debate Reaches a Fever Pitch (2007–2008)

*(Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, Republican President)*

The 110th Congress saw a firestorm of activity and debate on NHAs. Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY) once again introduced NHA system-enabling legislation. His bill gained some traction in Congress but stalled over private property rights concerns, sparked by a report published by The Heritage Foundation. The report led to some of the most contentious floor debates on NHAs in a decade. This private property polemic impeded passage of NHA system legislation in the 110th Congress, but new individual NHAs passed through omnibus legislation, proving the success, once again, of separating individual NHA legislation from program legislation.

On January 12, 2007, Senator Thomas introduced a new version of NHA system-enabling legislation, the National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (S. 278). Like H.R. 6287 in the 109th Congress but unlike previous Thomas bills, S. 243 incorporated recommendations from Interior’s legislative proposal submitted to Congress in summer 2006, including a “Purposes” section.<sup>211</sup>

Since the bill was so similar to Thomas’s bills in the 108th (S. 2543) and 109th (S. 243) Congresses, the Senate did not hold new committee hearings on S. 278. Instead, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported it out following a business meeting.<sup>212</sup> Despite support from Interior, Thomas’s legislation stalled after it was reported out of committee, even while bills to establish new NHAs moved forward.

As the volume of individual NHA legislation grew, legislators continued to create omnibus bills that combined provisions of many of the individual bills into larger bills that stood a greater chance of passage. One of these was the National Heritage Areas and National Heritage Corridors Technical Corrections Act of 2007 (S. 817), introduced by Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-OH).<sup>213</sup> Just a few days later, Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH) introduced similar legislation in the

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<sup>211</sup> National Heritage Areas Partnership Act, S. 278, 110th Cong. (2007). On Administration bill and its content being incorporated in S. 278, see Lyle Laverty, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Interior, to Senator Tom Coburn, May 15, 2008, file Questions from Senator Coburn, box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>212</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, National Heritage Areas Partnership Act, S. Rep. 110-168 (2007), 10.

<sup>213</sup> Many amendments in this bill were to P.L. 104-333, which had set a sunset date of September 30, 2012, for all nine NHAs established in that bill. National Heritage Areas and National Heritage Corridors Technical Corrections Act of 2007, S. 817, 110th Cong. (2007); and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, S. Rep. 110-175, 4.

House, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (H.R. 1483).<sup>214</sup> Its provisions overlapped with S. 817, but the bills were not identical.

The Senate held hearings on S. 817 and several other smaller NHA bills, the first in a series of hearings held in the spring and summer of 2007.<sup>215</sup> The most controversial issue raised were concerns about the use of federal funds and private property rights. In committee discussions on legislation to establish Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA, Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) offered two amendments. The first to prohibit the “use of federal funds received by the heritage area for lobbying,” which was voted down.<sup>216</sup> Representative Flake offered a second amendment, “prohibiting any federal funds for implementation of this act,” which he later withdrew.<sup>217</sup> In a different hearing, Flake offered an amendment that would delay the effective date of a law to establish a Niagara Falls NHA “until the Secretary of Interior certifies to Congress that all backlogged maintenance in the National Park System in New York State has been eliminated.” It was also voted down.<sup>218</sup> In another hearing, Flake offered yet another amendment, this time “to express the sense of Congress that the federal government should not fund a national heritage area in perpetuity.” It also failed.<sup>219</sup> Representative Flake and other Republican members also felt that the House Committee on Natural Resources had “emasculated” the “very reasonable and modest private property rights protections” in NHA bills.<sup>220</sup>

Another outspoken opponent of NHA legislation was Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT). Bishop offered an amendment to Niagara Falls NHA legislation (H.R. 713) “requiring individualized, written notice to land owners within the heritage area and removal of any private property from

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<sup>214</sup> H.R. 1483 was later called the “Celebrating America’s Heritage Act,” but not when introduced; the shortened name came when it was reported out of the House (H. Rept. 110-388). To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, H.R. 1483, 110th Cong. (2007). Interior argued against certain bills extending federal funding if they believed it was too early before expiration of its authorization for federal funds (they argued for Quinebaug and Shetucket that two years was too far in advance), or if there had not been time to review evaluations of the NHA’s accomplishments. *Current National Parks Bills: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 110-158, 110th Cong. (July 12, 2007), 14.

<sup>215</sup> *Miscellaneous National Parks Bills: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 110-73, 110th Cong. (March 20, 2007). See also *Current National Parks Bills*, S. Hrg. 110-158, 110th Cong. (July 12, 2007); “Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives During the One Hundred Tenth Congress,” H. Rept. 110-925 (Washington, DC; US GPO, 2009).

<sup>216</sup> Interior maintained that this language was not needed: “The Department is clear in its direction to NHAs that no funds made available through the federal allocation process may be used to lobby the executive or legislative branch of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant or loan. Additionally, these instructions also appear each year in the appropriation language.” Lavery to Senator Coburn. For Flake amendment vote, see Committee on Natural Resources, Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Act, H.R. Rep. 110-95 (2007), 7–9.

<sup>217</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. Rep. 110-95, 7–9.

<sup>218</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act, H.R. Rep. 110-219 (2007), 13.

<sup>219</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, Celebrating America’s Heritage Act, H.R. Rep. 110-388 (2007), 37.

<sup>220</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. Rep. 110-95, 15.

the boundary upon written request.” It did not pass due to concerns that it would be an unrealistic burden to write to every single property owner within the area. Representative Bishop offered an additional amendment that would prohibit funding for “tribal or governmental gaming activities.”<sup>221</sup> Several representatives, all Republicans, continued to voice their apprehension at the process, arguing they were “dismayed by the rush to consider this legislation out of regular order” and they looked forward “to resolving these issues with an open process on the House Floor rather than very restrictive suspension of the rules.”<sup>222</sup>

Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported several individual NHA bills favorably, with amendments aimed at consistency among different NHA legislation.<sup>223</sup> Two new omnibus bills followed: the Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007 (S. 2180), introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee), and an amended version of H.R. 1483, as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources.<sup>224</sup> Similar to actions in the House, several Republican committee members authored a “Dissenting Views” section to express their concerns about fiscal effects, procedural workarounds, and property rights protections, concluding, “We oppose H.R. 1483 because it is an irresponsible bill further marred by Committee Democrats in markup on September 26, 2007.”<sup>225</sup>

Amid these concerns by Republican members, The Heritage Foundation, a prominent conservative think tank in Washington, DC, studied the issue of NHAs. Their resulting report, released in fall 2007, brought new publicity to NHAs. The *Washington Post* covered the report and published Representative Flake’s concerns that “heritage areas are becoming targets for earmarks, including twenty-four in the 2007 spending bills that are worth hundreds of thousands of dollars each.”<sup>226</sup> The report called the process for designating new NHAs “highly dubious” and specifically criticized H.R. 1483 (which would “expand the cost and scope of federally sanctioned and federally financed economic development entities known as National Heritage

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<sup>221</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. Rep. 110-219, 9, 11. Bishop further explained the concerns about gaming on the House floor. See 153 Cong. Rec. H11955 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Rob Bishop).

<sup>222</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. Rep. 110-219, 21–22.

<sup>223</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Act, S. Rep. 110-170 (2007), 9; Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, South Park National Heritage Area Act, S. Rep. 110-171 (2007); Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Study Act of 2007, S. Rep. 110-157 (2007); Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act, S. Rep. 110-174 (2007); Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, S. Rep. 110-175; and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act, S. Rep. 110-177 (2007).

<sup>224</sup> Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007, S. 2180, 110th Cong. (2007); Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. Rep. 110-388; and [NPS], “Summary of Omnibus Packages,” file Legislation Pending, box 6, NHA Program Records.

<sup>225</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, H.R. Rep. 110-388, 59–61.

<sup>226</sup> Paul Kane, “Heritage Areas vs. Property Rights,” *Washington Post*, November 30, 2007.



Areas”) and its provision to establish Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA.<sup>227</sup> It identified three problems with NHAs that “should be the most compelling for Congress,” namely that “NHAs divert NPS resources from the agency’s core responsibilities, Federal costs for NHAs are increasing at a rapid rate, and NHAs threaten private property rights.” The report’s authors suggested that,

Rather than pursue a costly expansion of federal involvement in local affairs, Congress should not create any more NHAs and should move the existing NHAs toward financial independence. Specifically, Congress should limit existing NHAs to their initial federal funding caps and enforce the statutory requirement that they become financially self-sufficient within fifteen years. Congress should also encourage local communities to establish their own heritage-based tourist and economic development programs that are independent of federal oversight and funding.<sup>228</sup>

The suggestions would have shifted the perceived burden of support for heritage areas from the federal government to state and local entities.

The authors saved their most pointed criticism for property rights issues. They cited a September 4, 2007, letter from over 110 organizations to congressional leaders asking Congress to stop creating NHAs, amid “a national outcry against government abuse of private property rights” triggered by the US Supreme Court’s decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*. This decision held that economic benefit to a community could be considered a permissible form of “public use” in the case of a government employing its power of eminent domain.<sup>229</sup> Like the letter, The Heritage Foundation report argued that NHAs were a surreptitious way for the federal government to control private property. The report acknowledged that most legislation designating NHAs and NHA management plans “include explicit provisions prohibiting the NPS or the management entity from using eminent domain to acquire property” and “prohibit the use of federal funds to acquire private property by way of a voluntary transaction with a willing seller.” The Heritage Foundation, however, did not see these protections as sufficient to fully protect property rights. The authors stated that, despite some protections, “NHAs pose a threat to private property rights through the exercise of restrictive zoning that may severely limit the

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<sup>227</sup> On Journey Through Hallowed Ground, the report stated, “Virginia-based environmental groups with a long history of opposition to most residential and commercial development in the region and wealthy estate owners who would benefit from the cachet and exclusivity that the designation might bring. The opposition includes local property owners and a large minority in Congress.” Cheryl Chumley and Ronald D. Utt, “National Heritage Areas: Costly Economic Development Schemes that Threaten Property Rights,” *Backgrounder* (published by The Heritage Foundation) 2080 (October 23, 2007): Executive Summary, 15.

<sup>228</sup> Chumley and Utt, “National Heritage Areas,” Executive Summary.

<sup>229</sup> National Center for Public Policy Research, et al., “Coalition Letter Detailing Risks of National Heritage Area Designation,” September 4, 2007, <https://www.nationalcenter.org/NHACoalitionLetter0907.pdf>; and Chumley and Utt, “National Heritage Areas,” 7; *Kelo v. City of New London*, 545 U.S. 469 (2005). For a summary of the Court’s decision see *Kelo v. City of New London*, Justia U.S. Supreme Court Center, accessed December 22, 2025, <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/545/469/>.

extent to which property owners can develop or use their property.” The report termed this kind of action “regulatory takings” and called them “the most common form of property rights abuse today. They are also the most pernicious because they do not require any compensation to owners whose property values are reduced by the new zoning.”<sup>230</sup>

The controversy generated by The Heritage Foundation report led to perhaps the longest discussion of NHAs on the floor of Congress up to that point, when the House debated the Celebrating America’s Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) on October 24, 2007. Many rose to extoll the benefits of heritage areas and the positive experiences of their constituents and districts overall with these areas, but controversy continued to swirl around private property rights and government spending. (See Table 5 for a full list of everyone who made remarks that day.) Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, started the discussion. He called the private property rights criticisms unfounded.

Now, if you looked up the word ‘red herring’ in Webster’s Dictionary, the definition would be the property rights arguments that the critics of this bill are using against this legislation. Heritage areas have no regulatory authority. Over sixty million Americans live in heritage areas. The entire State of Tennessee, for example, the entire State of Tennessee is a heritage area. Almost my entire congressional district is a heritage area. There have been no impacts on private property rights, mining, road building, economic development. I believe we’ve done quite well in each of those areas in my congressional district, most of which is a heritage area. . . .

In the twenty years plus of this program’s existence, opponents have not been able to identify one single instance in which someone has been deprived of the use of their property as a result of such designations as we’re considering in this bill. . . .

So the issue here is not private property rights. The issue is not gaming in these areas. The issue is not earmarks. I would say to my colleagues, imagine, for example, if Yellowstone National Park did not exist and Members of Congress introduced legislation to provide for such a crown jewel of our national park system. Would that be called an earmark?<sup>231</sup>

Rahall’s strong support for NHAs was countered by Representative Bishop’s continued opposition. Bishop stated,

In 1994 when these same nine areas were being discussed, the Democrat hero of heritage areas, the advocate, the chairman of the then subcommittee, the late Bruce Vento stated: “There is a limit to the length of time or the amount of money the Federal Government can be in a heritage area.” Not totally grammatical, but you get the point of what he was trying to say.

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<sup>230</sup> Chumley and Utt, “National Heritage Areas,” 4.

<sup>231</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11961 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Nick Rahall).

He went on to say: “In ten years, we are out of there. Then they are on their own and we get the benefit of that conservation.” Thirteen years later, that has not been the case.

In fact, during the hearings on this bill, the National Park Service testified that no heritage area has become self-sufficient. Unfortunately, it gets worse. The Heritage Area Alliance [Alliance of National Heritage Areas], the association which represents all heritage areas, has told us in committee hearing that they should never become self-sufficient and they should always rely on continuous Federal appropriations for every heritage area. In fact, the Heritage Area Alliance has become a cottage industry where groups get grants from the Federal Government to go around telling other people how to get more grants from the Federal Government. And this performance we are now wishing to reward. While a public-private partnership can yield positive results, this program has taken on a life of its own.<sup>232</sup>

Bishop also continued to bring up private property concerns, citing the September 4 letter mentioned above and criticizing the bill’s failure to include an “opt-out” provision for property owners. He expressed concerns about the lack of a completed feasibility study for Muscle Shoals NHA and the procedural creativity used to get the bill to the floor.<sup>233</sup> Both Bishop and Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) expressed concern that NHAs could interfere with siting energy transmission lines.<sup>234</sup> Ultimately, Bishop argued, NHAs represented uncontrolled federal government spending on something better done at the state or local level.<sup>235</sup>

Many other congressional representatives spoke in support of NHAs, especially of the positive outcomes on partnerships and community development from NHAs in their districts. Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) emphasized their importance for economic revitalization.<sup>236</sup> Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH) objected to arguments that this was federal overreach, saying, “it’s no encroachment on local control. In fact, it’s the epitome of local control, because the decision to

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<sup>232</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11954 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Rob Bishop).

<sup>233</sup> The Muscle Shoals feasibility study had been Congressionally directed (per P.L. 107-348) and was still in progress at this time. It was still not completed at the time that Muscle Shoals NHA was eventually designated during the 111th Congress. See Appendix D for details.

<sup>234</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11955 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Rob Bishop); and 153 Cong. Rec. H11963 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Joe Barton).

<sup>235</sup> At the hearing, Bishop stated, “When we had our committee hearing, there were several people that were talking about the need for these new heritage areas. One particular individual who was testifying told of the importance of having this Federal designation, so I tried to zero in on that and ask what it is specifically about this designation that cannot be done by the local levels, by State government, the local entity. Give me one thing that cannot be done that only the Federal Government can do. There was not one element that was given until somebody behind him simply answered that the correct answer is there are 15 million reasons why you have this designation, and each one has a portrait of George Washington on it.” 153 Cong. Rec. H11961 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Rob Bishop).

<sup>236</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11955–56 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Louise Slaughter).

make heritage corridors work is up to the people.”<sup>237</sup> Several other speakers reminded colleagues that the bill included clauses specifically to prohibit the taking of property or the regulatory authority over property.<sup>238</sup> After this lengthy debate, the bill passed the House: 344 yeas, 71 nays, and 17 not voting.<sup>239</sup> The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources then favorably reported it, but the bill never made it to the Senate floor.<sup>240</sup>

In the aftermath of the heated debate on the House floor, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) set his sights on NHAs. Coburn was a vocal critic of government spending and used a procedural mechanism known as the Senate hold to prevent the passage of many bills in the 110th and later Congresses.<sup>241</sup> On April 2, 2008, Coburn introduced five bills intended, in different ways, to protect private property owners from the federal government (S. 2707, S. 2708, S. 2709, S. 2710, S. 2711). Three of these bills specifically mentioned NHAs:

- *Land and Liberty Protection Act of 2008 (S. 2707)*: Title IV would require Interior to issue written notification to all landowners in the NHA and would require written consent from a landowner before NPS or local coordinating entity representatives enter private property within an NHA).<sup>242</sup>
- *No Trespassing Act of 2008 (S. 2808)*: same language as Title IV of S. 2707.<sup>243</sup>
- *Do No Harm Act of 2008 (S. 2809)*: would delay the effective date of NHA-designating legislation until the President certifies that there are no adverse effects on agriculture, energy, infrastructure, transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, housing affordability, and until the total NPS maintenance backlog for the state in which the NHA lies is less than \$50 million.<sup>244</sup>

Coburn also proposed an amendment to another natural resources omnibus bill, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739).<sup>245</sup> S. 2739 was introduced by Senator Bingaman, chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and comprised bills that had already

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<sup>237</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11960 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Ralph Regula).

<sup>238</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11957 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Frank Wolf); 153 Cong. Rec. H11960 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Raúl Grijalva); and 153 Cong. Rec. H11960 (daily ed. October 24, 2007) (statement of Rep. Sam Farr).

<sup>239</sup> 153 Cong. Rec. H11963–64 (daily ed. October 24, 2007).

<sup>240</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, *Celebrating America’s Heritage Act*, S. Rep. 110-381 (2008).

<sup>241</sup> Carl Hulse, “Democrats Try to Break Grip of the Senate’s Dr. No,” *The New York Times*, July 28, 200, <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/28/washington/28coburn.html>.

<sup>242</sup> *Land and Liberty Protection Act of 2008*, S. 2807, 110th Cong. (2008).

<sup>243</sup> *No Trespassing Act of 2008*, S. 2808, 110th Cong. (2008).

<sup>244</sup> *Do No Harm Act of 2008*, S. 2809, 110th Cong. (2008).

<sup>245</sup> 154 Cong. Rec. S2861-919 (daily ed. April 10, 2008); and Coburn amendment at 154 Cong. Rec. S2824 (daily ed. April 9, 2008).

Table 5: Members of Congress who Spoke During the House Floor Debate on the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), October 27, 2007<sup>246</sup>

Member of Congress	Position on NHAs
Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV)	Supportive of NHAs.
Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)	Opposed to NHAs because of government spending and concerns about private property rights.
Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)	Supportive of NHAs, especially designating Niagara Falls NHA.
Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH)	Supportive of NHAs, especially Ohio and Erie Canal NHC.
Rep. Ray Lahood (D-IL)	Supportive of NHAs, especially designating Abraham Lincoln NHA.
Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA)	Supportive of NHAs, especially of designating Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA.
Rep. Bud Cramer (D-AL)	Supportive of NHAs, especially designating Muscle Shoals NHA.
Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (D-MD)	Opposed to NHAs, especially designating Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA.
Rep. John Olver (D-MA)	Supportive of NHAs, especially designating Freedom's Way NHA.
Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)	Supportive of NHAs, especially designating Santa Cruz Valley NHA.
Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA)	Supportive of NHAs, to prevent entire country from being "sprawled-out urbanism."
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	Supportive of NHAs, especially Silos and Smokestacks NHA.
Rep. Frank LoBiondo (D-NJ)	Supportive of NHAs, especially NJ Coastal Heritage Trail Route. <sup>247</sup>
Rep. Don Young (R-AK)	Concerned about costs and using Federal funds for lobbying.
Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)	Supportive of NHAs, especially Blue Ridge NHA.
Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX)	Supports amendment addressing potential interference with energy transmission lines.
Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA)	Supportive of NHAs, especially designating Freedom's Way NHA.

<sup>246</sup> Listed in order of speaker. 153 Cong. Rec. H11954–63 (daily ed. October 24, 2007)

<sup>247</sup> Unlike NHAs, the enabling legislation for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route did not specify a local coordinating entity. Although the trails mission overlaps in part with NHAs, the NPS does not consider it to be an NHA or part of the NHA System. NPS, "2011 Strategic Plan, New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route," Northeast Regional Office, Division of Interpretation and Education, August 2, 2011, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=258&projectID=35779&documentID=42791>.

been favorably reported by the Senate.<sup>248</sup> It passed the Senate quickly. A few weeks later, the House passed it, despite remaining concerns brought up in floor debate on H.R. 1483. The bill was sent to President Bush for his signature.<sup>249</sup> Efforts continued to move other pieces of individual NHA legislation that were not included in P.L. 110-229, but those failed to pass before the end of the 110th Congress.<sup>250</sup>

President Bush signed the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 into law on May 8, 2008 (P.L. 110-229). It established three new NHAs and contained provisions for private property rights protection and evaluation three years before the sunset of federal funding. It also amended legislation for several existing NHAs. (See Table 6.) The evaluation clause in P.L. 110-229 meant the NPS was now required to evaluate all nine NHAs designated in 1996 and to present those reports to Congress.<sup>251</sup>

Table 6: NHA-Related Provisions in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-229)<sup>252</sup>

<p><b>Designated three new NHAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abraham Lincoln NHA (IL)</li> <li>• Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA (MD, PA, VA, WV)</li> <li>• Niagara Falls NHA (NY)</li> </ul> <p><b>Amendments to authorizations and evaluations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased budget cap to \$15,000,000 for NHAs designated by P.L. 104-333</li> <li>• Added evaluation requirement to NHAs designated by P.L. 104-333</li> </ul> <p><b>Made corrections to legislation for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Coal Heritage Area (boundary change)</li> <li>• Ohio and Erie Canal NHC (changed name to National Heritage Canalway)</li> <li>• Rivers of Steel NHA (technical correction)</li> <li>• South Carolina NHC (boundary change)</li> </ul> <p><b>Authorized studies of two potential heritage areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbia-Pacific NHA</li> <li>• Sites relating to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky</li> </ul>
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<sup>248</sup> Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, S. 2739 (placed on Senate calendar), 110th Cong. (2008).

<sup>249</sup> 154 Cong. Rec. H2830 (daily ed. April 29, 2008).

<sup>250</sup> On June 26, 2008, Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 (S. 3213), “a collection of over 90 individual bills that have been reported by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources” and included legislation to create ten new NHAs and study two potential NHAs. Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2008, S. 3213, , 110th Cong. (2008). The Committee on Natural Resources continued to report out NHA bills all the way to the very end of this Congress. Committee on Natural Resources, Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives During the One Hundred Tenth Congress, H.R. Rep. 110-925 (2009).

<sup>251</sup> Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-229, 122 Stat. 754 (2008); and CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, CRS-9–10; CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, 6.

<sup>252</sup> Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-229, 122 Stat. 754 (2008).

The 110th Congress marked a turning point in NHAs because of a larger change in Congress: the reform of the earmarking process. New rules required members of Congress to publicly post earmark requests and certify that they and their families were not receiving financial benefits from the earmark.<sup>253</sup> This required NPS to change the way it distributed funds to NHAs, since “previous funding allocations had always been set by Congress identifying or ‘earmarking’ the amount provided to each NHA.” Moving forward, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed Interior to “use merit-based and competitive allocation processes in the allocation of funding.” NPS transitioned out of the earmarking model in FY 2007, instead using criteria based on population, land area, NRHP and NHL listings in each area, and previous funding.<sup>254</sup> After this interim fix, NPS reiterated to partners that it was “continuing to develop new competitive criteria for the distribution of this funding and expect to make a formal proposal for a new system as part of the fiscal year 2009 budget.”<sup>255</sup>

## 6.4 111th Congress: More NHAs, Still No System (2009–2010)

*(Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate, Democratic President)*

In the 111th Congress, the Obama Administration continued to recommend deferring action on bills that would establish new NHAs until after the adoption of systemic NHA-enabling legislation.<sup>256</sup> The 110th Congress, however, had closed with a large number of NHA bills introduced and reported out of committee but not passed or included as part of omnibus bills.

To address this growing pile of partially approved legislation, Senator Bingaman, still chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, introduced the Omnibus Public Land

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<sup>253</sup> Andy Sullivan, “House bans some earmarks amid ethics concerns,” *Reuters*, March 10, 2010, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congress-earmarks/house-bans-some-earmarks-amid-ethics-concerns-idUSTRE62959V20100311/>; and “Pelosi, Hoyer and Obey Announce Further Earmark Reforms,” news release, March 11, 2009.

<sup>254</sup> For the previous funding point, the NPS calculated “the proportion of the \$10 million authorization that each NHA had previously received from the National Recreation and Historic Preservation account in prior years, compared to that of all 24 eligible NHAs. We then included an additional criterion that would ensure that no heritage area’s 2007 allotment would vary by more than 20 percent from its 2006 funding level.” Mary Bomar, Director, NPS, to Senator Jack Reed, July 25, 2007, file Legislation – Multiple Bills – Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, box 5, NHA Program Records. See also Commission Chair Edward Sanderson to Senator Jack Reed, April 23, 2007, file Legislation – Multiple Bills – Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, box 5, NHA Program Records; and Daniela N. Wenk for NPS Acting Director Mary A. Bomar, to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, June 11, 2007, file Legislation – Multiple Bills – funding allocation for the Essex National Heritage Area, box 5, NHA Program Records.

<sup>255</sup> Associate Director, Cultural Resources, and NPS Comptroller, to Regional Directors, “Development an Allocation Formula for National Heritage Areas FY 2009,” [undated, ca. March 2008], file Legislation Pending, box 6, NHA Program Records.

<sup>256</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, CRS-3; and CRS, “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, June 9, 2011, 8–9.

Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) during the first week of the 111th Congress.<sup>257</sup> The act did not include systemic NHA legislation as desired by the NPS. Instead, it amalgamated over 150 public lands bills that had been reported from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee during the 110th Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor, many of which had to do with NHAs.<sup>258</sup>

Since most provisions in the bill had already passed out of committee, and the same party controlled both houses as in the previous Congress, Bingaman's omnibus bill passed the Senate within a week. But it failed its first House vote.<sup>259</sup> In response to that failure, Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) made floor amendments to a different bill, H.R. 146—which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition—and added to it many of the provisions from S. 22. The Senate passed H.R. 146 and returned it to the House. The amended H.R. 146, now called the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, passed the House soundly.<sup>260</sup> President Barack H. Obama signed it into law on March 30, 2009 (P.L. 111-11).<sup>261</sup> The enacted version of P.L. 111-11 created nine new NHAs, reauthorized one area, provided for the study of two potential areas, and amended legislation for four other existing areas.<sup>262</sup> (See Table 7.) Bills that had languished for years were, only a few months into the new session, suddenly law.

Perhaps it was its swift passage that led to an amendment of P.L. 111-11 that same year. On October 30, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88), which amended provisions in P.L. 111-11 concerning Northern Plains NHA. It also included a clause (Section 127) on “Requirements for Inclusion and Removal of Property in Heritage Area,” which allowed an owner to “opt out” of the heritage area—mirroring amendments suggested by House Republicans back in 2007. This “opt out” clause, however, allowed landowners to opt out of activities, programs, plans, and projects of the NHA, but not out of the NHA boundaries.<sup>263</sup>

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<sup>257</sup> Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, S. 22, 111th Cong. (2009).

<sup>258</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, January 9, 2009, front matter; and 154 Cong. Rec. S162–63 (daily ed. January 7, 2009) (statement of Sen. Jeff Bingaman).

<sup>259</sup> Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote. (Yea: 282, Nay: 144, Not voting: 6) Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, Roll Call 117 (March 11, 2009), <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2009117>.

<sup>260</sup> 155 Cong. Rec. H3854-985 (daily ed. March 25, 2009); Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, H.R. 146 (engrossed amended in Senate), 111th Cong. (March 19, 2009); and U.S. Senate. Roll Call 106 (March 19, 2009), [https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_votes/vote111/vote\\_111\\_1\\_00106.htm](https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote111/vote_111_1_00106.htm).

<sup>261</sup> Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-11, 123 Stat. 991 (2009).

<sup>262</sup> Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-11, 123 Stat. 991 (2009). Concise summary of provisions in P.L. 111-11 in CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, June 9, 2011, front matter, 10.

<sup>263</sup> Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-88, 123 Stat. 2929–30, 12933 (2009).



Table 7: NHA-related Provisions in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)<sup>264</sup>

<p><b>Designated new NHAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baltimore NHA (MD)</li> <li>• Freedom's Way NHA (MA, NH)</li> <li>• Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA (AK)</li> <li>• Mississippi Delta NHA (MS)</li> <li>• Mississippi Hills NHA (MS)</li> <li>• Muscle Shoals NHA (AL)</li> <li>• Northern Plains NHA (ND)</li> <li>• Sangre de Cristo NHA (CO)</li> <li>• South Park NHA (CO)</li> </ul> <p><b>Reauthorization of existing NHA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cache La Poudre River NHA (CO)</li> </ul> <p><b>Authorization of studies of potential NHAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chattahoochee Trace NHC (AL, GA)</li> <li>• Northern Neck NHA (VA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Technical amendments to existing NHAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delaware and Lehigh NHC (PA): changed the local coordinating entity from a commission to a non-profit corporation (the Delaware &amp; Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.)</li> <li>• Erie Canalway NHC (NY): made changes to the NHC's commission, including the number of members</li> <li>• John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC (MA, RI): technical corrections.</li> <li>• Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley NHC (CT, MA): changed the date of termination, added section on evaluations, changed appropriation amounts</li> </ul>
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No members of Congress introduced NHA system legislation in the 111th Congress. The lack of a legislated NHA system, however, continued to cause confusion and frustration for the NPS in trying to manage the areas, a different kind of confusion and frustration for NHAs that were constantly asking for more money or more time, and an even different kind of frustration for the congressional committees burdened with reviewing the plethora of NHA legislation introduced every year. Both Congress and the NPS sought some kind of change.

Into this void stepped two members of the House: Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA). Tonko represented parts of the Hudson River Valley NHA, the Erie Canalway NHC, and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, while Dent represented Pennsylvania's 15th District which, at the time, included parts of the Delaware & Lehigh NHC. Together, Tonko and Dent created the National Heritage Areas Caucus, which brought together

<sup>264</sup> Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-11, 123 Stat. 991 (2009).

other members of Congress with an interest in NHAs, heritage preservation, and economic development. The caucus was bipartisan and worked closely with the Alliance.<sup>265</sup>

Rivers of Steel Executive Director Augie Carlino later reflected that “Charting the Future” “helped with Congress. We didn’t have the National Heritage Area caucus on the Hill before that. It gave us a clear statement, a unified vision of what NPS could do with private partners.”<sup>266</sup> Another document supportive of NHAs came out around this time, the “Second Century” report, written by the National Parks Second Century Commission, convened by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), which extolled the benefits of NHAs and recommended, “The Congress of the United States should . . . **Authorize**, clearly define, and base fund **a system of National Heritage Areas**.”<sup>267</sup> The NHA Caucus took up that mantle. (See Table 8 for NHA Caucus co-chairs.)

Table 8: Chairs of the National Heritage Area Caucus since the 112th Congress

Congress	Chairs
112th	Rep. Charles Dent (R-PA) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) <sup>268</sup>
113th	No caucus officially formed
114th	Rep. Charles Dent (R-PA) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
115th	Rep. Charles Dent (R-PA) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
116th	Rep. David McKinley, P.E. (R-WV) <sup>269</sup> and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
117th	Rep. David McKinley, P.E. (R-WV) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
118th	No caucus officially formed
119th	Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) <sup>270</sup> and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)

<sup>265</sup> Within the House of Representatives, caucuses, formally referred to as Congressional Member Organizations (CMOs), are formed to pursue common legislative objectives. They must be registered and approved by the Committee on House Administration in each Congress. Caucuses are more informal in the Senate and receive neither official recognition nor funding in that chamber. For a list of CMOs starting with the 107th Congress, see <https://cha.house.gov/congressional-member-and-staff-organizations>. Federal Information & News (FI&N) Dispatch, “Tonko, Dent Announce Launch of National Heritage Area Caucus,” news release, June 14, 2010.

<sup>266</sup> Augie Carlino, interview by Antoinette Condo, March 22, 2016, NHA Oral History Project, 8.

<sup>267</sup> National Park System Second Century Commission, “Advancing the National Park Idea: Second Century Commission Report,” National Parks Conservation Association, 2009,” 23, 43 (emphasis in original).

<sup>268</sup> Dent represented Pennsylvania’s 15th Congressional District which, at the time, included parts of Delaware & Lehigh NHC. Tonko represented New York’s 20th Congressional District, home to the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley NHA, Erie Canalway NHC, and Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership.

<sup>269</sup> McKinley represented West Virginia’s 1st Congressional District but was born and started his career in Wheeling, WV, home of Wheeling NHA.

<sup>270</sup> Thompson was elected to Pennsylvania’s 15th Congressional District in 2018, which was redrawn to be in Western PA, and included parts of the Rivers of Steel and Oil Region NHAs.

## 7. NHA Caucus: Working Together to Lay Groundwork for an NHA System

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From 2011 to 2018, Congress did not create a single new heritage area. Members continued to introduce bills to create new NHAs, but they rarely moved through committee. This may have been in part due to the end of earmarking, or in response to the large number of NHAs established between 2004 and 2009, or to the increasing use of procedural mechanisms in the Senate to block legislation that would entail new appropriations.<sup>271</sup> Meanwhile, to raise support for heritage areas, members of Congress created an NHA Caucus. Leaders of that caucus now led the way on systemic NHA legislation, rather than chairs of the House Committee on Natural Resources Committee or the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### 7.1 112th Congress: NHA Caucus Leads the Way (2011–2012)

*(Republican majority in the House, Democratic majority in the Senate, Democratic President)*

In the 112th Congress, as in previous Congresses, members introduced individual NHA bills, whether for new NHAs or to reauthorize or amend existing ones. But unlike previous Congresses, leaders of the new congressional NHA Caucus now led the way on systemic NHA legislation. The Alliance worked closely with caucus co-chairs, Representatives Dent and Tonko, to craft more comprehensive legislation that addressed the needs of NHAs. For the first time, systemic NHA legislation was not authored by members of public lands committees, as had previously been the case despite NHAs managing no lands. Instead, the crafters of the systemic legislation were members of Congress who appreciated the NHAs in their district.

When caucus co-chairs Dent, Tonko, and forty-two other co-sponsors introduced the National Heritage Area Act of 2012 (H.R. 4099), it contained most of the same provisions as the most recent bills introduced by Representative Hefley and Senator Thomas, including an identical clause on private property protections. Funding authorizations in H.R. 4099 were less generous than the last recent Thomas bill: \$700,000 annual caps per NHA, rather than \$1 million, and only \$300,000 annually for feasibility studies, rather than \$750,000. But the extensions of authorization to receive federal funds were more generous: twenty-five years instead of the fifteen years that had become typical. But this twenty-five-year authorization differed from previous systemic NHA legislation in that it sunsetted the entire NHA System in twenty-five years, not just the funding authorizations for specific heritage areas. Both Dent and

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<sup>271</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, 3; Melissa Kuckro to the authors, email, April 23, 2025.

Tonko lauded NHAs as “one of the Department of the Interior’s most cost-effective initiatives.” But their bill did not make it out of committee, and there was never an identical Senate bill.<sup>272</sup>

Other members of Congress continued to introduce legislation that cast NHAs in a more negative light than the one the NHA Caucus shone on the program. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) introduced the Spending Reduction Act of 2011 (H.R. 408) to permanently cut all federal funding to NHAs. Another bill that also restricted any federal funding to NHAs was titled, “To provide that Federal funds may not be used for National Heritage Areas and other similar areas” (H.R. 3716) and was introduced by Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-KS), chair of the House Tea Party Caucus. Huelskamp’s bill listed every extant NHA and added to the designating legislation of each, “No Federal funds may be used to carry out this Act.” Neither of these blanket de-funding bills made it through committee.<sup>273</sup>

While Congress debated whether to fund NHAs at all, Interior laid out executive procedures based on the congressional directives of the many NHA bills that had already become law. On March 14, 2012, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis issued Policy Memorandum 12-01, titled “National Heritage Areas Program.” The two-page memorandum began,

While it is common knowledge that the National Park Service manages units of the national park system, it is not common knowledge that the Service also manages programs that reach far beyond national park boundaries. Although these programs operate mainly outside the national parks, they form a vital part of the NPS mission and help sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout America. These programs rely on a spirit of partnership and cooperation, which I believe must be the hallmark of the NPS in the decades that lie ahead. And nowhere is that spirit of partnership and cooperation more fully displayed than in the National Heritage Areas Program. *The purpose of this memorandum is to affirm the NPS’s support for the National Heritage Areas Program and encourage NPS managers to help the National Heritage Areas succeed.* [emphasis in original]

The memorandum cited “the Historic Sites Act, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and related statutes” as legislative authorities allowing the NPS to carry out the NHA program and endorsed the recommendation of the Second Century Commission report to create a “clearly defined system of National Heritage Areas as well as funding at a level that will allow them to carry out their work.” It also confirmed that the NPS would “continue to pursue program legislation” for NHAs.<sup>274</sup>

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<sup>272</sup> National Heritage Area Act of 2012, H.R. 4099, 112th Cong. (2012); quote from FI&N Dispatch, “Dent and Tonko Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Reform National Heritage Areas,” News release. February 29, 2012. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/925470376>.

<sup>273</sup> Spending Reduction Act of 2011, H.R. 408, 112th Cong. (2011); To provide that Federal funds may not be used for National Heritage Areas and other similar areas, H.R. 3716, 112th Cong. (2011).

<sup>274</sup> Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service, to All Employees, “National Heritage Areas Program,” Policy Memorandum 12-01, March 14, 2012.

The Obama Administration continued to oppose all new NHAs until Congress enacted systemic NHA legislation.<sup>275</sup> Interior did, however, support extensions of authority to receive federal funding after evaluations, since the evaluations directed by P.L. 110-229 (Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008) were being finalized. Internally, NPS debated whether extensions should be permanent.<sup>276</sup> Outwardly, the agency consistently supported specific bills with interim extensions for existing NHAs, “until we have completed an evaluation and report on the accomplishments of these Areas, and the future role of the National Park Service, and until heritage area program legislation is enacted.”<sup>277</sup>

## 7.2 113th Congress: Evaluating NHAs (2013–2014)

*(Republican majority in the House, Democratic majority in the Senate, Democratic President)*

NPS policy memorandum 12-01 had reaffirmed the place of NHAs within the agency, even legislation to define an NHA system. President Obama further solidified their standing in the agency in his 2014 National Park Week proclamation, where he devoted the second paragraph to NHAs.

This year marks a significant milestone in America’s drive to preserve precious historic sites—the 30th anniversary of the first National Heritage Area. For decades, the National Heritage Areas Program has enabled our Nation to set aside places that define our shared history and that will help future generations understand what it means to be American.<sup>278</sup>

Far from the “thinning the blood” argument prevalent inside the NPS in the 1990s, NHAs were now accepted as a part of the agency and praised for their partnership-based model and their integrated management of cultural and natural resources.

Backed by the strong public support of the Obama Administration, members of the NHA Caucus again introduced systemic NHA legislation in the 113th Congress. Dent, Tonko, and thirty-eight cosponsors (twenty-six Democrats, twelve Republicans) introduced the National

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<sup>275</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, June 9, 2011, 8–9. For an example of Interior testimony on individual NHA bills during this Congress, see *Various National Parks Bills: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 112-124, 112th Cong. (May 11, 2011) (statement of Stephen E. Whitesell).

<sup>276</sup> *National Parks Bills: Hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 112-401, 112th Cong. (March 7, 2012) (statement of Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, NPS), 21.

<sup>277</sup> *National Parks Bills*, S. Hrg. 112-401, 112th Cong. (March 7, 2012) (statement of Stephanie Toothman, NPS), 7–8.

<sup>278</sup> President Barack H. Obama, “Presidential Proclamation - National Park Week, 2014,” April 18, 2014, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/18/presidential-proclamation-national-park-week-2014>.

Heritage Area Act of 2013 (H.R. 445). It was nearly the same as Dent’s legislation introduced in the previous Congress (H.R. 4099). Like that bill, it stipulated that the new NHA System would expire twenty-five years after enactment. Although the bill did not include it, Dent argued for permanent authorization of NHAs in the interest of stability and sustainability.<sup>279</sup>

On July 29, 2014, the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation held a hearing on H.R. 445, the first hearings on systemic NHA legislation since 2004.<sup>280</sup> The hearing also considered other NHA-related bills. Interior supported H.R. 445, with amendments.<sup>281</sup> The NPS representative at the hearing, Stephanie Toothman, cited “Charting a Future,” the Second Century Committee Report, Policy Memorandum 12-01, and the NPS Cultural Resource Challenge (2014), as all having recommended that Congress pass legislation to create an NHA system or program. Interior suggested five amendments.

First, we recommend establishing the National Heritage Areas program as an ongoing responsibility of the National Park Service, reflecting the fact that the National Heritage Areas already designated by Congress do not sunset. As introduced, H.R. 445 provides a sunset of the National Heritage Area System established by the bill twenty-five years after the date of enactment.

Second, we recommend amending the bill to clarify that the requirement for local coordinating entities to complete a management plan for a National Heritage Area would occur after an area has been designated by Congress, rather than prior to designation. This would be consistent with the requirements that are standard for the existing National Heritage Areas. The bill should include a process for the approval of management plans by the Secretary of the Interior, which is also a standard requirement for currently designated National Heritage Areas.

Third, we recommend including a requirement for evaluations of designated National Heritage Areas three years before their authorization of appropriations for heritage area program funding expires. These “three-year-out” reports, which have become a standard feature of National Heritage Area designation bills, are essential for helping the Department and Congress determine the future course of these areas.

Fourth, we recommend deleting the authorization of a specified amount of appropriations for conducting management plans. Under current practice, management plans are developed by local coordinating entities. They are reviewed by the National Park Service as part of its routine work in assisting National Heritage Areas. It is infeasible to separate out the cost to the National

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<sup>279</sup> H.R. 445, H.R. 1785, H.R. 4119, H.R. 4901, H.R. 4979, H.R. 5086, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609, Serial No. 113-84, 113th Cong. (July 29, 2014), 70–71.

<sup>280</sup> The 2004 hearings were on S. 2543. *National Heritage Areas*, S. Hrg. 108-692, 108th Cong. (June 24, 2004).

<sup>281</sup> H.R. 445, H.R. 1785, H.R. 4119, H.R. 4901, H.R. 4979, H.R. 5086, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609, Serial No. 113-84, 113th Cong. (July 29, 2014), 47.

Park Service of performing this work among the other technical assistance and guidance it provides to the areas.

Fifth, we recommend changes to the authorization levels for individual National Heritage Areas and for studies of potential National Heritage Areas. We support including in the bill a total authorization for each individual heritage area of \$10,000,000, to be made available over a period of fifteen years. We also support a higher authorization level for studies than the bill provides: \$750,000 as a total amount of funding, rather than \$300,000; and \$250,000 as a total amount for any single study, as opposed to \$100,000. And, we recommend including an authorization for a modest amount of funding on an ongoing basis to support long-term sustainability for designated National Heritage Areas that have reached the end of their eligibility period for receiving funds under the Heritage Partnership Program.<sup>282</sup>

These recommendations did not make it into the bill since the bill failed to move out of committee. However, amendments to NHA bills in future Congresses reflected these priorities.<sup>283</sup>

Other legislation specific to certain NHAs moved through committees during the 113th Congress.<sup>284</sup> As in other Congresses, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee attempted to combine NHA bills into a public lands omnibus bill.<sup>285</sup> This resulted in S. 2602, the reported version of which amended the original legislation to establish six new NHAs, extended authorities for several expiring NHAs, and made clarifying amendments to others.<sup>286</sup> S. 2602 was reported out of committee and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar but never considered on the Senate floor. Blanket de-funding legislation continued: another bill to prohibit

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<sup>282</sup> H.R. 445, H.R. 1785, H.R. 4119, H.R. 4901, H.R. 4979, H.R. 5086, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609, Serial No. 113-84, 113th Cong. (July 29, 2014), 52–3.

<sup>283</sup> Brenda Barrett, “NHA@30: Why Do we Need Program Legislation for National Heritage Areas?” *Living Landscape Observer*, July 30, 2014, <https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/nha30-program-legislation/>.

<sup>284</sup> The Senate of the 113th Congress held two subcommittee hearings on NHA bills: *Miscellaneous National Parks Bills: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate*, S. Hrg. 113-93, 113th Cong. (July 31, 2013); and *Current National Parks Bills*, S. Hrg. 113-493, 113th Cong. (July 23, 2014).

<sup>285</sup> National Archives Catalog, Record Group 79, Legislative Files, 114th Congress, 2015–2017, file “S. 2576, Maritime Washington NHA.”

<sup>286</sup> The bill would establish Appalachian Forest, Maritime Washington, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Susquehanna Gateway, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Alabama Black Belt NHAs; extend authorities for several expiring NHAs (from 2015 to 2030, which would amend P.L. 100-692, P.L. 104-333, P.L. 105-355, P.L. 106-278, P.L. 106-291, P.L. 106-319, P.L. 106-554); change the name of Blackstone River Valley NHA to include John H. Chafee; and change the name of Quinebaug and Shetucket to Last Green Valley NHC. National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2014, S. 2602 (reported in Senate), 113th Cong. (2014); and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Study Act, S. Rep. 113-300 (2014).

any federal funds or technical assistance from going to the NHA program or NHAs themselves was introduced by Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ), but the bill did not move.<sup>287</sup>

Other controversies, like private property rights, subsided—though did not disappear—during this period.<sup>288</sup> This was perhaps thanks to the sustained inclusion of private property protections in systemic NHA legislation. The evolving conversation around Yuma Crossing NHA is a useful case study in demonstrating this evolution. Back in 2003, the Yuma County Farm Bureau had protested when a city official denied a permit for a billboard on private land within the NHA boundaries. Although the NHA’s management plan focused efforts on a roughly five-square-mile area near downtown Yuma, the boundaries established by the designating legislation covered a larger area. Ensuing public meetings led to the amending of the Yuma Crossing NHA legislation to shrink its size, both to satisfy private property concerns and allow the NHA to better concentrate its energy and efforts. In addition to fully supporting the boundary change, staff at the Yuma Crossing NHA took initiative at a local level and “recommended that the city of Yuma and Yuma County pass resolutions clearly stating that no municipal regulation could rely on heritage area boundaries as a pretext for regulation.”<sup>289</sup> These efforts generated significant goodwill for the NHA within the local community.

In 2007, the report by The Heritage Foundation on NHAs referenced the controversy at Yuma Crossing as an example of how NHAs infringed on property rights.<sup>290</sup> But at a House Committee on Natural Resources hearings on July 29, 2014, several local entities responded specifically to The Heritage Foundation’s earlier critique when expressing their support for Yuma Crossing NHA.<sup>291</sup> The Yuma Chamber of Commerce wrote:

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<sup>287</sup> To prohibit the use of Federal funds and the provision of technical assistance for the Heritage Partnership Program and National Heritage Areas, H.R. 5371, 113th Cong. (2014).

<sup>288</sup> Concerns over private property rights did not completely disappear even with inclusion of private property protections in legislation designating individual NHAs and in systemic NHA legislation. For example, some state legislators and agricultural groups strongly opposed a proposed Big Sky County National Heritage Area in central Montana due to concerns over private property rights. State Representative Josh Kassmier, with the support of organizations like the Montana Stockgrowers Association, introduced H.B. 554 in February 2021. The bill required approval of the state legislature if the boundary of any proposed NHAs in Montana were to extend beyond federally owned land. The bill passed in the Montana Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Greg Gianforte on May 14, 2021. Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA), “MSGA Works to Bring Forward Significant Legislation; Aims to Protect Private Property Rights,” news release, February 26, 2021, <https://mtbeef.org/msga-works-to-bring-forward-significant-legislation-aims-to-protect-private-property-rights/>; MSGA, “MSGA Leads Effort to Protect Private Property Rights from National Heritage Area and Trail Designations,” news release, May 17, 2021, <https://mtbeef.org/msga-leads-effort-to-protect-private-property-rights-from-national-heritage-area-and-trail-designations/>.

<sup>289</sup> Eleanor Mahoney, “From skepticism to support: national heritage areas in the West,” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 88, no. 2 (2020): 131–132.

<sup>290</sup> Chumley and Utt, “National Heritage Areas,” Executive Summary.

<sup>291</sup> Entities that wrote to Congress in support of Yuma Crossing NHA included the Quechan Indian Tribe of the Ft. Yuma Reservation, the City of Yuma, the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, and the local coordinating entity for the heritage area. *H.R. 445, H.R. 1785, H.R. 4119, H.R. 4901, H.R. 4979, H.R. 5086, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609*, Serial No. 113-84, 113th Cong. (July 29, 2014), 88–94.



You will hear from some in Washington “think-tanks” (but not in Yuma) about certain as yet unspecified “threats of private property rights.” I cannot speak for all Heritage Areas, but here in Yuma, the Heritage Area has not only scrupulously respected private property rights but has also encouraged and facilitated significant private investment along the riverfront.<sup>292</sup>

The chair of the Yuma Crossing NHA Executive Committee, Patricia Ware, reiterated this local support, stating, “Ask anyone in Yuma about the Heritage Area, and you will find very strong support for the efforts to reclaim our riverfront on the Colorado River.”<sup>293</sup>

Also casting NHAs in a positive light were nine evaluations as required by P.L. 110-229 (2008). The NPS completed the evaluation for Essex NHA, and NPS commissioned the NPCA to facilitate the evaluations for the other eight. NPCA hired a firm called Westat to complete the evaluations.<sup>294</sup> Westat reviewed and made recommendations “with an eye towards the development of a standardized approach.”<sup>295</sup> The findings revealed that the nine NHAs had been successful in carrying out their missions.<sup>296</sup> The evaluations showed the NHAs demonstrated fiscal responsibility, preserved nationally significant resources, relied on public participation and partnerships, showed effective management, and provided lessons in working at a landscape scale. The Alliance summarized the results.

NHAs have adhered to their statutory mission, carried out the goals and objectives in their approved management plans, created new organizations for effective governance, and responsibly used appropriated funding. They have contributed to the sense of place and the economic well-being of local communities. Most importantly the NHAs have enriched our shared heritage by interpreting nationally significant stories, preserving historic landmarks in a cost-effective manner and offering recreational opportunities for people today and into the future.<sup>297</sup>

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<sup>292</sup> H.R. 445, H.R. 1785, H.R. 4119, H.R. 4901, H.R. 4979, H.R. 5086, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609, Serial No. 113-84, 113th Cong. (July 29, 2014) (statement of Ken Rosevear, Executive Director, Yuma County Chamber of Commerce), 94.

<sup>293</sup> H.R. 445, H.R. 1785, H.R. 4119, H.R. 4901, H.R. 4979, H.R. 5086, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609, Serial No. 113-84, 113th Cong. (July 29, 2014) (statement of Patricia Ware), 92.

<sup>294</sup> Brenda Barret, “National Heritage Areas: Evaluating Past Practices as a Foundation for the Future,” *Living Landscape Observer*, April 2013, <https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/national-heritage-areas-evaluating-past-practices-as-a-foundation-for-the-future>; and CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, June 9, 2011, 8.

<sup>295</sup> Brenda Barrett and Eleanor Mahoney, “National Heritage Areas: Learning from 30 Years of Working to Scale,” *The George Wright Forum* 33, no. 2 (2016): 166–167.

<sup>296</sup> C. Allen Sachse, Chair, Alliance of National Heritage Areas, Testimony submitted to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, April 10, 2013; and Allen Sachse, “#NHA30: Tales from the Towpaths,” *Living Landscape Observer*, June 1, 2014, <https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/nha30-theses-from-the-towpaths/>.

<sup>297</sup> Alliance for National Heritage Areas, “An Evaluation of 12 National Heritage Areas,” April 2014, [https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NHA\\_evaluation.pdf](https://livinglandscapeobserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NHA_evaluation.pdf).

Systemic NHA legislation would require the NPS to evaluate NHAs, but that had not yet become law, and only some NHAs had designating legislation that required evaluations (those established by P.L. 111-11 or amended by earlier legislation to require evaluations [P.L. 99-647 and P.L. 104-323, 104-333, and 99-647]). The NPS therefore developed an internal policy to attempt to evaluate an NHA before federal funding terminated.<sup>298</sup>

## 7.3 114th Congress: Building Momentum (2015–2016)

*(Republican majority in both the House and Senate, Democratic President)*

In the 114th Congress, Dent again introduced systemic NHA legislation (the National Heritage Area Act of 2015, H.R. 581), this time with forty-five cosponsors. This bill was substantively the same as H.R. 445 and H.R. 4099 from the previous Congresses, with the exception that the system would expire in ten years rather than twenty-five. The Obama Administration supported it, but some members of Congress continued to oppose creating a system.<sup>299</sup> Despite widespread support, H.R. 581 never made it out of committee.

From January to June 2015, bills to establish Susquehanna Gateway (PA), Appalachian Forest (MD, WV), Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (CA), Maritime Washington, Mountains to Sound Greenway (WA), and Santa Cruz Valley (AZ) NHAs were introduced. In 2016, legislators introduced bills to establish Bronzeville-Black Metropolis NHAs (IL) and expand Abraham Lincoln NHA (IL). The bills to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway and Maritime Washington NHAs were reported by the Senate, but that was the farthest any NHA-related legislation went in the process.<sup>300</sup>

The CRS offered a hypothesis on what accounted for the sustained lack of movement on individual NHA bills, suggesting it might have been the large number of NHAs passed in the 108th to 111th Congresses, or that members of Congress may have been influenced by the change in earmarking rules and protocols.<sup>301</sup> It also may have had to do with Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and his use of the Senate hold, mentioned earlier. Coburn objected to anything passing by Unanimous Consent if it had any explicit or implicit authorization of federal funding, which

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<sup>298</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, February 11, 2016, 6; and CRS, “Heritage Areas: Background, Proposals, and Current Issues,” RL33462, April 17, 2023, 9–10.

<sup>299</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, February 11, 2016, front matter.

<sup>300</sup> For more on Mountains to Sound Greenway legislation moving through Congress at this time, see Jon Hoekstra, interview by Jackie Gonzales, April 9, 2025.

<sup>301</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, February 11, 2016, 3.

held up most NPS-related bills.<sup>302</sup> Instead, NPS bills passed through public land packages that were tied to must-pass legislation, like appropriations bills or the annual National Defense Authorization Acts.<sup>303</sup>

Nonetheless, institutional and public support for NHAs as a model for cultural and natural resource conservation solidified in this era. Denis Galvin, now retired from his role as deputy director of the NPS, wrote that “National heritage areas have proved their worth and should be a permanent part of the federal conservation strategy. Seek legislation that makes federal involvement perpetual and, like wild and scenic rivers and national trails, funds them in ONPS” (the operating budget of the NPS, rather than through line-item congressional appropriations).<sup>304</sup> A CRS report on “National Park System Units Managed Through Partnerships” argued that NHAs were an “attractive” alternative to establishing new NPS units.

... Some in Congress are reluctant to add new units to the system, contending that the federal government’s land holdings are already too large and that budgetary resources would be better used to address problems in existing parks. Existing landholders, too, may have concerns about joining the park system, fearing a loss of control over their lands. In addition, there are procedural hurdles to establishing a new unit of the National Park System. Potential units typically undergo study to determine whether they meet explicit criteria for establishment and then must win congressional approval and funding. Even if successful, this process may take many years. For such reasons, it may be more attractive to legislators to enable the Park Service to assist in other ways—for instance, through the model of a national heritage area (a type of area established by Congress that is not under federal control but receives technical and financial assistance from NPS) or through grant programs such as the Historic Preservation Fund.<sup>305</sup>

The CRS report highlighted Cane River Creole NHA and Rivers of Steel NHA as two successful partnership-based models for protecting historical areas.<sup>306</sup>

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<sup>302</sup> Unanimous Consent is a widely used tool which allows passage of a bill if no Senator objects. See CRS, “How Unanimous Consent Agreements Regulate Senate Floor Action,” RS20594, March 2, 2022.

<sup>303</sup> Tom Coburn, “Holding Spending,” archived by the Oklahoma State University Library, [https://coburn.library.okstate.edu/issues/key\\_issue/holding\\_spending.html](https://coburn.library.okstate.edu/issues/key_issue/holding_spending.html); Steven S. Smith, “The Senate Syndrome,” *Issues in Governance Studies* (published by the Brookings Institution) 35 (June 2010): 1–30; Kuckro to the authors; and “Senate May End an Era of Cloakroom Anonymity,” *The New York Times*, August 2, 2007, <https://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/02/washington/02ethics.html>.

<sup>304</sup> Denis P. Galvin, “Second Sentence for a Second Century: Integrating the Mission of the National Park Service,” *The George Wright Forum* 33, no. 2 (2016): 129–135, here 134.

<sup>305</sup> CRS, “National Park System: Units Managed Through Partnerships,” R42125, April 5, 2016, 8.

<sup>306</sup> CRS, “National Park System,” R42125, April 5, 2016, 9.

## 7.4 115th Congress: Nothing Doing (2017–2018)

*(Republican majority in both the House and Senate, Republican President)*

There was little movement on NHA-related legislation in the 115th Congress. Rep. Dent again introduced a similar version of systemic NHA legislation, the National Heritage Area Act of 2017 (H.R. 1002), this time with sixty-two cosponsors.<sup>307</sup> But once again, there was no Senate companion bill. Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) took over sponsorship of the bill later that year, in anticipation of Dent’s resignation from Congress.<sup>308</sup> The bill never moved out of committee. Members introduced additional legislation to curtail NHAs, such as the End NHA Earmarking Act (H.R. 1768), introduced by Rep. Steve Russell (R-OK), “to provide that no additional Federal funds may be made available for National Heritage Areas.” That bill also failed to make it out of committee.<sup>309</sup>

Individual NHA bills continued to move through Congress. There was some movement on Susquehanna, Mountains to Sound Greenway, reauthorization of Oil Region, and authorization to conduct a feasibility study of a potential Finger Lakes NHA, but none of those made it into omnibus bills or passed on their own. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources cobbled together an omnibus bill to collect other NHA legislation that had been reported by the committee: the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017 (S. 713). The amended bill would establish four new NHAs, all with provisions that were by now fairly standard.<sup>310</sup> The National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017 was not taken up on the Senate floor before the 115th Congress came to an end.

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<sup>307</sup> National Heritage Area Act of 2017, H.R. 1002, 115th Cong. (2017); and FI&N Dispatch, “Congressman Dent Re-introduces Bill to Strengthen National Heritage Areas,” news release, February 22, 2017.

<sup>308</sup> On Dent’s decision to leave Congress, see Kyle Cheney and Elena Schneider, “Dent resigns, to leave Congress next month,” *Politico*, April 17, 2018, <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/17/charlie-dent-resigns-528605>; and Mike DeBonis, “Rep. Charlie Dent, outspoken GOP moderate, will not seek reelection,” *The Washington Post*, September 7, 2017, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/09/07/rep-charlie-dent-outspoken-gop-moderate-will-not-seek-reelection/>. McKinley later stepped into Dent’s role as Republican co-chair of the NHA Caucus. See Table 8.

<sup>309</sup> End NHA Earmarking Act, H.R. 1768, 115th Cong. (2017).

<sup>310</sup> The bill (originally called the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act) would establish Appalachian Forest, Maritime Washington, Mountains to Sound Greenway, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHAs, all with standard provisions (\$10 million ceiling, \$1 million per year, 50% non-federal matching funds, evaluation and report, section on private property and regulatory protections, management plan, and prohibition of the acquisition of real property). See Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017, S. Rep. 115-118 (2017); and National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017, S. 713 (reported in Senate), 115th Cong. (2017).

## 8. System Achieved: NHA System Legislation Enacted

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The 116th and 117th Congresses saw a proliferation of reauthorization bills because the terms of many NHAs were ending. In addition, there was a build-up of NHA-designating legislation after almost a decade of no new NHAs. The sheer volume of NHA-related legislation became burdensome for congressional committees and the NPS, eventually spurring support for new NHAs and a system-enabling bill. This led to NHA-related sections being included in the Dingell Act (P.L. 116-9) and the National Heritage Areas Act (P.L. 117-339). Below is the legislative history of these laws.

### 8.1 116th Congress: The Dingell Act (2019–2020)

*(Democratic majority in the House, Republican majority in the Senate, Republican President)*

With individual NHA legislation having been reported by the House and Senate in the previous Congress, there was a build-up of public lands legislation, including to create new or amend existing NHAs. To move reported legislation through Congress, Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) on January 8, 2019.<sup>311</sup> Senators made various amendments on the floor in early February, and on February 12, 2019, the Senate passed the bill and sent it to the House.<sup>312</sup> The House passed the legislation, renaming it the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.<sup>313</sup> On March 12, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed the Dingell Act into law (P.L. 116-9).<sup>314</sup>

The Dingell Act moved through Congress in a flurry but was built upon a decade of legislation that had worked its way through Congress. It included the first new NHAs since 2009. (See Table 9 for a summary of the Act's NHA-related provisions.) While the legislation did not create a system, the Dingell Act represented a watershed moment in the standardization of

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<sup>311</sup> Natural Resources Management Act, S. 47, 116th Cong. (2019). See Congress.gov entry for S. 47 for all procedural moves and amendments

<sup>312</sup> 165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265 (daily ed., February 12, 2019); 165 Cong. Rec. S1196 (daily ed., February 12, 2019).

<sup>313</sup> The House renamed the bill after Dingell because he had recently passed away and had been a champion of environmental and land conservation causes. 165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217 (daily ed., February 26, 2019). Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MN) offered a tribute to Dingell on the Senate floor the day that body passed S. 47: see 165 Cong. Rec. S1271–2 (daily ed., February 12, 2019). For the House roll call vote on S. 47, see 165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19 (daily ed., February 26, 2019).

<sup>314</sup> John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Pub. L. No. 116-9, 133 Stat. 580 (2019).

NHAs. For the first time, rather than each new NHA having separate sections in the bill with distinct designating language, the Dingell Act used standard language that applied to all of the NHAs created through the act and then listed the newly created NHAs.<sup>315</sup>

Table 9: NHA-Related Provisions in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (P.L. 116-9)<sup>316</sup>

**Designated six new NHAs** (for each NHA, the bill established a \$10 million cumulative budget cap, \$1 million annual cap, and sunset of federal funding in 15 years):

- Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area
- Maritime Washington National Heritage Area
- Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area
- Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area
- Susquehanna National Heritage Area

**Authorized study of a potential NHA:** Finger Lakes NHA

**Amended several existing NHAs:**

- Adjusted boundary of Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, to include Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County, and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County
- Authorized the change of the coordinating entity at Oil Region NHA from Oil Heritage Region, Inc. to Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism
- Renamed Hudson River Valley NHA the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley NHA

**Raised several total funding authorization ceilings:**

- Rivers of Steel (\$17 mil to \$20 mil)
- Essex (\$17 mil to \$20 mil)
- Ohio & Erie Canal NHC (\$17 mil to \$20 mil)
- Blue Ridge (\$12 mil to \$14 mil)
- MotorCities (\$10 mil to \$12 mil)
- Wheeling (\$13 mil to \$15 mil)

**Extended authorizations for several areas:**

- Blue Ridge (to 2021)
- Tennessee Civil War (to 2021)
- Augusta Canal (to 2021)
- South Carolina NHC (to 2021)<sup>317</sup>

<sup>315</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, 5–6; and Kuckro, interview by Jackie Gonzales.

<sup>316</sup> John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Pub. L. No. 116-9, 133 Stat. 580 (2019).

<sup>317</sup> John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Pub. L. No. 116-9, 133 Stat. 768–79 (2019); and CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, 7–8.

While the House debated the Dingell Act, Representatives Tonko, McKinley, and 220 other cosponsors (a total of 193 Dems and 28 Republicans) introduced the National Heritage Area Act of 2020 (H.R. 1049), to authorize an NHA system. It explicitly listed all NHAs that would be part of that system.<sup>318</sup>

Almost a year later, on January 16, 2020, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) and fourteen other cosponsors (thirteen Democrats, one Republican, one Independent) introduced the National Heritage Area Act (S. 3217), which was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources but proceeded no further.<sup>319</sup> S. 3217 and H.R. 1049 were not identical. One critical difference was that under H.R.1049, federal funding authorizations would expire in fifteen years, whereas S. 3217 permanently authorized federal funding to NHAs.<sup>320</sup>

H.R. 1049 was considered by the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. At these hearings, Trump administration officials in Interior testified to defer action on the bill. They opposed extension of funding authorities for existing NHAs in light of the NPS maintenance backlogs, and favored instead a model that would “transition funding for the heritage area program to the state, local, or private entities that manage heritage areas.”<sup>321</sup> Despite these concerns, the committee favorably reported the bill, by voice vote. On December 3, 2020, the House passed H.R. 1049 and sent it to the Senate. The Senate took no action on the bill.<sup>322</sup>

Although the Dingell Act had extended federal funding authorizations for some NHAs, many other expirations loomed. The NPS reported to Congress in 2020 that “authorizations for appropriations for thirty of the existing fifty-five NHAs are set to expire in 2021.”<sup>323</sup> Members of Congress continued to introduce individual bills to reauthorize NHAs and raise or eliminate cumulative funding caps.<sup>324</sup> But the “train wreck” approaching, as the Alliance characterized it, made managing a non-profit unpredictable and difficult for local coordinating entities, while also

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<sup>318</sup> National Heritage Area Act of 2019, H.R. 1049, 116th Cong. (2019). Party breakdown of cosponsors here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1049/cosponsors>.

<sup>319</sup> National Heritage Area Act, S. 3217, 116th Cong. (2020). Party breakdown of cosponsors here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3217/cosponsors>.

<sup>320</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, 8–9, 14.

<sup>321</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, 9.

<sup>322</sup> Committee on Natural Resources, National Heritage Area Act of 2020, H.R. Rep. 116-601 (2020); 166 Cong. Rec. H6092–96 (daily ed., December 3, 2020).

<sup>323</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, front matter, 12.

<sup>324</sup> Committee on Appropriations, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2020, S. Rep. 116-123 (2019); CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, August 20, 2020, front matter, 12.

creating confusion and extra workload for relevant congressional committees.<sup>325</sup> (See Figure 3.) The 116th Congress ended without any resolution on most expiring NHAs, but the Alliance worked closely with Congress to show members that there could be a different way.

## 8.2 117th Congress: The NHA Act (2021–2022)

*(Democratic majority in both the House and the Senate, Democratic President)*

With federal funding authorizations set to expire on thirty of the fifty-five NHAs, members of Congress introduced many individual bills to extend federal funding authorization dates. Representative Tonko introduced a revised systemic NHA bill, the National Heritage Area Act of 2021 (H.R. 1316). He secured 138 cosponsors for the bill, 123 Democrats and 15 Republicans. Provisions from Tonko’s bill were added into an attempted public lands omnibus bill in February 2021, the Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act (H.R. 803). The House passed that omnibus bill, but the Senate never took it up.<sup>326</sup>

On the Senate side, Senator Stabenow, Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO), and fifteen other cosponsors (ten Democrats, five Republicans, one Independent) introduced the National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) to “standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. Like Tonko’s bill, the introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.<sup>327</sup> In June, the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on H.R. 1316.<sup>328</sup>

While these bills moved through Congress, some NHAs hit those looming deadlines. To address this, members included provisions to temporarily extend federal funding authorizations in the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (H.R. 5305), a pandemic-era measure introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) on September 21, 2021. H.R. 5305 allowed Interior to continue providing financial assistance to heritage areas. Just over a week after it was introduced, on September 30, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed H.R. 5305 into law (P.L. 117-43).<sup>329</sup> This allowed Interior to continue providing financial assistance to heritage areas, as a temporary measure.

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<sup>325</sup> Miller and Streed, interview by Jackie Gonzales; and Sara Capen, interview by Jackie Gonzales, April 3, 2025.

<sup>326</sup> Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act, H.R. 803 (engrossed in House), 117th Cong. (2021); and 167 Cong. Rec. H737–61 (daily ed. February 26, 2021).

<sup>327</sup> National Heritage Area Act, S. 1942, 117th Cong. (2021). For cosponsors, see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1942/cosponsors>.

<sup>328</sup> There is no printed report or number for these hearings. Witness list and statements available here: <https://www.congress.gov/event/117th-congress/house-event/112765?s=3&r=21>.

<sup>329</sup> See Section 135 for provisions on NHAs. Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. No. 117-43, 135 Stat. 344 (2021); CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, April 17, 2023, 8–9.



# TRAIN WRECK AHEAD

## FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Between 2019 and 2024, 45 National Heritage Areas will need to seek individual reauthorization.  
There must be a better way....and there is.

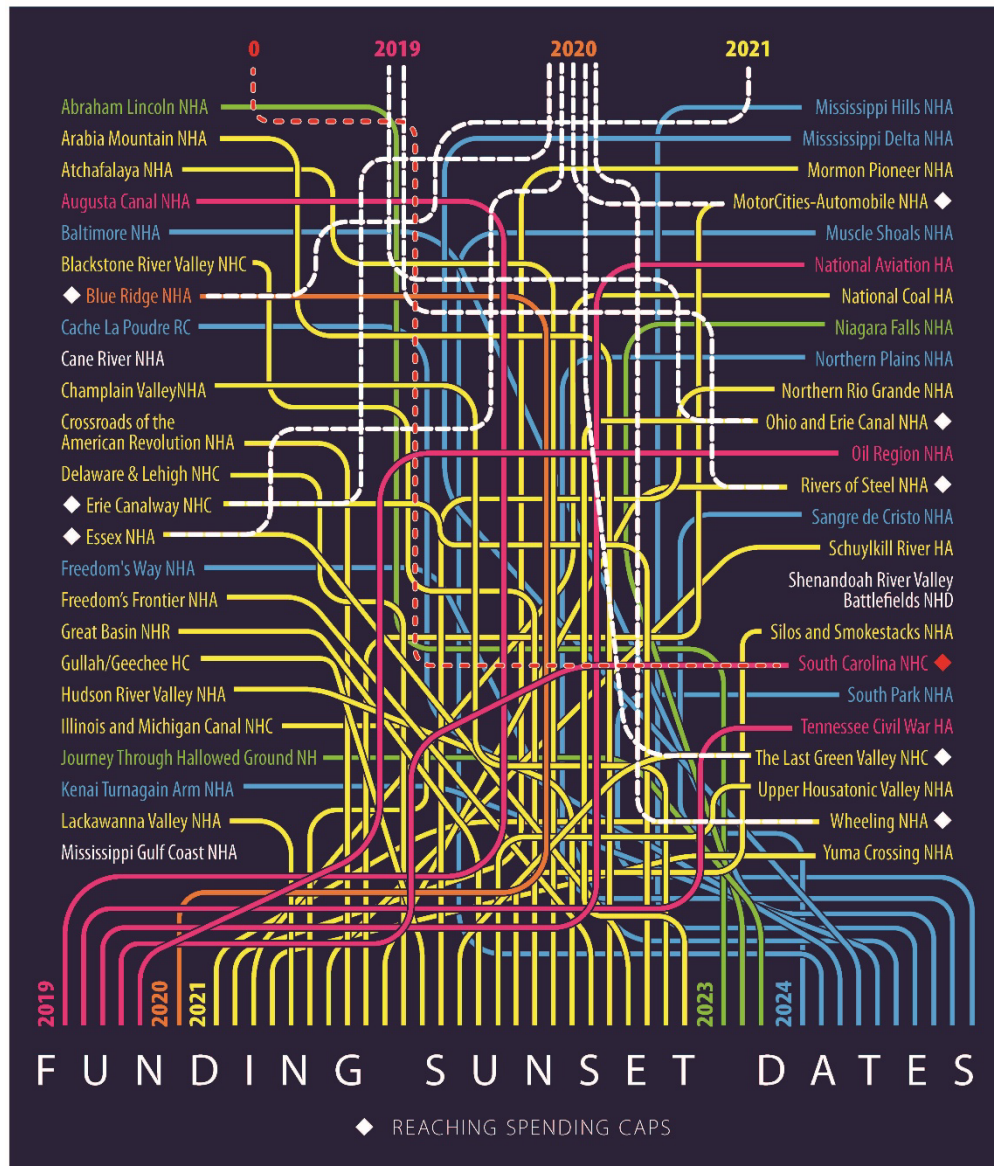


Figure 3: Graphic produced by the Alliance showing the "train wreck" of NHA reauthorizations approaching in Congress.

(Courtesy of Sara Capen, Niagara Falls NHA.)

On October 6, 2021, S. 1942 was among many bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks.<sup>330</sup> Sara Capen, chair of the Alliance, reminded Congress that S. 1942 could streamline a broken process.

I would also like to express my strong support for the other NHA-related bills the committee is considering today. However, as you will learn from my testimony, passage of the National Heritage Area Act of 2021 will negate the need to hold annual hearings like this one to consider a suite of non-controversial and widely supported bills that authorize the National Heritage Areas vital to the communities they serve.

While we are making progress, the fact remains that thirty National Heritage Areas are presently experiencing an unprecedented sunset crisis—a crisis that was merely delayed until December thanks to last week’s passage of the Continuing Resolution. Under our current legislative model, National Heritage Areas are subject to individual sunset clauses, after which they lose federal funding. For too long now, the lack of a long-term legislative solution has led to a challenging two-year cycle of reauthorizations that expends the time and energy of this Committee, Members of Congress, National Park Service, National Heritage Area boards and staff.

Most significant, this never-ending cycle of funding uncertainty takes away from the important work we do in communities across the country, as NHAs and their supporters in Congress spend valuable time and energy on reauthorization bills. As an example of the challenges NHAs face, there are currently twenty-three reauthorization bills in the House and another sixteen in the Senate all awaiting committee action. The National Heritage Area Act of 2021 (S. 1942) would solve this problem. This bipartisan legislation is vitally important to the stability of the fifty-five NHAs that exist within the program.<sup>331</sup>

The NPS supported the bill as a way to “foster stewardship of our nation’s heritage without creating new park units,” but recommended several amendments, including “clarifying the bill’s provisions for conducting feasibility studies, approving management plans, conducting evaluations, and carrying out other activities.” NPS also recommended deferring action on S. 511 (Bronzeville-Black Metropolis NHA), S. 825 (Southern Maryland NHA), and S. 1643 (Alabama Black Belt NHA) until feasibility studies have been completed.<sup>332</sup>

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<sup>330</sup> Pending Legislation: Hearings Before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee On Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, S. Hrg. 117-450, 117th Cong. (October 6, 2021).

<sup>331</sup> Testimony by Sara Capen, Chairwoman of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and Executive Director of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, October 6, 2021, <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/F7AAF69A-79AA-4F71-8DE9-E276EFE3609B>.

<sup>332</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, National Heritage Area Program, S. Rep. 117-156 (2022): 17–19.

Almost a year later on September 21, 2022, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 1942, with amendment.<sup>333</sup> It was the first time that an NHA system legislation and an omnibus bill to reauthorize, amend, and create NHAs had been combined into one. This made it easier to gain support for the bill, since many of the individual reauthorizations or amendments were based on legislation by members of either party who represented the specific NHAs that needed the legislation passed.<sup>334</sup> Those legislators would now support this broader bill. The amended S. 1942 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.

As the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress neared an end, David Brooks at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee called Capen and told her the NHA provisions were not going to be included in a recently crafted public lands package. This had been the clearest avenue to passing the bill, but one alternative was Stabenow's bill. Back in early December, Senator Stabenow's office had applied to make this bill a Unanimous Consent bill, on the off chance that it would not make its way into a public lands package. Now that reality had come to pass, and Stabenow's office found there were only two blocks on the Unanimous Consent application for S. 1942: Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Sen. John Bozeman (R-AR). Stabenow set out to try to convince the two Senators to remove their blocks on her bill. She was successful.<sup>335</sup>

On Tuesday, December 20, 2022, the Senate brought S. 1942 to the floor. Sen. Joe Manchin, III (D-WV), chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, proposed amending the bill with S. Amdt. 6587, the "Manchin Amendment," which inserted language from a committee original bill, S. 3435, into S. 1942.<sup>336</sup> S. 3435, called the National Heritage Area Authority Extension Act of 2021, had been introduced by Manchin the previous year and amalgamated the many NHA extensions that had gone through the committee. The Manchin Amendment replaced the committee-reported substitute and had much of the same language related to NHA reauthorizations, extensions, amendments, and some new designations. The Senate then passed S. 1942 by Unanimous Consent and sent it to the House.<sup>337</sup>

With everything finally in place, members of Congress were beginning to leave town for the holidays. There would need to be a House Rules Committee meeting to waive the rule that the bill would need to pass with two-thirds majority. This seemed unlikely, but the NHA Caucus members and the Alliance pushed for this option. On Wednesday, the House Rules Committee

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<sup>333</sup> Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, S. Rep. 117-156.

<sup>334</sup> Capen, interview by Jackie Gonzales.

<sup>335</sup> Capen, interview by Jackie Gonzales.

<sup>336</sup> S. 3435 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. For S. Amdt. 6587, see 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81 (daily ed., December 20, 2022).

<sup>337</sup> 168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18 (daily ed. December 20, 2022).

held an emergency meeting and allowed the change that would allow the bill to pass with a simple majority.<sup>338</sup>

With the rule changed, S. 1942 came to the House floor on Thursday, December 22, 2022. During testimony on the bill, Tonko reminded Congress that the inconsistency on NHAs created a serious legislative burden, and that this legislation would fix that problem.

Despite broad, bipartisan support and continued interest in the areas from communities, these sites have faced inconsistent treatment before Congress. There is no standardized programmatic system of administration for our heritage areas, which has required each area to pursue individual funding extensions and reauthorizations, often with last-minute congressional action.

Heritage areas have been made to function over the past few years through multiple short-term stopgap reauthorizations while Congress has failed to provide long-term certainty. We cannot let that continue into next year as some forty-five of our fifty-five areas face expiration dates during the upcoming 118th Congress.

For years, I have worked alongside my colleagues in the House and passionate partners from local heritage areas to pass the bipartisan National Heritage Area Act, beginning with the efforts of our former colleague, Representative Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania.

That effort has continued to grow as more and more Members have begun to understand the rich value that heritage areas play in their given districts.

H.R. 1316, the House companion to the bill we are considering today, was introduced with Congressmen David McKinley, Glenn Thompson, and 135 other Members, and it has already passed the House this Congress as part of the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act. In the 116th Congress, it was passed as a suspension.

This bill is not controversial. It has widespread support. Importantly, it will finally bring stability and, very importantly, predictability to these sites, allowing them to continue to serve their communities and strengthen surrounding economies with minimal Federal support.

The National Heritage Area Act would end the current system of piecemeal reauthorizations through a fifteen-year authorization of all existing areas; it would establish the first-ever standardized criteria for designating new heritage areas; it would include new study authorizations and designations, most of which have already passed the House on suspension; and, finally, it would ensure that private property rights are never affected by heritage area activities.

National Heritage Areas are an incredibly popular, bipartisan way of preserving American history and culture while supporting local economies, creating a deeply

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<sup>338</sup> House Committee on Rules, "Meeting Announcement for H.R. 9640 and S. 1942," last updated January 19, 2023, <https://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-9640-and-s-1942>.

rooted sense of destination. Congress now has the opportunity to ensure these sites can be enjoyed for generations to come by finally making our National Heritage Area Act law.<sup>339</sup>

Tonko specifically thanked Sara Capen at the Alliance; Alan Spears of NPCA; and House Committee on Natural Resources Chair Raúl Grijalva (D-NM), Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and committee staff.<sup>340</sup>

Many other legislators spoke in support of the bill. Representative Westerman criticized omnibus bills but expressed his support for the bill and said that it “should have been done a long time ago.”<sup>341</sup> Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV) called it “bipartisan, bicameral legislation” that was “critical for our rural landscapes.” Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) also spoke “in strong support of S. 1942,” arguing that the legislation “will provide increased certainty” to NHAs and that “this bipartisan legislation is long overdue.” Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA), a resident of Northern Neck, spoke in support of the bill, as did Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD). Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) expressed her support, noting that there were fifty-five NHAs but “no standardized process for administering” them, which “has led to inconsistent oversight and management, as well as uncertainty for the future of these sites and future sites.”<sup>342</sup>

By the time of these debates, some previous opponents of NHAs had come around to the idea. For example, Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT), who led the opposition to NHAs in the late 2000s, agreed to fifteen-year reauthorizations of NHAs in 2022. His evolution in thinking had to do with his affinity for Great Basin NHA, part of which was in his district, and a site within it called Topaz, where the US government had incarcerated people of Japanese descent, many of whom were American citizens, during World War II. Bishop had seen the work occurring at Topaz and in the area and became supportive of the concept of NHAs.<sup>343</sup>

Following the robust floor debate, the House passed the National Heritage Area Act resoundingly, with 326 yeas (217 D, 109 R), 95 nays (0 D, 95 R), and 9 not voting (0 D, 9R).<sup>344</sup> In the end, they did not need the rule change after all; the bill passed with a two-thirds majority. On January 5, 2023, President Biden signed S. 1942 into law (P.L. 117-339). The law defined an NHA and created an NHA System, the “first comprehensive statute outlining formal criteria for

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<sup>339</sup> 168 Cong. Rec. H10007 (daily ed. December 22, 2022) (statement of Paul D. Tonko).

<sup>340</sup> Tonko mentioned “David Watkins, Brandon Bragato, Henry Wykowski, and Lora Snyder of the House Natural Resources majority staff, and indeed, Miranda Miller and Emily Silverberg from my office.” 168 Cong. Rec. H10007–8 (daily ed. December 22, 2022) (statement of Paul D. Tonko).

<sup>341</sup> 168 Cong. Rec. H10007–8 (statement of Bruce Westerman).

<sup>342</sup> 168 Cong. Rec. H10007–9 (daily ed. December 22, 2022).

<sup>343</sup> “Topaz Museum—a Poignant Reminder,” in Alliance for National Heritage Areas, “Connecting the Heart and Soul of American Communities,” 2017; and Capen, interview by Jackie Gonzales.

<sup>344</sup> Roll Call No. 540, 168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31 (December 22, 2022). Also available at Office of the Clerk. U.S. House of Representatives. Roll Call 540 (December 22, 2022). <https://clerk.house.gov/evs/2022/roll540.xml>.

designating NHAs and providing uniform standards for their funding and management.”<sup>345</sup> The NHA Act established through legislation a mutually beneficial relationship between other NPS units and their local NHAs. The NHA System was tied to carrying out the overall mission of the NPS, formalizing through legislation the idea outlined in Director Jarvis’s 2012 policy memo that places like NHAs “form a vital part of the NPS mission and help sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout America.”<sup>346</sup> Members of Congress, NPS staff, and NHAs celebrated enactment of the NHA Act (Figure 4).<sup>347</sup>



Figure 4: NPS staff, including Director Chuck Sams, and NHA members celebrate the passage of the NHA Act with the unveiling of a new system graphic.

(Courtesy of National Park Service, National Heritage Areas Program.)

<sup>345</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, April 17, 2023, 1.

<sup>346</sup> Jarvis, “National Heritage Areas Program,” March 14, 2012.

<sup>347</sup> FI&N Dispatch, “Warner & Kaine Applaud Signing of Legislation to Protect the Great Dismal Swamp,” News release, January 6, 2023, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2761673150>; FI&N Dispatch, “President Signs Legislation to Reauthorize National Heritage Areas in Massachusetts,” News release, January 6, 2023, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2761672898>; FI&N Dispatch, “Tuberville, Shelby Bills to Support Alabama’s National Heritage Areas Signed into Law,” News release, January 6, 2023, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2761673082>; and FI&N Dispatch, “National Heritage Act, Supported by Higgins, Signed into Law,” News release, January 6, 2023, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2761668725>.



After three decades of failed attempts to pass an NHA System bill, what made this time different? As the legislation was being debated, the bill’s sponsors knew that House leadership would be changing in the next Congress. This provided incentive to advance the bill before the change. While NHAs had bipartisan support, as the vote above shows, the opposition that did exist came from Republican members. Several other public lands bills passed as part of this push. This combined with the expiration date “train wreck” and the increasing legislative burden to address that, created urgency among enough members to get the bill passed.<sup>348</sup>

The NHA Act also made changes to individual NHAs. It created seven new NHAs, authorized studies of three potential NHAs, increased cumulative funding caps for eleven NHAs, and redesignated two. Forty-five NHAs received funding authorization extensions to 2037, which meant nearly all NHAs now had over a decade before they had to ask Congress for more time (see Table 10). This brought a degree of stability—at least legislatively—and a level of standardization to funding reauthorizations, taking pressure off of local coordinating entities (who could plan further in advance) and congressional committees (who could avoid juggling dozens of reauthorization bills every Congress).

In creating a system, the law created standardized provisions for all NHAs. To do this, it included several conforming amendments to clarify discrepancies between earlier legislation and this system bill, although some confusion remained over things like cumulative caps and management plans.<sup>349</sup> Provisions on private property rights and the relationship to NPS now applied across the entire NHA System.<sup>350</sup> Evaluation language was standardized, and shifted from mandatory to optional, stating that the Secretary “may” evaluate areas, rather than the “shall” language of evaluations clauses that went back to P.L. 110-229 (2008). Provisions on studies to determine the suitability and feasibility of a potential NHA were also standardized, under Section § 120103.

The law did not include a section on management plans. This meant there were no standardized management plan requirements, in the way the law standardized other requirements. It gave the newly established NHAs three years to complete their plans and pointed to the Dingell Act for broader management plan requirements. At the same time, it extended from three to five years the time allowed to complete management plans for the NHAs established by the Dingell Act of 2019.<sup>351</sup> The law’s silence on management plans means that future congressional action to revise the NHA System would require amending, at the very least,

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<sup>348</sup> Kuckro, interview by Jackie Gonzales; and Augie Carlino, interview by Lindsey Weaver, March 31, 2025.

<sup>349</sup> The system bill removed cumulative funding limits but also increased funding limits for certain NHAs by specific amounts. This led to the NPS and the Alliance interpreting the bill differently for a brief period.

<sup>350</sup> CRS, “Heritage Areas,” RL33462, April 17, 2023, 7.

<sup>351</sup> The extension was in part because Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA had not yet submitted and it was already past the three-year-mark. The other five NHAs established through the Dingell Act had already submitted their management plans. National Heritage Area Act, Pub. L. No. 117-339, 136 Stat. 6158 (2023).

both the NHA System Act and the Dingell Act to ensure that uniform management plan requirements apply to all NHAs.

Table 10: Provisions in the National Heritage Area Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-339)<sup>352</sup>

**Created an NHA System**, "To recognize certain areas of the United States that tell nationally significant stories and to conserve, enhance, and interpret those nationally significant stories and the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources of areas that illustrate significant aspects of the heritage of the United States."

**Authorized studies of three potential NHAs:**

- Great Dismal Swamp NHA (VA, NC)
- Guam NHA
- Kaena Point NHA (HI)

**Amended the Dingell Act (P.L. 116-9) to establish seven new NHAs:**

- Alabama Black Belt NHA (AL)
- Bronzeville-Black Metropolis NHA (IL)
- Downeast Maine NHA (ME)
- Northern Neck NHA (VA)
- St. Croix NHA (USVI)
- Southern Campaign of the Revolution NHC (NC, SC)
- Southern Maryland NHA (MD)

**Extended authorizations for forty-five NHAs until 2037** (see legislation for complete list).

**Increased appropriations authorizations by \$2 million for eleven NHAs:**

- Silos & Smokestacks (IA)
- Blue Ridge NHA (NC)
- Essex NHA (MA)
- Lackawanna Valley NHA (PA)
- Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley NHA (NY)
- MotorCities NHA (MI)
- Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway (OH)
- Rivers of Steel NHA (PA)
- South Carolina NHC
- The Last Green Valley NHC (CT, MA)
- Wheeling NHA (WV)

**Redesignated two existing heritage areas:**

- America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership renamed Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area
- Great Basin National Heritage Route renamed Great Basin National Heritage Area

**Expanded the boundaries of the Baltimore NHA (MD).**

**Extended from three years to five the deadline for some management plans included in the Dingell Act.**

<sup>352</sup> National Heritage Area Act, Pub. L. No. 117-339, 136 Stat. 6158 (2023).



Despite some shortcomings, the law’s enactment represented a new era in NHAs. Brenda Barrett and Eleanor Mahoney, who had long been involved in NHAs (working both for the NPS and partners), summarized just how momentous this law was.

Congress first considered a bill to establish an NHA system in the early 1990s. It would take thirty years and dozens of attempts before legislation finally succeeded in passing both houses of Congress and gaining an executive signature—as noted at the beginning of this introductory essay. This achievement was owed, in large part, to the tenacious activism of grassroots NHA supporters, but also necessitated the support of NPS champions and elected officials. In this, it typifies many efforts at truly collaborative landscape conservation. Community members, advocates, bureaucrats, politicians, and others come together to discuss, debate, and plan how best to protect and, if appropriate, interpret the places they cherish. Politics is often at the center of this work, but so too are partnership and exchange. . . . Conservation of living landscapes is coming of age, its maturity marked by savvy political acumen, sensitivity in partnership and exchange, and flourishing creativity. What comes next? We can’t wait to find out.<sup>353</sup>

At a ceremony celebrating its passage, NPS Director Chuck Sams recognized the importance the NHA Act, saying “[it] formalizes the relationship between the National Park Service and National Heritage Areas and will further paint America’s heritage landscape beyond the canvas of national parks.”<sup>354</sup> The NHA Act marked the first time the NPS had a congressionally authorized task to create an NHA System and manage it based on standard conditions and guidelines.

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<sup>353</sup> Eleanor Mahoney and Brenda Barrett, “Living landscape conservation is coming of age,” *Parks Stewardship Forum* 40, no. 3 (2024): 508–509.

<sup>354</sup> National Park Service, “NPS celebrates landmark National Heritage Area Act legislation with National Heritage Areas,” news release, February 8, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/nps-celebrates-landmark-national-heritage-area-act-legislation-with-national-heritage-areas.htm>.

## 9. Conclusion

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Congress designated fifty-five NHAs before creating an NHA System in 2023. The first NHAs developed in an ad hoc manner and the designating legislation reflected their unique situations. Over time, some standards and best practices emerged that helped shape how Congress designated NHAs. But for decades no single piece of legislation defined these areas. This topsy turvy legislative history caused decades of confusion, but it also allowed the uniqueness of each area to in turn shape the definition of an NHA. As private property concerns arose, provisions to protect them became ensconced in future NHA legislation. As funding concerns grew more specific, so, too, did appropriating provisions in designating legislation. When the NPS needed to better understand how to fit management of NHAs in with management of NPS units, Congress included NPS-suggested language clarifying relationships between NHAs and NPS units into new laws.

Even after the watershed moment of Congress creating an NHA System, some questions remain unresolved. Will NHAs receive federal funding indefinitely? How many NHAs are too many? Is there room for unique formulations within the newly defined NHA System? These questions will be decided by future Congresses.

In heritage areas, the NPS is not the main character, but instead “plays a coordinating or catalyzing role within land stewardship, planning, preservation, interpretive, and economic development efforts, as well as often conferring a sense of legitimacy and significance relating to the area’s history.”<sup>355</sup> This grassroots-led, partnership-based model represented a new approach to cultural and natural resource conservation in the 1980s. Adaptable and evolving legislation for these areas exhibits how local needs have changed over the past four decades, from dealing with deindustrialization to addressing shrinking agricultural resources. Heritage areas tell the recent stories of Americans and their communities. The legislation creating these areas is a window into the challenges local communities face and the solutions they have collaboratively worked to identify and strive towards.

The stories of NHAs are as unique as the history and landscapes they preserve. This report tells one part of the story, the legislative, but there are many more topics and questions related to NHAs that merit further exploration. Table 11 presents a list of some of these avenues for future research. These ideas are just a beginning; there are many questions remaining to be asked and answered.

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<sup>355</sup> Cathy Stanton, Review of John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (Jan Reitsma, Executive Director, Michael Cassidy, Chair, Heritage Corridor Commission), *The Public Historian* 31, no. 4 (Fall 2009): 115.

**Table 11: Topics for Future Research**

**Individual NHAs**

Each NHA merits closer attention to its own legislative and administrative history. During our research, however, questions related to a few specific NHAs stood out:

- Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District: This area has a unique status in relation to other NHAs. As early as 1997, NPS did not consider Shenandoah a heritage area but it did get some funding through the Heritage Partnership Program. What led to this unique relationship?
- Path of Progress: The authority for the Heritage Preservation Committee sunsetted and was not reauthorized, the only NHA to not be reauthorized to date. Why was that the case for this specific NHA? What makes it different from others?
- New Jersey Coastal Trail: This area was sometimes included with NHAs in Congressional hearings but does not currently receive funding through NHA programs. What was the original legislative intent and how did that influence how it was and is administered?

**System-Wide Topics**

- How state-level heritage area programs, like those in New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, influenced the national program and vice versa. Future research on this question could build on the research and oral histories cited in this report.
- Increasing western trend in new NHAs.
- How regional, grassroots movements influenced national NHA movement.
- How the definition of the NPS-NHA relationship outlined by the I&M Canal designation legislation shifted over time.
- Evolution of private property protections in NHA legislation, within the context of broader property rights debates in federal land conservation.

**NHA Administration**

- More research could be done related to appropriations legislation impacting NHAs and the Heritage Partnership Program Funding. What were the trends in appropriations over time?
- Designating legislation for NHAs has always included a sunset date. Where and how did this idea for temporary funding develop?
- How did the requirement for federal matching funds develop within the larger context of shifts occurring within the federal government?
- After Congress started requiring NHA evaluations, how did their purpose and usefulness evolve over time?

NHAs began in an era of aversion to federal spending—“national parks on a shoestring,” as they were once called.<sup>356</sup> And yet they have also been attacked in subsequent eras as an example of wasteful government spending. That this debate plays out in the halls of Congress is evidence of the extraordinary feelings that our local heritage stirs within American citizens. For the last four decades, Congress has attempted to define and redefine what an NHA is to fit with the changing times. NHAs reflect our heritage and our current struggles. That is one thing that is unlikely to change.

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<sup>356</sup> Wiedrich, “A National Park for Illinois?”

# Appendix A. Chronology of Individual NHA Designations (listed alphabetically)

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## Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

**State(s):**

- Illinois

**Designation Date:**

- May 8, 2008 (Public Law 110-229)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- November 20, 2003: Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 3553) introduced by Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from the Department of the Interior (DOI). No further actions on bill.
- November 24, 2003: Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act (S. 1941) introduced by Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- March 9, 2005: Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1192) introduced by Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- April 28, 2005: Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act (S. 973) introduced by Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S4589–90). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- March 21, 2007: Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1625) introduced by Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- June 14, 2007: Subcommittee hearings held on (no report number for hearings). No further actions on bill.
- March 21, 2007: Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Act (S. 955) introduced by Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- June 14, 2007: House Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on H.R. 1625 (hearing not numbered or printed).
- July 12, 2007: Hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources considered S. 955 (S. Hrg. 110-158).
- September 17, 2007: S.955 reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 110-177).

- October 17, 2007: Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007 (S. 2180, an omnibus natural resources bill), which included a provision for the establishment of Abraham Lincoln NHA, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Unanimously postponed by the Senate.
- October 18, 2007: Authorization of Abraham Lincoln NHA included in amended version of the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 110-388).
- October 24, 2007: The Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) passed by the House, by roll call vote (153 Cong. Rec. H11940–65) and received in the Senate the following day.
- March 10, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739, an omnibus bill that included authorization of Abraham Lincoln NHA as laid out in S. 955 and H.R. 1625) was introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). The following day, the bill was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.
- April 10, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739) debated on the Senate floor. Various amendments proposed and adopted or not agreed to. Passed Senate by roll call vote. Received in the House the same day.
- April 29, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739) debated on the House floor. Passed House by roll call vote.
- May 8, 2008: President George W. Bush signed into law the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (P.L. 110-229).
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Natural Resources reported out the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), amended it to remove Abraham Lincoln NHA designation, in light of the signing into law of P.L. 110-229.
- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9), which amended the boundary of Abraham Lincoln NHA.

## Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Alabama

### **Designation Date:**

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- December 16, 2009: Senators Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Jeff Sessions (R-AL) introduced a bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (S. 2892).
- December 16, 2009: Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL) introduced a bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (H.R. 4345).
- August 5, 2010: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2892, with amendment (S. Rep. 111-265).

- May 7, 2013: Senators Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Jeff Sessions (R-AL) introduced a bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (S. 869).
- June 4, 2013: Rep. Terri A. Sewell (D-AL) introduced a bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (H.R. 2254).
- February 27, 2020: Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) introduced a bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (S. 3363).
- February 27, 2020: Rep. Terri A. Sewell (D-AL) introduced a bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (H.R. 5989).
- May 13, 2021: A bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (S. 1643) introduced by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL).
- May 13, 2021: A bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area (H.R. 3222) introduced by Rep. Terri A. Sewell (D-AL).
- October 13, 2021: House Committee on Natural Resources considered and held a mark-up session on multiple bills, including H.R. 3222. The Committee reported the bill, with amendments.
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.
- October 6, 2021: S. 1643 among many bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- July 14, 2022: House Committee on Natural Resources reported H.R. 3222 favorably, with amendment (H.R. Rep. 117-411).
- July 18, 2022: Discussion of H.R. 3222 on House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H6691–93).
- July 19, 2022: House passed H.R. 3222 under suspension of the rules. Referred to Senate.
- July 20, 2022: H.R. 3222 received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (amended bill included provisions from S. 1643 to establish the Alabama Black Belt NHA (S. Rep. 117-156). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor. The amended bill (see Amdt. 6587 at 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81) passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1925 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

# Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- Maryland, West Virginia

## **Designation Date:**

- March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- November 4, 2013: Sen. John D. Rockefeller (D-WV) introduced the West Virginia National Heritage Area Act of 2013 (S. 1641).
- December 10, 2014: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources amended and reported favorably S. 2602. Amended version titled the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2014 and included the establishment of Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (language similar to S. 1641).
- February 3, 2015: A bill to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (H.R. 693) introduced by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV).
- July 12, 2016: A bill to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (S. 3167) introduced by Sen. Joseph Manchin (D-WV).
- February 15, 2017: A bill to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (S. 401) introduced by Sen. Joseph Manchin (D-WV).
- June 26, 2017: Senate reported favorably, with amendment, the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017 (S. 713) (amended version included authorization of Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area).
- June 29, 2017: A bill to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area (H.R. 3142) introduced by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV). Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources but never considered.
- January 8, 2019: Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), which contained a provision to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area. The bill was placed on the Senate Calendar the following day.
- February 11, 2019: Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area Act of 2019 (H.R. 1147) introduced in House by Rep. David B. McKinley (R-WV).
- February 7, 11, and 12, 2019: multiple amendments made to S. 47 on Senate floor.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the Senate floor (165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265).
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) passed the Senate (165 Cong. Rec. S1196).
- February 26, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the House floor (165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217). House passed the Natural Resources Management



Act (S. 47) by roll call vote (165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19) and amended it to be referred to as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9).

## Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Georgia

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 3, 2001: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act of 2001 (S. 679) introduced by Sen. Max Cleland (D-GA) (introductory remarks at 147 Cong. Rec. S3343–44). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- April 26, 2001: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act of 2001 (H.R. 1621) introduced by Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- October 10, 2001: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act of 2001 (S. 1526) introduced by Sen. Cleland. Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- November 6, 2001: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 3237) introduced by Rep. McKinney. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- April 18, 2002: S. 1526 considered at a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, alongside other NHA bills (S. Hrg. 107-642).
- July 31, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources incorporated provisions of S. 1526 into an amendment to H.R. 695 (which previously had language establishing only Oil Region National Heritage Area). Bill now referred to as the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002. Favorably reported.
- November 20, 2002: Senate passed Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 695) by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Never brought to the House floor.
- April 3, 2003: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1618) introduced by Rep. McKinney. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI.
- September 16, 2003, and October 16, 2003: H.R. 1618 considered at Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands hearings.

- October 17, 2003: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act of 2001 (S. 1752) introduced by Sen. Cleland (D-GA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 21, 2003: H.R. 1618 considered at Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands Consideration and Mark-up Session.
- November 17, 2003: H.R. 1618 reported favorably by the Committee on Resources on (H.R. Rep. 108-362). Placed on House calendar, never brought to the floor.
- November 18, 2003: The House passed H.R. 280 (the National Aviation Heritage Area Act) by voice vote, with amendments, including language to establish Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (149 Cong. Rec. H11448–59). The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration, where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 7, 2004: House passed amended S. 211 (originally to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA, but now including many provisions, among them the establishment of the Arabia Mountain NHA). Senate never brought bill to the floor.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine and study of four national heritage areas, including Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- January 26, 2005: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act of 2001 (S. 200) introduced by Sen. Saxby Chambliss (D-GA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- February 16, 2005: S. 200 reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 109-3).
- May 4, 2005: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 2099) introduced by Rep. McKinney. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.
- May 11, 2005: Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 2297) introduced by Rep. McKinney. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish Arabia Mountain NHA (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- December 18-19, 2005: H.R. 2099 discharged by Committee on Resources. Debated and amended on House floor. Amended H.R. 2099 passed the House (151 Cong. Rec. H12218–24). Sent to Senate, never brought to Senate floor.
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).

- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

## Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Louisiana

### Designation Date:

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- September 3, 2002: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act (S. 2899) introduced by Sen. Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- October 8, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2899, with amendment (no written or numbered report). Placed on Senate legislative calendar, never brought to floor.
- November 20, 2002: Senate amended Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 695) to include a provision to establish Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (SA4970, 148 Cong. Rec. S11580–88). Senate passed amended H.R. 695 by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Never brought to the House floor.
- February 5, 2003: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act (S. 323) introduced by Sen. Landrieu (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S2010–13). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- July 7, 2004: S. 323 reported favorably by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 108-294).
- September 15, 2004: S. 323 debated on Senate floor, amended. Passed Senate by Unanimous Consent. Sent to the House, referred to the Committee on Resources and then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- October 8, 2004: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 5348) introduced by Rep. W. J. (Billy) Tauzin (R-LA). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine and study of four national heritage areas, including Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.

- January 31, 2005: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act (S. 204) introduced by Sen. Landrieu (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S649–52). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- February 2, 2005: Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 522) introduced by Rep. Richard H. Baker (R-LA) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. E156). Referred to House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- February 16, 2005: S. 204 favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 109-5).
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish Atchafalaya NHA (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).
- December 23, 2024: An Act to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 118-177).

## Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Georgia

### Designation Date:

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- August 6, 1993: Rep. Don Johnson (R-GA) introduced H.R. 2949, “To establish the Augusta Canal National Heritage Corridor in the State of Georgia.” The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- March 8, 1994: Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-GA) introduced S. 1899, to establish the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Public Lands of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken.
- June 28, 1994: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held hearings on H.R. 2949 and other bills relating to proposed heritage areas (Serial No. 103-107).

- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the Augusta Canal American Heritage Area (based on H.R. 2949).
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on the House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- July 10, 1995: Sen. Coverdell introduced S. 1020, “A bill to establish the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in the State of Georgia.” On the same day, Rep. Charles W. Norwood (R-GA) introduced a similar bill, H.R. 1999, in the House of Representatives.
- July 11, 1995: S. 1020 was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- July 13, 1995: H.R. 1999 was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 7, 1995: Hearings on H.R. 1999 held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources (no printed hearings located).
- December 12, 1995: Hearings on S. 1020 held by the Subcommittee on Parks, Preservation and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 104-432). No further action on bill.
- September 28, 1996: Language from H.R. 1999 included in H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32) The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 passed the Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–59).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

## Baltimore National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Maryland

### **Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- February 7, 2008: A bill to establish the Baltimore National Heritage Area (S. 2604) by Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD). Referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.

- February 7, 2008: A bill to establish the Baltimore National Heritage Area (H.R. 5279) introduced by Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD-7). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- April 23, 2008: S. 2604 considered at a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-514).
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2604, with amendment. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Baltimore National Heritage Area (text from S. 2604) included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8005 would establish Baltimore NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Baltimore NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Baltimore NHA.
- January 5, 2023: The National Heritage Area Act was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339), expanding the boundary of Baltimore NHA.

# Blue Ridge National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- North Carolina

## **Designation Date:**

- November 11, 2003 (Public Law 108-108)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 18, 2002: Rep. Charles H. Taylor (R-NC) introduced H.R. 4530, the Blue Ridge Heritage and Cultural Partnership Area Study Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- June 13, 2002: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 4530. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- July 18, 2002: Rep. Taylor introduced H.R. 5168, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 12, 2002: The House Committee on Resources considered and held markup on H.R. 5168. Members voted not to report the bill by vote of 12 yeas to 20 nays. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- September 13, 2002: Sen. John Edwards (D-NC) introduced S. 2937, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- October 4, 2002: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 2937 favorably, with amendments. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- November 19, 2002: Language to establish the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area was included in Senate Amendment 4970 to H.R. 695, the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act. The amendment was introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) for Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (148 Cong. Rec. S11580–88). This amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to and the legislation passed the Senate (148 Cong. Rec. S11623–33). No further action was taken on the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act.
- April 10, 2003: Rep. Taylor introduced H.R. 1759, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- April 29, 2003: Sen. Edwards introduced S. 941, the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- July 10, 2003: Language to establish the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area was included in H.R. 2691, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004.
- July 16-17, 2003: The House debated H.R. 2691 and passed it on July 17 by a vote of 268 yeas to 152 nays, with amendments (149 Cong. Rec. H6950–84).

- September 17-18, 22-23, 2003: The Senate considered H.R. 2691, passing the legislation by voice vote, with amendment in the nature of a substitute (149 Cong. Rec. S12004–22). The Senate amendment eliminated the provision to establish Blue Ridge NHA. The Senate appointed conferees as the bill proceeded to the House for reconsideration.
- October 1, 2003: The House did not agree to the Senate amendment and appointed conferees to the joint conference committee (149 Cong. Rec. H9061).
- October 28, 2003: The joint conference committee released a report with a new amendment agreed to by representatives of both houses (H.R. Rep. 108-330).
- October 30, 2003: The House considered the conference report on H.R. 2691 and agreed by a vote of 216 yeas to 205 nays (149 Cong. Rec. H10190–205).
- November 3, 2003: The Senate considered the conference report on H.R. 2691 and agreed to it by a vote of 87 yeas to 2 nays (149 Cong. Rec. S13784–90).
- November 10, 2003: H.R. 2691 signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 108-108).

## Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Illinois

### Designation Date:

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- September 6, 2016: Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act (S. 3287) introduced by Sen. Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- September 12, 2016: Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 5997) introduced by Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-IL). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, then its Subcommittee on Federal Lands. No further actions on bill.
- February 27, 2020: Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 5990) introduced by Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-IL). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- August 5, 2020: Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act (S. 4450) introduced by Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 1, 2021: Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 670) introduced by Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-IL). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.



- March 1, 2021: Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Act (S. 511) introduced by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.
- October 6, 2021: S. 511 among many bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (amended bill included provisions from S. 511 to establish the Bronzeville-Black Metropolis NHA (S. Rep. 117-156). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor. Amended bill (see Amdt. 6587, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81) passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1925 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

## Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Colorado

### Designation Date:

- October 19, 1996 (Public Law 104-323) (redesignated through Public Law 111-11, March 30, 2009)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- October 30, 1986: An Act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (H.R. 4350) included a provision to include portions of the Cache La Poudre River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (P.L. 99-590).
- June 27, 1990: Cache La Poudre National Heritage Corridor Act (H.R. 5172) introduced by Rep. Hank Brown (R-CO). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. No further actions on bill.
- May 23, 1991: Cache La Poudre River Basin Heritage Study Act (S. 1174) introduced by Sen. Hank Brown (R-CO). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- October 2, 1991: Cache La Poudre River National Water Heritage Area Act (H.R. 3468) introduced by Rep. Wayne Allard (R-CO). Referred to the Subcommittee on National

Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.

- October 8, 1992: Cache La Poudre River Basin Heritage Study Act (S. 1174) passed Senate and sent to House. Referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, no further actions.
- July 21, 1993: An act to establish the Cache La Poudre River National Water Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (H.R. 1270) introduced by Rep. Hank Brown (R-CO).
- March 23, 1994: S. 1270 considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests, of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 103-610).
- February 2, 1995: A bill to establish the Cache La Poudre River National Water Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (S. 342) introduced by Sen. Hank Brown (R-CO).
- July 19, 1995: A bill to establish the Cache La Poudre River National Water Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (H.R. 2057) introduced by Rep. Wayne Allard (R-CO).
- November 9, 1995: S. 342 considered at hearings before the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (S. Hrg. 104-375).
- December 15, 1995: Senate Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported S. 342, with amendment (S. Rep. 104-88).
- December 21, 1995: A bill to establish the Cache La Poudre River National Water Heritage Area (S. 1500) introduced by Sen. Hank Brown (R-CO). Read twice and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- April 24, 1996: The National Heritage Areas Act of 1996 (H.R. 3305), which included a provision to establish the Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area, was introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO)
- October 3, 1996: Senate debated S. 342 on the Senate floor, amended the bill, and passed it (142 Cong. Rec S12353–59). Sent S. 342 to the House.
- October 4, 1996: House debated S. 342. Passed it and presented it to the President.
- October 19, 1996: Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act (S. 342) signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton (P.L. 104-323).
- December 14, 2005: Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Technical Amendments Act of 2005 (H.R. 4539) introduced by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO). Would Amends the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to redesignate the Cache La Poudre Corridor as the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area, designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, and enhance private property protections. Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- December 14, 2005: Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Technical Amendments Act of 2005 (S. 2102) introduced by Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO). Referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.

- January 19, 2007: Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Technical Amendments Act of 2005 (H.R. 591) introduced by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- January 4, 2007: Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Technical Amendments Act of 2005 (S. 128) introduced by Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO). Referred to the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 27, 2007: S. 128 considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-266).
- April 10, 2008: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 128, with amendment (S. Rep. 110-285).
- February 9, 2009: Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Act of 2009 (H.R. 926) introduced by Rep. Betsy Markey (D-CO). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. No further actions on bill. Provisions from this bill included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S.22).
- February 9, 2009: Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Act of 2009 (S. 180) introduced by Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill. Provisions from this bill included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22).
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110th Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8002 would establish Cache La Poudre NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Cache La Poudre NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.

- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which redesignated the Cache La Poudre NHA.

## Cane River National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Louisiana

### **Designation Date:**

- November 2, 1994 (Public Law 103-449)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- March 16, 1993: Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-CT) introduced H.R. 1348, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1993. Cane River was not yet included as part of the bill.
- March 24, 1994: Sen. J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA) introduced S. 1980, the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area Act. Referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 21, 1994: Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests held hearing on S. 1980 (S. Hrg. 103-720).
- May 25, 1994: S. 1980 reported out of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with amendments (S. Rep. 103-276).
- June 16, 1994: S. 1980 passed the Senate by voice votes, with amendments (140 Cong. Rec. 13368–73).
- June 21, 1994: Legislation received in the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.
- July 28, 1994: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on S. 1980 and other legislation related to national heritage areas (Serial No. 103-110).
- October 6, 1994: S. 1980 passed Senate by voice vote, with amendment (140 Cong. Rec. 28301, 28456–59).
- October 7, 1994: House agreed to Senate amendment to S. 1980 without objection.
- November 2, 1994: S. 1980 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 103-449). The law created Cane River Creole NHA, Cane River National Historical Park, and other sites.

# Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

## **State(s):**

- New York, Vermont

## **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 30, 1993: Champlain Valley Heritage Study Act of 1993 (S. 1327) introduced by Sen. James M. Jeffords (R-VT). No related bills. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- September 8, 1995: American Heritage Corridor Study Act of 1996 (S. 1225) introduced by Sen. Jeffords, to provide for the study of the Champlain Valley, upper Hudson River Valley, and Lake George area in Vermont and New York. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks.
- June 27, 1996: S. 1225 reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Following being favorably reported, placed on Senate legislative calendar. No further actions on bill.
- September 27, 1996: Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (H.R. 4236), as introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), included a provision to conduct a feasibility study of Champlain Valley and the Upper Hudson River Valley as potential heritage areas. Amended versions of the bill (and the subsequent public law, P.L. 104-333) did not include this provision.
- July 18, 2002: Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Act of 2002 (S. 2756) introduced by Sen. Jeffords. No related bills. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks.
- October 8, 2002: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2756 with an amendment. Without written report. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- November 19, 2002: Language to establish the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership was included in Senate Amendment 4970 to H.R. 695, the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act. The amendment was introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) for Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). This amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to and the legislation passed the Senate. No further action was taken on the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act.
- May 22, 2003: Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Act of 2003 (S.1118) introduced by Sen. Jeffords (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S7001-3). No related bills. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After

being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine and study of four national heritage areas, including Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.

- February 8, 2005: Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Act of 2005 (S. 322) introduced by Sen. Jeffords (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S1136–38). No House bill. Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- March 15, 2005: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing that considered S. 322, (to establish Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership), among other bills (S. Hrg. 109-28). No further actions on bill after hearing.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

## Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- New Jersey

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 9, 2002: Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 5080) introduced by Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- July 16, 2002: Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (S. 2731) introduced by Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- October 8, 2002: S. 2731 reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (no written report).

- November 19, 2002: Language to establish the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area was included in Senate Amendment 4970 to H.R. 695, the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act. The amendment was introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) for Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). This amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to and the legislation passed the Senate. No further action was taken on the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act.
- January 29, 2003: Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2003 (S. 230) introduced by Sen. Corzine. Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 4, 2003: Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2003 (H.R. 524) introduced by Rep. Frelinghuysen. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- September 23, 2004: National Heritage Area Extension Act of 2004 (S. 2836) introduced by Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-OH). Included a provision that would establish the Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA, Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- January 4, 2005: Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2003 [sic] (H.R.87) introduced by Rep. Frelinghuysen. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- April 18, 2005: Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Act of 2005 (S. 825) introduced by Sen. Corzine (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S3819–21). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original bill (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish Crossroads of the American Revolution NHA (based on S. 825) (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

# Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

## **States(s):**

- Pennsylvania

## **Designation Date:**

- November 18, 1988 (Public Law 100-692)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- February 17, 1988: Rep. Peter H. Kostmayer (D-PA) introduced H.R. 3957, the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- April 11, 1988: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a field hearing in Yardley, Pennsylvania (no written report located).
- June 28, 1988: Sen. John Heinz (R-PA) introduced S. 2578, the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- July 7, 1988: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 3957.
- August 9, 1988: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a markup session on H.R. 3957. It forwarded the legislation to the full committee with amendments.
- September 7, 1988: The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held a markup session on H.R. 3957 and reported it favorably to the full House, with amendments (H. Rep. 100-906).
- September 13, 1988: H.R. 3957 passed the House by voice vote, with amendments, and was referred to Senate (134 Cong. Rec. 23643–47).
- October 5, 1988: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported H.R. 3957 favorably for consideration by the full Senate.
- October 14, 1988: H.R. 3957 passed the Senate by voice vote, with amendments (134 Cong. Rec. 30696–97).
- October 19, 1988: House agreed to four of five Senate amendments on H.R. 3957. Returned bill to Senate for reconsideration (134 Cong. Rec. 31903–5).
- October 20, 1988: Senate receded from Senate amendment no. 5 on H.R. 3957 and the bill passed by voice vote (134 Cong. Rec. 32165).
- November 18, 1988: H.R. 3957 signed into law by President Ronald Reagan (P.L. 100-692).



# Downeast Maine National Heritage Area

**State(s):**

- Maine

**Designation Date:**

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- March 28, 2022: Sen. Angus King (I-ME) introduced S. 3932, to establish the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area. Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- March 29, 2022: Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) introduced H.R. 7268, to establish the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.
- October 6, 2021: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks (of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) held hearings multiple NHA- and other NPS-related bills (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (amended bill included provisions from S. 3932 to establish the Downeast Maine NHA (S. Rep. 117-156). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor. Amended bill (see Amdt. 6587, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81) passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1925 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

# Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

**State(s):**

- New York

**Designation Date:**

- December 21, 2000 (Public Law 106-554)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- August 6, 1998: Rep. John J. LaFalce (D-NY) introduced H.R. 4430, the New York Canal National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- October 3, 2000:
  - o Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) introduced S. 3154, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Act (introductory statement at 146 Cong. Rec. S9746–49). It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
  - o Rep. James T. Walsh (R-NY) introduced H.R. 5375, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- October 24-25, 2000: The House considered H.R. 5375 over the course of two days (146 Cong. Rec. H10577–81, 146 Cong. Rec. H10703). After a contentious debate, a roll call vote was held. With a final tally of 223 yeas to 183 nays, the legislation failed to achieve two-thirds of the votes needed to pass (146 Cong. Rec. H10842). No further action was taken on this legislation.
- December 15, 2000: Rep. C. W. Bill Young (R-FL) introduced H.R. 5666, the Miscellaneous Appropriations Act, 2001. It included language to establish the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (see Title VIII).
- December 15, 2000: H.R. 5666 was incorporated by reference in the conference report to H.R. 4577, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, including the language establishing the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (H.R. Rep. 106-1033) (146 Cong. Rec. H12100–439). The House and Senate agreed to the conference report on H.R. 4577 (146 Cong. Rec. H12442–502, 146 Cong. Rec. S11885–86).
- December 21, 2000: H.R. 4577 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 106-554)

## Essex National Heritage Area

**State(s):**

- Massachusetts

**Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- August 3, 1995: Rep. Peter G. Torkildsen (R-MA) introduced H.R. 2188, to establish the Essex National Heritage Area Commission. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 7, 1995: Hearings on H.R. 2188 held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources (no written minutes located).

- May 21, 1996: Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) introduced S. 1785, the Essex National Heritage Area Act of 1996. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- September 28, 1996: H.R. 2188 included in amendments to H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 considered on the Senate floor. Passed the Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12359–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

## Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

*Also proposed as “Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area” and “Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom National Heritage Area.”*

### **State(s):**

- Kansas, Missouri

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- March 4, 2004: Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 3909) introduced by Rep. Jim Ryun (R-KS). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment Requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- March 23, 2004: Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Act (S. 2224) introduced by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) (introductory remarks at 150 Cong. Rec. S2997–3000). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- January 26, 2005: Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Act (S. 175) introduced by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S587–8). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- January 26, 2005: Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 413) introduced by Rep. Jim Ryun (R-KS). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks.

- March 15, 2005: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing that considered S. 175, (to establish Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom NHA), among other bills (S. Hrg. 109-28).
- November 10, 2005: Subcommittee on National Parks of the House Committee on Resources held hearings that considered H.R. 413 (no written report or number).
- March 29, 2006: H.R. 413 discharged by Subcommittee on National Parks. The House Committee on Resources then considered the bill and held a mark-up session. The committee ordered H.R. 413 to be reported to the full House.
- June 28, 2006: H.R. 413 favorably reported by House Committee on Resources (H.R. Rep. 109-534).
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish Freedom's Frontier NHA (based on S. 175) (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

## Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Massachusetts, New Hampshire

### **Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- October 11, 2000: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 5446) introduced by Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources. No Senate bill.
- March 14, 2001: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1027) introduced by Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources.
- February 28, 2002: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (S. 1925) introduced by Sen. John F. Kerry (D-MA). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.

- June 20, 2002: S. 1925 considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks (S. Hrg. 107-819). Following the hearing, no further actions on bill.
- July 31, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources incorporated provisions of S. 1925 into an amendment to H.R. 695 (which previously had language establishing only Oil Region National Heritage Area). Bill now referred to as the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002. Favorably reported.
- November 20, 2002: Senate passed Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 695) by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Never brought to the House floor.
- March 4, 2003: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1069) introduced by Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- March 7, 2003: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (S. 577) introduced by Sen. John F. Kerry (D-MA) (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S3370-73). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- February 17, 2005: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 956) introduced by Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 20, 2005: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (S. 1898) introduced by Sen. John F. Kerry (D-MA). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- March 1, 2007: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1297) introduced by Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- March 8, 2007: Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act (S. 827) introduced by Sen. John F. Kerry (D-MA). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.
- April 23, 2008: S. 827 considered at a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-514).
- June 16, 2008: S. 827 reported favorably, with amendment, by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 110-353). Bill placed on Senate Legislative Calendar but never brought to Senate floor.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Freedom's Way National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- July 12, 2007: H.R. 1297 considered at a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (no hearing report number).
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were

reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor). Section 8006 would establish Freedom's Way NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.

- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Freedom's Way NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Freedom's Way NHA.

## Great Basin National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Nevada, Utah

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- December 5, 2000: Great Basin National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (S. 3272) introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 13, 2002: Great Basin National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (S. 1939) introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 18, 2002: S. 1939 among the bills considered at a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 107-642).
- July 31, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources incorporated provisions of S. 1939 into an amendment to H.R. 695 (which previously had language

establishing only Oil Region National Heritage Area). Bill now referred to as the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002. Favorably reported.

- November 20, 2002: Senate passed Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 695) by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Never brought to the House floor.
- April 9, 2003: Great Basin National Heritage Route Act (S. 840) introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S5071–73). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine national heritage areas and the study of four additional areas, including Great Basin National Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- February 1, 2005: Great Basin National Heritage Route Act (S. 249) introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S753–55). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 15, 2005: S. 249 favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 109-6).
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish the Great Basin National Heritage Route (based on language in S. 249) (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).
- January 5, 2023: The National Heritage Area Act (P. L. 117-339) redesignated Great Basin National Heritage Route as the Great Basin National Heritage Area (136 Stat. 6173).

## Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor

### **State(s):**

- Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- June 24, 2004: Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act (H.R. 4683) introduced by Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC). Referred to House Committee on Resources. Subcommittee hearings held on
- September 14, 2004: Subcommittee hearings held on H.R. 4683 (no report number or text version).
- September 22, 2004: H.R. 4683 ordered to be reported (amended) by Unanimous Consent (no report number or text version).
- September 28, 2004: H.R. 4683 debated on House floor. Passed House by voice vote. Sent to the Senate. No further actions on bill.
- October 7, 2004: House passed amended S. 211 (originally to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA, but now including many provisions, among them the establishment of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, from language in H.R. 4683). Senate never brought bill to the floor.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine and study of four national heritage areas, including Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor (from language in H.R. 4683).
- February 9, 2005: Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act (H.R. 694) introduced by Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC). Referred to House Committee on Resources.
- March 14, 2005: H.R. 694 debated on the House floor and passed by voice vote (151 Cong. Rec. H1383-5). Sent to the Senate. No further actions on bill.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).



# Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor

**State(s):**

- Illinois

**Designation Date:**

- August 24, 1984 (Public Law 98-398)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- October 13, 1978: Rep. Tom Corcoran (R-IL) introduced H.R. 14334, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to make a study for purposes of determining which, if any, lands encompassing the Illinois and Michigan Canal would be suitable as a national historical park. It was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- March 2, 1982:
  - o Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-IL) introduced S. 2157, A bill to provide for the establishment of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
  - o Rep. Corcoran introduced H.R. 5665, A bill to provide for the establishment of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- October 1, 1982: Rep. George M. O'Brien (R-IL) introduced H.R. 7278, A bill to provide for the establishment of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- November 30, 1982: The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water held a hearing on S. 2157 and other bills related to public lands (S. Hrg. 97-125). No further action was taken on this legislation.
- March 9, 1983:
  - o Sen. Charles Percy (R-IL) introduced S.746, the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
  - o Rep. Corcoran introduced H.R. 2014, the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- November 4, 1983: The House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 2014 (no written minutes located).

- February 9, 1984: The House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks held a markup session on H.R. 2014 and reported it favorably to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, with amendments.
- February 21, 1984: S. 746 was favorably reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to the full Senate (S. Rep. 98-355).
- February 22, 1984: The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held a markups session on H.R. 2014 and reported it to the full House for consideration, with amendments (H. R. Rep. 98-601).
- February 27, 1984: S. 746 passed the Senate by voice vote, with amendments (130 Cong. Rec. 3486–91).
- February 28, 1984: H.R. 2014 passed the House by voice vote, with amendments. This bill was then set aside and the House passed S. 746 in lieu of H.R. 2014 (130 Cong. Rec. 3558–69).
- June 28, 1984: Senate amended and then passed S. 746 (130 Cong. Rec. 19685–86, 19754–63).
- June 29, 1984: House passed Senate-amended S. 746 (130 Cong. Rec. 20301–4).
- August 24, 1984: S. 746 signed into law by President Ronald Reagan (P.L. 98-398)

## John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor

### **State(s):**

- Massachusetts, Rhode Island

### **Designation Date:**

- November 10, 1986 (Public Law 99-647)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- June 27, 1985: Sen. John H. Chafee (R-RI) introduced S. 1374, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- July 16, 1985: Rep. Fernand J. St. Germain (D-RI) introduced H.R. 3009, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- April 11, 1986: The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water held a hearing on S. 1374 (S. Hrg. 99-816).
- April 17, 1986: Rep. Joseph D. Early (D-MA) introduced H.R. 4622, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. No further action was taken on this legislation.

- August 15, 1986: The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water asked for executive comment on S. 1374 from DOI. The comments received from DOI were unfavorable. Have not yet been able to locate a copy of these comments.
- September 17, 1986: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources considered S. 1374 and ordered it to be reported to the full Senate with an amendment in the nature of a substitute (S. Rept. 99-488).
- September 19, 1986: Rep. St. Germain introduced H.R. 5566, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- October 8, 1986: S. 1374 passed the Senate by voice vote, with amendments. It was referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (132 Cong. Rec. 29483–86).
- October 15, 1986: S. 1374 was reported out of House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, with amendments. Passed the House by voice vote, with amendments (132 Cong. Rec. 31975–80)
- October 17, 1986: Senate agreed to House amendments of S. 1374 (132 Cong. Rec. 33362–65).
- November 10, 1986: S. 1374 signed into law by President Ronald Reagan (P.L. 99-647).
- November 29, 1999: Blackstone NHC redesignated the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor by P.L. 106-113..

## Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

### **Designation Date:**

- May 8, 2008 (Public Law 110-229)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 25, 2006: Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Act of 2006 (S. 2645) introduced by Sen. George Allen (R-VA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 25, 2006: Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Act of 2006 (H.R. 5195) introduced by Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.
- June 22, 2006: S. 2645 discussed at hearings on the “Designation/Reauthorization of National Heritage Areas” before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 109-663).

- January 5, 2007: Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Act of 2006 (H.R. 319) introduced by Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA). Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- January 12, 2007: Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Act of 2006 (S. 289) introduced by Sen. John Warner (R-VA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- March 20, 2007: S. 289 considered at hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-73).
- April 17, 2007: House Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported H.R. 319 (H.R. Rep. 110-95). Placed on House calendar, never brought to floor.
- September 17, 2007: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 289 (S. Rep. 110-169).
- October 17, 2007: Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007 (S. 2180, an omnibus natural resources bill), which included a provision for the establishment of Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Unanimously postponed by the Senate.
- October 18, 2007: Authorization of Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA included in amended version of the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 110-388).
- October 24, 2007: Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) passed by the House, by roll call vote (153 Cong. Rec. H11940–65) and received in the Senate the following day.
- March 10, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739, an omnibus bill that included the authorization of Journey Through Hallowed Ground NHA using text from S. 289 and H.R. 319) was introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). The following day, the bill was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.
- April 9-10, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739) debated on the Senate floor. Various amendments proposed and adopted or not agreed to. Passed Senate by roll call vote. Received in the House the same day.
- April 29, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739) debated on the House floor. Passed House by roll call vote.
- May 8, 2008: President George W. Bush signed into law the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (P.L. 110-229).
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Natural Resources reported out the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), amended it to remove Journey Through Hallowed Group National Heritage Area designation, in light of the signing into law of P.L. 110-229.

# Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area

**State(s):**

- Alaska

**Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- May 4, 2000: Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Corridor Area Act (S. 2511) introduced by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) (introductory remarks at 146 Cong. Rec. S3529–30).
- July 10, 2000: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources considered S. 2511, reported favorably with amendment.
- September 22, 2000: S. 2511 amended on Senate floor.
- September 25, 2000: S. 2511 passed Senate by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Referred to the Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- March 9, 2001: Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Corridor Area Act (S. 509) introduced by Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) (introductory remarks at 147 Cong. Rec. S2128–30).
- June 5, 2001: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Heritage Area Act of 2001 (S. 509) (S. Rep. 107-29).
- August 3, 2001: S. 509 passed Senate by Unanimous Consent, with amendment. Sent to House. Referred to the Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- June 25, 2003: Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area Act (S. 1330) introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S8565–67).
- May 21, 2008: Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area Act (S. 3045) introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S4623–25).
- June 17, 2008: S. 3045 considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-539).
- September 16, 2008: S. 3045 reported favorably by Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendment (without written report). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. Never made it to the floor.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8010 would establish Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.

- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm NHA.

## Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Pennsylvania

### **Designation Date:**

- October 6, 2000 (Public Law 106-278)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 30, 1998: Rep. Joseph M. McDade (R-PA) introduced H.R. 3781, the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken.
- June 26, 1998: Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) introduced S. 2251, the Lackawanna Valley American Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- March 2, 1999: Rep. Don Sherwood (R-PA) introduced H.R. 940, “To establish the Lackawanna Heritage Valley American Heritage Area” (introductory remarks at 145 Cong. Rec. E311–12). The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- April 28, 1999: Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) introduced S. 905, the Lackawanna Valley American Heritage Area Act (introductory remarks at 145 Cong. Rec. S4366–67). It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

- June 10, 1999: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held hearings on H.R. 940 (no written minutes located).
- July 15, 1999: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a markup session on H.R. 940 and forwarded the legislation to the Committee on Resources with amendment.
- July 29, 1999: The Senate Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation held a hearing on S. 905 (S. Hrg. 106-301).
- August 3, 1999: The House Committee on Resources reported H.R. 940 to the full House for consideration, with amendments (H.R. Rep 106-285).
- September 13, 1999: The House considered H.R. 940 and passed the legislation, as amended, by voice vote (145 Cong. Rec. H8109–12). The amendment added to the legislation language to establish the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area.
- September 14, 1999: H.R. 940 was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- October 14, 1999: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 905 favorably with amendments (S. Rep. 106-185).
- November 19, 1999: S. 905 passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent, with amendments (145 Cong. Rec. S15268–71).
- November 22, 1999: S. 905 was received in the House of Representatives. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- July 12, 2000: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported H.R. 940 favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title (S. Rep. 106-342).
- July 27, 2000: The Senate passed H.R. 940 with an amendment and change to title by Unanimous Consent but then vitiated the action, pushing reconsideration to a later date.<sup>357</sup>
- September 18, 2000: The Senate reconsidered H.R. 940 and passed the legislation by Unanimous Consent, with an amendment and an amendment to the title (146 Cong. Rec. S8659–62). The bill was sent to the House.
- September 21, 2000: The House considered Senate amendments to H.R. 940 and passed the legislation by voice vote (146 Cong. Rec. H7943–49).
- October 6, 2000: H.R. 940 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 106-278).

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<sup>357</sup> In the context of the Senate, to vitiate means to nullify or invalidate an action.

# Maritime Washington National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- Washington

## **Designation Date:**

- March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 9, 2014: Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced S. 2576.
- July 23, 2014: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing that included consideration of S. 2576 (S. Hrg. 113-493).
- November 13, 2014: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 2602 (the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2014, amendments in reported version included Maritime Washington NHA) (S. Rep. 113-300). S. 2602 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar but never made it to Senate floor.
- June 18, 2015: Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced S. 1623, the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Act.
- June 18, 2015: Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) introduced H.R. 2833, the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Act.
- June 15, 2016: S. 1623 considered at hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 114-502).
- August 30, 2016: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably S. 1623 (S. Rep. 114-310).
- June 26, 2017: Senate reported favorably, with amendment, the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017 (S. 713) (amended version included authorization of Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area) (S. Rep. 115-118).
- February 5, 2019: Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) introduced the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 975).
- January 8, 2019: Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), which contained a provision to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. The bill was placed on the Senate Calendar the following day.
- February 7, 11, and 12, 2019: multiple amendments made to S. 47 on Senate floor.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the Senate floor (165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265).
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) passed the Senate (165 Cong. Rec. S1196).



- February 26, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the House floor (165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217). House passed the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) by roll call vote (165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19) and amended it to be referred to as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9).
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## Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- New York

### Designation Date:

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- July 12, 1994: Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey (D-NY) introduced H.R. 4720, the Hudson River Valley American Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- July 28, 1994: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 4720 and other legislation related to national heritage areas (Serial No. 103-110).
- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the Hudson River Valley American Heritage Area.
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on the House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor, amended it, and passed the by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- September 6, 1995: Rep. Hinchey introduced H.R. 2266, the Hudson River Valley American Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 28, 1996: During House floor debate on the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (H.R. 4236), amendments added to the bill language from H.R. 2266, to establish the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). Hinchey spoke in favor of the bill (142 Cong. Rec. H12028). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).

- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

## Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Mississippi

### **Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- December 12, 2007: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (H.R. 4457) introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-AL).
- December 18, 2007: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (S. 2512) introduced by Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS).
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2512 (S. Rep. 110-368). Bill placed on Senate Legislative Calendar but never considered on Senate floor.
- February 9, 2009: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (H.R. 928) introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-AL). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- February 11, 2009: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (H.R. 1007) introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-AL). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8008 would establish Mississippi Delta NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.

- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Mississippi Delta NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Mississippi Delta NHA.

## Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Mississippi

### **Designation Date:**

- December 8, 2004 (Public Law 108-447)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- May 22, 2003: Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS) introduced S. 1137, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- July 9, 2003: Rep. Gene Taylor (D-MS) introduced H.R. 2689, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- November 20, 2004: Language to establish the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area was included in the conference report on H.R. 4818, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. Rep. 108-792, Conf. Rep.). The conference report passed the House by a vote of 344 yeas to 51 nays (150 Cong. Rec. H10208–9). It passed the Senate by a vote of 65 yeas to 30 nays (150 Cong. Rec. S11740–41).
- December 8, 2004: H.R. 4818 signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 108-447).

# Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- Mississippi

## **Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- October 29, 2007: A bill to establish the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (S. 2254) introduced by Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS).
- December 12, 2007: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (H.R. 4457) introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-AL).
- April 9, 2008: S. 2254 and S. 2512 considered during hearings held by Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-480).
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2254 (S. Rep. 110-364). Bill placed on Senate Legislative Calendar but never considered on Senate floor.
- February 9, 2009: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (H.R. 928) introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-AL). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- February 11, 2009: A bill to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (H.R. 1007) introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-AL). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8007 would establish Mississippi Hills NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Mississippi Hills NHA.

- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Mississippi Hills NHA.

## Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Utah

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 18, 2002: National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Act (S. 2196) introduced by Sen. Robert F. Bennett (R-UT). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- June 20, 2002: S. 2196 considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks (S. Hrg. 107-819). Following hearing, no further actions on bill.
- July 31, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources incorporated provisions of S. 2196 into an amendment to H.R. 695 (which previously had language establishing only Oil Region National Heritage Area). Bill now referred to as the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002. Favorably reported.
- November 20, 2002: Senate passed Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 695) by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Never brought to the House floor.
- April 11, 2003: National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Act (S. 916) introduced by Sen. Robert F. Bennett (R-UT). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine national heritage areas and study of four additional areas, including National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.

- January 25, 2005: National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Act (S. 163) introduced by Sen. Robert F. Bennett (R-UT) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S491–92). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- February 16, 2005: S. 163 favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 109-2). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar but never considered on Senate floor.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish Mormon Pioneer NHA (based on language in S. 163) (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

## MotorCities National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Michigan

### **Designation Date:**

- November 11, 1998 (Public Law 105-355)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- May 20, 1998:
  - Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) introduced S. 2104, the Automobile National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
  - Rep. John D. Dingell (D-MI) introduced H.R. 3910, the Automobile National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- June 18, 1998: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3910.
- August 6, 1998: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a markup session on H.R. 3910, after which it forwarded the bill to the full Committee, with amendments.
- October 10, 1998: The House Committee on Resources discharged H.R. 3910 to the full House for consideration. Rep. James V. Hansen (R-UT) offered an amendment in the

nature of a substitute which was agreed to without objection. The amendment retained the majority of the original H.R. 3910 and added additional language relating to other national park sites, heritage areas, and public lands (144 Cong. Rec. H10416–23). The legislation was sent to the Senate for consideration.

- October 14, 1998: H.R. 3910 passed the Senate without objection.
- November 11, 1998: H.R. 3910 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 105-355).
- December 19, 2014: Pursuant to Public Law 113-291, the Automobile National Heritage Area became the MotorCities National Heritage Area.
- February 5, 2019: Preserving the MotorCities Heritage Act (S. 337) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

## Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Washington

### **Designation Date:**

- March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 26, 2013: Rep. David G. Reichert (R-WA) introduced H.R. 1785, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation.
- July 15, 2014: S. 2602 (National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2014) introduced by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA), which included language to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.
- July 23, 2014: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing that included consideration of S. 2602 (S. Hrg. 113-493).
- November 13, 2014: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably S. 2602 (S. Rep. 113-300).
- December 10, 2014: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably S. 2602.
- December 22, 2014: House Committee on Natural Resources reported favorably H.R. 1785 (H.R. Rep. 113-692).
- June 25, 2015: S. 1690, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act, introduced by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA).
- June 25, 2015: H.R. 2900, the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act, introduced by Rep. David G. Reichert (R-WA).

- July 13, 2016: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources considered S. 1690 in an open business session, recommended passage.
- September 6, 2016: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably S. 1690, with amendment (S. Rep. 114-317).
- March 23, 2017: Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act (S. 713).
- March 29, 2017: Rep. David G. Reichert (R-WA) introduced the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1791).
- June 26, 2017: Senate reported favorably, with amendment, the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017 (S. 713) (amended version included authorization of Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area) (S. Rep. 115-118).
- June 20, 2018: Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act (S. 3100).
- January 8, 2019: Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), which contained a provision to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. The bill was placed on the Senate Calendar the following day.
- February 7, 11, and 12, 2019: Multiple amendments made to S. 47 on Senate floor.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the Senate floor (165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265).
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) passed the Senate (165 Cong. Rec. S1196).
- February 26, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the House floor (165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217).
- February 26, 2019: House passed the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) by roll call vote (165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19) and amended it to be referred to as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9).<sup>358</sup>

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<sup>358</sup> Mountains to Sound Greenway’s enabling legislation is unique in that it mentions five specific Tribal governments in its enabling legislation.



# Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- Alabama

## **Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 25, 2001: Rep. Robert E. Cramer, Jr. (D-AL) introduced the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Study Act of 2002 (H.R. 2628).
- April 11, 2002: Senate Committee on Resources reported H.R. 2628 without amendment.
- April 30, 2002: House passed H.R. 2628
- November 20, 2002: Senate passed H.R. 2628.
- December 17, 2002: President George W. Bush signed into law the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Study Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-348).
- July 27, 2006: An act to establish the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area in the State of Alabama (H.R. 5930) introduced by Rep. Robert E. Cramer, Jr. (D-AL). Referred to the House Committee on Resources that day and on August 7, Executive Comment was requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- July 12, 2007: H.R. 1145 considered during hearings held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 18, 2007: Authorization of Muscle Shoals NHA included in amended version of the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 110-388).
- October 24, 2007: The Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) passed by the House, by roll call vote (153 Cong. Rec. H11940-65) and received in the Senate the following day.
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Natural Resources reported favorably the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) (S. Rep. 110-381). Placed on Senate Calendar but never made it to the floor.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8009 would establish Muscle Shoals NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.

- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Muscle Shoals NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Muscle Shoals NHA.

## National Aviation Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Ohio

### Designation Date:

- December 8, 2004 (Public Law 108-447)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- July 17, 2002:
  - o Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH) introduced S. 2744, the National Aviation Heritage Area Act (148 Cong. Rec. S6953–55). It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
  - o Rep. David L. Hobson (R-OH) introduced H.R. 5148, the National Aviation Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- October 8, 2002: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 2744 with amendment (no printed report). No further action was taken on this legislation.
- October 8, 2002: Language to establish the National Aviation Heritage Area was included in H.R. 5569, the Comprehensive Natural Resources Protection Act (introduced by Rep. James V. Hansen [R-UT]). It was referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.

- November 19, 2002: Language to establish the National Aviation Heritage Area was included in Senate Amendment 4970 to H.R. 695, the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act (previously titled the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act). The amendment in the nature of a substitute passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent (148 Cong. Rec. S11580–88, S11623–33). No further action was taken on the legislation, however.
- January 8, 2003: Rep. Hobson introduced H.R. 280, the National Aviation Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- January 16, 2003: Sen. DeWine introduced S. 180, the National Aviation Heritage Area Act (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S1073). It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 16, 2003: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 280 and other heritage area legislation (Serial No. 108-55).
- October 16, 2003: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held another hearing on H.R. 280 and other heritage area legislation. This hearing included testimony from representatives of the NPS who were not able to participate in the earlier hearing (Serial No. 108-69).
- October 21, 2003: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a mark-up session on H.R. 280. The bill, with amendments, was referred to the full Committee on Resources by Unanimous Consent.
- October 29, 2003: The House Committee on Resources held a mark-up session on H.R. 280. It reported the bill to the full House by Unanimous Consent, with amendments (H.R. Rep. 108-370).
- November 18, 2003: The House passed H.R. 280 by voice vote, with amendments (149 Cong. Rec. H11448–59). The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration.
- June 16, 2004: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a mark-up session on S. 180. They reported the bill favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute (S. Rep. 108-292).
- July 14, 2004: The text of H.R. 280 was included in an amendment to H.R. 4492, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes (H.R. Rep. 108-611).
- July 19, 2004: The House considered and agreed to H.R. 4492 as amended (150 Cong. Rec. H5922–28). The legislation was sent to the Senate. No further action was taken.
- September 15, 2004: The Senate passed S. 180, with amendment, by Unanimous Consent. The bill was sent to the House for consideration. No further action was taken on the legislation (150 Cong. Rec. S9335–36).
- September 23, 2004: National Heritage Area Extension Act of 2004 (S. 2836) introduced by Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-OH). Included a provision that would establish National Aviation Heritage Area, Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.

- October 6, 2004: House passed amended S. 211 (originally to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA, but now including many provisions, among them the establishment of the National Aviation Heritage Area) (150 Cong. Rec. H8352–65). Senate never brought bill to the floor.
- November 20, 2004: Language to establish the National Aviation Heritage Area was included in the conference report on H.R. 4818, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. Rep. 108-792, Conf. Rep.). The conference report passed the House by a vote of 344 yeas to 51 nays (150 Cong. Rec. H10208–9). It passed the Senate by a vote of 65 yeas to 30 nays (150 Cong. Rec. S11740–41).
- December 8, 2004: H.R. 4818 signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 108-447).

## National Coal Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- West Virginia

### **Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- March 9, 1994: Rep. Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV) introduced H.R. 3988, the West Virginia National Coal Heritage Area Act of 1994 (introductory remarks at 140 Cong. Rec. 4331). It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- June 28, 1994: The Subcommittee held hearings on H.R. 2949 and other bills relating to proposed heritage areas (Serial No. 103-107).
- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the American Coal Heritage Area (based on H.R. 3988).
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on the House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- March 9, 1995: Rep. Rahall introduced H.R. 1188, the National Coal Heritage Area Act of 1995. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 7, 1995: Hearings on H.R. 1188 held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources (no written minutes located).
- September 28, 1996: Language from H.R. 1188 included in H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, along with several other pieces of

heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32) The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).

- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 passed the Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–59).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

## Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- New York

### **Designation Date:**

- May 8, 2008 (Public Law 110-229)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 24, 2001: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 2609) introduced by Rep. John J. LaFalce (D-NY).
- July 24, 2001: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act (S. 1227) introduced by Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY).
- July 31, 2001: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Natural Resources held hearings that considered S. 1227, among other bills (S. Hrg. 107-231).
- June 26, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 1227 (S. Rep. 107-179).
- August 1, 2002: S. 1227 passed the Senate, with amendments, by Unanimous Consent (148 Cong. Rec. S8015). Sent to the House on September 3, 2002, and referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- September 12, 2002: House Committee on Resources held a mark-up session on S. 1227, ordered to be reported by Unanimous Consent.
- September 23, 2002: House Committee on Resources favorably reported S. 1227 (H.R. Rep. 107-668).
- October 16, 2002: House passed S. 1227 (148 Cong. Rec. H7975–76).
- October 29, 2002: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act (P. L. 107-256) signed into law by President George W. Bush.
- July 27, 2006: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act (S. 3755) introduced by Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- July 28, 2006: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 6019) introduced by Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.

- January 29, 2007: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 713) introduced by Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY). Referred to the S Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Resources.
- March 7, 2007: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Act (S. 800) introduced by Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources., Subcommittee on National Parks.
- May 15, 2007: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing that considered S. 800, among other bills (S. Hrg. 110-40).
- July 10, 2007: House Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported H.R. 713 (H.R. Rep. 110-219). Placed on the House Calendar but never considered on the floor.
- September 17, 2007: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 800 (S. Rep. 110-174).
- October 17, 2007: Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007 (S. 2180, an omnibus natural resources bill), which included a provision for the establishment of Niagara Falls NHA, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Unanimously postponed by the Senate.
- March 10, 2008: Niagara Falls National Heritage Area establishment included in an omnibus public lands bill (S. 2739) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM).
- April 9–10, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739) debated on the Senate floor. Various amendments proposed and adopted or not agreed to. Passed Senate by roll call vote. Received in the House the same day.
- April 29, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739) debated on the House floor. Passed House by roll call vote.
- May 8, 2008: President George W. Bush signed into law the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (P.L. 110-229).
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Natural Resources reported out the Celebrating America’s Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), amended it to remove Niagara Falls National Heritage Area designation, in light of the signing into law of P.L. 110-229.

## Northern Neck National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Virginia

### **Designation Date:**

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 26, 2002: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 5240) introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA). No related bills. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.

- July 27, 2003: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (S. 472) introduced by Sen. George Allen (R-VA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 5, 2003: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 567) introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment Requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- January 4, 2005: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 73) introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA). No related bills. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- January 4, 2007: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 105) introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA). No related bills. Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands.
- July 12, 2007: H.R. 105 considered during hearings held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 18, 2007: Authorization of study of feasibility of Northern Neck NHA included in amended version of the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 110-388).
- October 24, 2007: The Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) passed by the House, by roll call vote (153 Cong. Rec. H11940–65) and received in the Senate the following day.
- May 20, 2008: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (S. 3039) introduced by Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Natural Resources reported favorably the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) (S. Rep. 110-381). Placed on Senate Calendar but never made it to the floor.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Northern Neck National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 6, 2009: Northern Neck National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 222) introduced by Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-VA). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8102 would authorize the study of Northern Neck NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.

- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision authorizing the study of Northern Neck NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which authorized the study of Northern Neck NHA.
- June 24, 2021:
  - Northern Neck National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 4167) introduced by Rep. Robert J. Wittman (R-VA). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
  - Northern Neck National Heritage Area Act (S. 2296) introduced by Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.
- October 6, 2021: S. 2296 among many bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (amended bill included provisions from S. 2296, to establish the Northern Neck NHA) (S. Rep. 117-156). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor. Amended bill (see Amdt. 6587, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81) passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.



- December 22, 2022: S. 1925 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

## Northern Plains National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- North Dakota

### Designation Date:

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- July 28, 2005: Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) introduced the Northern Plains National Heritage Area Act (S. 1544). No House bill. S. 1544 referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- November 15, 2005: Hearings on S. 1544 (among other bills) before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg 109-355). No further action taken on S. 1544.
- September 26, 2008: Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) introduced the Northern Plains National Heritage Area Act (S. 2098) (introductory remarks at 153 Cong. Rec. S12147–48). Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- November 8, 2007: Hearings on S. 2098 (among other bills) before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 109-355).
- April 10, 2008: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 2098 (S. Rep. 110-308).
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Northern Plains National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8004 would establish Northern Plains NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.

- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended version of H.R. 146 included a provision for the establishment of Northern Plains NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Northern Plains NHA.

## Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- New Mexico

### **Designation Date:**

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- June 4, 2002: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act. (S. 2576) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- June 20, 2002: S. 2576 considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks (S. Hrg. 107-819). Following the hearing, no further actions on bill.
- July 25, 2002: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act. (H.R. 5239) introduced by Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- July 31, 2002: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources incorporated provisions of S. 2576 into an amendment to H.R. 695 (which previously had language establishing only Oil Region National Heritage Area). Bill now referred to as the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002. Favorably reported.
- November 20, 2002: Senate passed Omnibus National Heritage Area Act of 2002 (H.R. 695) by Unanimous Consent. Sent to House. Never brought to the House floor.
- January 23, 2003: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act (S. 211) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S1486). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

- January 29, 2003: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act. (H.R. 505) introduced by Introduced by Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- July 7, 2004: S. 211 favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 108-293).
- September 15, 2004: Senate passed S. 211 without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (150 Cong. Rec. S9335–36).
- October 7, 2004: House passed amended S. 211 (originally to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA but now including many provisions relating to public lands and NHAs). Sent to Senate, but amended bill never considered on the Senate floor.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine and study of four national heritage areas, including Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- January 24, 2005: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act (S. 63) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S243–44). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- February 9, 2005: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Act. (H.R. 732) introduced by Introduced by Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. E189–90). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- February 16, 2005: S. 63 favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 109-1). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar but never considered on Senate floor.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

# Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- Ohio

## **Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- February 20, 1973: Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-OH) introduced H.R. 12927, “A bill to authorize the establishment of the Ohio and Erie Canal National Historical Park in the State of Ohio.” It was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- Summer 1973: Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH) introduced several bills (H.R. 8775, H.R. 8776, and H.R. 9248) relating to the establishment of an Ohio and Erie Canal National Historic Park. They were all referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs but no additional action was taken.
- October 2, 1974: Rep. Regula introduced H.R. 10650, “A bill to provide for a study of the most feasible and suitable means of preserving the resources of the Ohio and Erie Canal in the State of Ohio.” It was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- February 20, 1974: Rep. Ashbrook introduced H.R. 12928, “A bill to provide for a study of the most feasible and suitable means of preserving the resources of the Ohio and Erie Canal in the State of Ohio.” It was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- January 17, 1975: Rep. Ashbrook introduced H.R. 1574, “A bill to authorize the establishment of the Ohio and Erie Canal National Historical Park in the State of Ohio.” It was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- November 20, 1993: Rep. Regula introduced H.R. 3593, the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1993. It was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- January 21, 1994: H.R. 3593 was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- February 2, 1994: Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-OH) introduced S. 1818, the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 26, 1994: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held hearings on H.R. 3593 (no written minutes located).
- August 2, 1994: The Senate Subcommittee Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests held hearings on S. 1818 and other measures related to public lands (S. Hrg. 103-939).
- October 5, 1994: S. 1818 was placed on the Senate calendar, but no additional action was taken.

- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the Ohio & Erie Canal American Heritage Area (based on H.R. 3593).
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- August 3, 1995: Rep. Regula introduced H.R. 2186, the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1995. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- August 11, 1995: Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH) introduced S. 1190, the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Act of 1995. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 7, 1995: Hearings on H.R. 2186 held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- December 12, 1995: Hearings on S. 1190 held by the Subcommittee on Parks, Preservation and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 104-432). No further action was taken on S. 1190.
- September 28, 1996: During House floor debate on the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (H.R. 4236), amendments added language from H.R. 2266, to establish the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

## Oil Region National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Pennsylvania

### Designation Date:

- December 8, 2004 (Public Law 108-447)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- June 6, 1996: Rep. William F. Clinger, Jr. (R-PA) introduced H.R. 3596, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.

- November 1, 1999: Rep. John E. Peterson (R-PA) introduced H.R. 3190, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- June 27, 2000: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3190. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- February 14, 2001: Rep. Peterson introduced H.R. 695, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- June 26, 2001: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a markup session on H.R. 695. Members forwarded the legislation to the full committee by voice vote, with amendments.
- June 17, 2001: The House Committee on Resources held a markup session on H.R. 695 and ordered the legislation to be reported, as amended, to the full House (H.R. Rep. 107-123).
- September 10, 2001: The House considered H.R. 695 and the bill, as amended, was agreed to by voice vote (147 Cong. Rec. H5459–61). The bill was sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 20, 2001: Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) introduced S. 1441, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act (147 Cong. Rec. S9558). It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 18, 2002: The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing on S. 1441, H.R. 695, and other national heritage area legislation (S. Hrg. 107-642).
- July 31, 2002: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources considered H.R. 695 favorably, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute, and ordered it to be reported.
- September 17, 2002: H.R. 695 was reported to the full Senate, with amendments, as the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act (S. Rep. 107-286).
- October 8, 2002: Language to establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area was included in H.R. 5569, the Comprehensive Natural Resources Protection Act (introduced by Rep. James V. Hansen [R-UT]). It was referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- November 19, 2002: Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced Senate Amendment 4970 to H.R. 695, the Omnibus National Heritage Area Act. This amendment in the nature of a substitute included language establishing additional national heritage areas (148 Cong. Rec. S11580–88). The amendment to H.R. 695 was agreed to and the bill passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent (148 Cong. Rec. S11623–33). No further action was taken on the legislation, however.
- April 11, 2003: Sen. Santorum introduced S. 912, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.

- April 29, 2003: Rep. Peterson introduced H.R. 1862, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 16, 2003: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on H.R. 1862 and other heritage area legislation (Serial No. 108-55).
- October 16, 2003: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held another hearing on H.R. 1862 and other heritage area legislation. This hearing included testimony from representatives of the NPS who were not able to participate in the earlier hearing (Serial No. 108-69).
- October 21, 2003: The House Subcommittee on National Parks held a markup session on H.R. 1862 and forwarded it, with amendments, to the full committee for consideration by Unanimous Consent.
- October 29, 2003: The House Committee on Resources held a mark-up session on H.R. 1862. It reported the bill to the full House by Unanimous Consent, with amendments (H.R. Rep. 108-366). No further action was taken on this legislation.
- November 18, 2003: The House passed H.R. 280 (the National Aviation Heritage Area Act) by voice vote, with amendments, including language to establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area (149 Cong. Rec. H11448–59). The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration, where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- July 19, 2004: The text of H.R. 1862 was included in an amendment to H.R. 4492, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes (H.R. Rep. 108-611).
- July 19, 2004: The House considered and agreed to H.R. 4492 as amended (150 Cong. Rec. H5922–28). The legislation was sent to the Senate. No further action was taken.
- September 23, 2004: National Heritage Area Extension Act of 2004 (S. 2836) introduced by Sen. George V. Voinovich (R-OH). Included a provision that would establish Oil Region NHA, Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- November 20, 2004: Language to establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area was included in the conference report on H.R. 4818, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. Rep. 108-792, Conf. Rep.). The conference report passed the House by a vote of 344 yeas to 51 nays (150 Cong. Rec. H10208–9). It passed the Senate by a vote of 65 yeas to 30 nays (150 Cong. Rec. S11740–41).
- December 8, 2004: H.R. 4818 signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 108-447).

# Path of Progress National Heritage Tour Route

**State(s):**

- Pennsylvania

**Designation Date:**

- November 19, 1988 (Public Law 100-698)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- September 21, 1987: Introduced as H.R. 3313 by Rep. John P. Murtha (D-PA). Referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- July 26, 1988: H.R. 3313 reported favorably out of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Passed House by voice vote, with amendments.
- August 2, 1988: H.R. 3313 received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 22, 1988: H.R. 3313 reported favorably out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment.
- October 21, 1988: H.R. 3313 passed Senate by voice vote, with amendments (134 Cong. Rec. 32456–57). The House agreed to Senate amendments by voice vote (134 Cong. Rec. 32861).
- November 19, 1988: H.R. 3313 signed into law by President Ronald Reagan (P.L. 100-698).
- November 2008: Federal authorization for the Heritage Preservation Commission sunsetted and was not renewed. Path of Progress is, however, still formally recognized as an NHA.

# Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

**State(s):**

- Pennsylvania

**Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- September 28, 1993: Rep. William J. Coyne (D-PA) introduced H.R. 3144, “To authorize funding within the Department of the Interior to implement the plan of the Steel Industry Heritage Project.” It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- June 28, 1994: The Subcommittee held hearings on H.R. 3144 and other bills relating to proposed heritage areas.



- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the Steel Industry American Heritage Area (based on H.R. 3144).
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- October 12, 1995: Rep. Coyne introduced H.R. 2473, the Steel Industry American Heritage Area Act of 1995. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 28, 1996: Language from H.R. 2473 included in H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).
- July 12, 2007: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing that considered H.R. 1083, to amend the Act establishing the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, to include Butler County, Pennsylvania, within the boundaries of that heritage area.

## Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- California

### **Designation Date:**

- March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- September 29, 2010: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (S. 3927) introduced by Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA).
- September 29, 2010: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (H.R. 6329) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA).
- January 25, 2011: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (S. 29) introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) for Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA).

- January 26, 2011: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (H.R. 486) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA).
- March 7, 2012: S. 29 considered at a hearing on “National Park Bills,” before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 112-401).
- February 4, 2013: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (S. 228) introduced by Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Sen. Feinstein made opening remarks when introducing the bill on the Senate floor (159 Cong. Rec. S473–76).
- March 6, 2013: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (H.R. 1004) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA).
- April 23, 2013: S. 228 considered at a hearing on “National Park Bills,” before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 113-27).
- March 3, 2015: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (S. 630) introduced by Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Sen. Feinstein made opening remarks (161 Cong. Rec. S1250–52).
- March 3, 2015: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (H.R. 1208) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA).
- June 15, 2016: S. 630 considered at hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 114-502).
- March 27, 2017: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (S. 630) introduced by Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Kamala Harris (D-CA). Sen. Feinstein made opening remarks (163 Cong. Rec. S1999–2000).
- March 27, 2017: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (H.R. 1738) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA).
- June 26, 2017: Senate reported favorably, with amendment, the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017 (S. 713) (amended version included authorization of Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area) (S. Rep. 115-118). Amended S. 713 placed on the Senate calendar but never considered on the Senate floor.
- January 9, 2019: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (H.R. 357) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA).
- February 4, 2019: A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (S. 316) introduced by Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA). Feinstein made introductory remarks (165 Cong. Rec. S833–34).
- January 8, 2019: Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), which contained a provision to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin National Heritage Area. The bill was placed on the Senate Calendar the following day.

- February 7, 11, and 12, 2019: Multiple amendments made to S. 47 on Senate floor.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the Senate floor (165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265). Amended version (engrossed in Senate) included the establishment of Sacramento-San Joaquin National Heritage Area.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) passed the Senate (165 Cong. Rec. S1196).
- February 26, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the House floor (165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217).
- February 26, 2019: House passed the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) by roll call vote (165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19) and amended it to be referred to as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9).

## Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Colorado

### Designation Date:

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- November 17, 2005: Rep. John T. Salazar (D-CO) introduced a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Colorado (H.R. 4383) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. E2392).
- November 17, 2005: Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO) introduced a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Colorado (S. 2037) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S13653).
- June 22, 2006: S. 2037 discussed at hearings on the “Designation/Reauthorization of National Heritage Areas” before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 109-663).
- January 31, 2007: Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO) introduced a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Colorado (S. 443).
- February 6, 2007: Rep. John T. Salazar (D-CO) introduced a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Colorado (H.R. 859).
- September 17, 2007: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably with amendment the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area Act (S. 443) (S. Rep. 110-170). Reported bill placed on Senate calendar but never made it to the Senate floor.
- October 17, 2007: Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007 (S. 2180, an omnibus natural resources bill), which included a provision for the

establishment of Sangre de Cristo NHA, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Unanimously postponed by the Senate.

- April 24, 2008: H.R. 859 considered at a hearing before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, of the Committee on Natural Resources.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 6, 2009: Rep. John T. Salazar (D-CO) introduced a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Colorado (H.R. 171).
- January 8, 2009: Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO) introduced a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Colorado (S. 185).
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8001 would establish Sangre de Cristo NHA. Bill debated on Senate floor and amended
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of Sangre de Cristo NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.
- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the Sangre de Cristo NHA.

# Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area

## **State(s):**

- Arizona

## **Designation Date:**

- March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 17, 2007: A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona (H.R. 1885) introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ).
- July 12, 2007: Hearing of Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources considered H.R. 1885 (no written minutes located).
- October 18, 2007: Authorization of Santa Cruz Valley NHA included in amended version of the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483), as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 110-388).
- October 24, 2007: The Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) passed by the House, by roll call vote (153 Cong. Rec. H11940–65) and received in the Senate the following day.
- June 16, 2008: Senate Committee on Natural Resources reported favorably the Celebrating America's Heritage Act (H.R. 1483) (S. Rep. 110-381). Placed on Senate Calendar but never made it to the floor.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) (introductory remarks at 154 Cong. Rec. S6292). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 8, 2009: A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona (H.R. 324) introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ).
- September 8, 2009: Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) moved to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 324. House proceeded with debate. Bill failed (required a two-thirds majority).
- September 23, 2009: Under amended rules of debate for the bill, H.R. 324 brought to House floor for discussion and debate. Bill passed by roll call vote. Received in the Senate the following day. No further actions taken on this bill.
- May 26, 2011: A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona (H.R. 2037) introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ). Referred to committee but never considered.
- March 21, 2013: A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona (H.R. 1349) introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ). Referred to committee but never considered.

- June 25, 2015: A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona (H.R. 2925) introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ). Referred to committee but never considered.
- July 25, 2018: A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona (H.R. 6522) introduced by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ). Referred to committee but never considered.
- January 8, 2019: Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), which contained a provision to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area. The bill was placed on the Senate Calendar the following day.
- February 7, 11, and 12, 2019: Multiple amendments made to S. 47 on Senate floor.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the Senate floor (165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265).
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) passed the Senate (165 Cong. Rec. S1196).
- February 26, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the House floor (165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217).
- February 26, 2019: House passed the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) by roll call vote (165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19) and amended it to be referred to as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9).

## Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Pennsylvania

### **Designation Date:**

- October 6, 2000 (Public Law 106-278)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- March 2, 1999: Rep. Don Sherwood (R-PA) introduced H.R. 940, “To establish the Lackawanna Heritage Valley American Heritage Area” (introductory remarks at 145 Cong. Rec. E311–12). The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. This legislation did not yet include language related to the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area.
- June 10, 1999: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held hearings on H.R. 940 (no written minutes located).
- July 15, 1999: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a markup session on H.R. 940 and forwarded the legislation to the Committee on Resources with amendment.

- August 3, 1999: The House Committee on Resources reported H.R. 940 to the full House for consideration, with amendments (H.R. Rep. 106-285).
- September 13, 1999: The House considered H.R. 940 and passed the legislation, as amended, by voice vote (145 Cong. Rec. H8109–12). The amendment added to the legislation language to establish the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area.
- September 14, 1999: H.R. 940 was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 15, 1999: Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA) introduced S. 1584, the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area Act (introductory remarks at 145 Cong. Rec. S10930–32). It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further direct action was taken on this legislation.
- July 12, 2000: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported H.R. 940 favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title (S. Rep. 106-342).
- July 27, 2000: The Senate passed H.R. 940 with an amendment and change to title by Unanimous Consent but then vitiated the action, pushing reconsideration to a later date (146 Cong. Rec. S7799–802, S7808).
- September 18, 2000: The Senate reconsidered H.R. 940 and passed the legislation by Unanimous Consent, with an amendment and an amendment to the title. The bill was sent to the House (146 Cong. Rec. S8659–62).
- September 21, 2000: The House considered Senate amendments to H.R. 940 and passed the legislation by voice vote (146 Cong. Rec. H7943–49).
- October 6, 2000: H.R. 940 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 106-278).

## Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District

### **State(s):**

- Virginia

### **Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- February 2, 1993: Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA) introduced H.R. 746, the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act of 1993 (introductory remarks at 139 Cong. Rec. 1796–800). It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- May 26, 1993: Sen. John Warner (R-VA) introduced S. 1033, the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act (139 Cong. Rec. 11224–29). It was referred to the

Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

- September 21, 1993: The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests held a hearing on S. 1033 and other legislation related to national heritage areas (S. Hrg. 103-516).
- May 25, 1994: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported S. 1033 to the full Senate for consideration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute (S. Rep. 103-273).
- June 8, 1994: S. 1033 passed the Senate by voice vote, with amendment (140 Cong. Rec. 12293–95).
- June 9, 1994: The House received S. 1033. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- July 25, 1994: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held hearings on H.R. 746, S. 1033 and other bills relating to Civil War battlefields.
- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields American Heritage Area (based on H.R. 746 and S. 1033).
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- January 31, 1995:
  - o Sen. Warner introduced S. 305, the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act (introductory remarks at 141 Cong. Rec. S1856–57). It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
  - o Rep. Wolf introduced H.R. 763, the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act of 1995 (introductory remarks at 141 Cong. Rec. E229–30). It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- March 1, 1995: Rep. Tom Bliley, Jr. (R-VA) introduced H.R. 1091, Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields Partnership Act of 1995 (introductory remarks at 141 Cong. Rec. E469). This legislation included similar provisions to Rep. Wolf’s H.R. 763. Rep. Bliley’s legislation was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- March 9, 1995: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands held hearings on H.R. 1091.



- March 29, 1995: The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands held a markup session on H.R. 1091. An amended bill was reported to the full House Committee on Resources for consideration.
- June 14, 1995: The House Committee on Resources considered H.R. 1091 and held a markup session.
- July 11, 1995: The House Committee on Resources reported H.R. 1091, as amended, to the full House of Representatives (H.R. Rep. 104-176).
- September 18-19, 1995: The House considered H.R. 1091 and passed it by a vote of 377 yeas to 31 nays (141 Cong. Rec. H9075–83; 141 Cong. Rec. H9151).
- September 20, 1995: H.R. 1091 received in the Senate and referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- March 21, 1996: The Senate Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation held hearings on H.R. 1091, S. 305, and other legislation related to national heritage areas (S. Hrg. 104-580).
- September 28, 1996: Language creating the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission was included in H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- September 30, 1996: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported out H.R. 1091, with amendments (S. Rep. 104-389). No additional action was taken on this legislation.
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).<sup>359</sup>

## Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Iowa

### Designation Date:

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- September 6, 1995: Rep. Jim Nussle (R-IA) introduced H.R. 2260, “To establish America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership in Iowa.” It was referred to the

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<sup>359</sup> Note that Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District has not always been considered to be an NHA by the NPS. See records in Box 3, Folder Correspondence 1997–98, (079-17-0188), Federal Records Center, Washington, DC.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources and the Subcommittee on Resource Conservation, Research, and Forestry of the House Committee on Agriculture.

- August 2, 1996: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) introduced S. 2020, the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership Act (introductory remarks at 142 Cong. Rec. S9559–60). It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- September 28, 1996: Language from H.R. 2260 included in H.R. 4236, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333). This legislation placed Silos and Smokestacks under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, not the NPS.
- March 10, 2000: The Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-176) transferred authorization for America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior. The first appropriations for the area followed.
- January 5, 2023: America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership was renamed the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area pursuant to provisions of Public Law 117-339.

## South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

### **State(s):**

- South Carolina

### **Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- April 21, 1994: Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) introduced S. 2037, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- May 3, 1994: Rep. Butler C. Derrick (D-SC) introduced H.R. 4330, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Act (introductory remarks at 140 Cong. Rec. 9146). It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to study the feasibility of creating a South Carolina Corridor.
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- May 3, 1995: Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC) introduced H.R. 1553, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- May 17, 1995: Sen. Thurmond introduced S. 812, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- May 26, 1995: Sen. Thurmond introduced S. 873, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 7, 1995: Hearings on H.R. 1999 held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources (no written minutes located).
- December 12, 1995: Hearings on S. 873 held by the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 104-432). No further action was taken on S. 873.
- September 28, 1996: During House floor debate on the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (H.R. 4236), amendments added language from H.R. 1553, to establish the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

## South Park National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- Colorado

### **Designation Date:**

- March 30, 2009 (Public Law 111-11)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- February 28, 2006: A bill to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (S. 2336) introduced by Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO). Did not move out of committee.
- February 28, 2006: A bill to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (H.R. 4818) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (D-CO). Did not move out of committee.
- January 31, 2007: A bill to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (S. 444) introduced by Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO).
- March 20, 2007: S. 444 considered at hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 110-73).
- August 2, 2007: A bill to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado (H.R. 3335) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (D-CO). Did not move out of committee.
- September 17, 2007: S. 444 reported favorably by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 110-171).
- October 17, 2007: Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007 (S. 2180, an omnibus natural resources bill), which included a provision for the establishment of South Park NHA, introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Unanimously postponed by the Senate.
- June 26, 2008: Establishment of South Park National Heritage Area included in an Omnibus Public Land Management Act (S. 3213) drafted by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Bill placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- January 7, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), an amalgamation of over 150 public lands bills that were reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but had not yet made it to the Senate floor. Section 8003 would establish South Park NHA Bill debated on Senate floor and amended.
- January 8, 2009: South Park National Heritage Area Act (S. 186) introduced by Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO).
- January 15, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) passed Senate. Sent to the House.
- March 11, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (S. 22) debated on the House floor. Failed House vote.
- March 17–19, 2009: H.R. 146 (which had passed the House as a bill on battlefield preservation and acquisition) debated on Senate floor and amended. Bill emerged as the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which incorporated much of the language of S. 22. The amended bill included a provision for the establishment of South Park NHA.
- March 19, 2009: The Senate passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) and sent it to the House.

- March 25, 2009: The House debated the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146) as engrossed and amended in the Senate. Passed by a roll call vote.
- March 30, 2009: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 presented to the President.
- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established the South Park NHA.

## Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor

### **State(s):**

- North Carolina, South Carolina

### **Designation Date:**

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- May 23, 2002: Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 4830) introduced by Rep. John M. Spratt, Jr. (D-SC). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment Requested from Interior. No further actions on bill.
- October 1, 2002:
  - o H.R. 4830 favorably reported by the House Committee on Resources (H.R. Rep. 107-711).
  - o House floor debate and passage of H. R. 4830 (148 Cong. Rec. H6878–79). Sent to the Senate but never brought to the Senate floor.
- October 8, 2002:
  - o Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act (S. 3078) introduced by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
  - o Comprehensive Natural Resources Protection Act of 2002 (H.R. 5569), which included a provision to authorize the study of the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area, introduced by Rep. James V. Hansen (R-UT). Referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 4, 2003: Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act (S. 276) introduced by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 13, 2003: Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 744) Introduced by Rep. John M. Spratt, Jr. (D-SC). It was referred to the House Committee on Resources and then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment Requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.

- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments (S. Am. 4085) added more NHA provisions to S. 1521, including authorization of study of Southern Campaign of the American Revolution Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- March 14, 2005: Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 1289) introduced by Rep. John M. Spratt, Jr. (D-SC). It was referred to the House Committee on Resources and then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- May 25, 2005: Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study Act (S. 1121) introduced by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC). Referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to authorize the study of the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area, based on language in H.R. 1289 and S. 1221(151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). Passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338), which authorized the study of the Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area.
- July 24, 2019: Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2019 (H.R. 3936) introduced by Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC). It was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- August 1, 2019: Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2019 (S. 2436) introduced by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC). Referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 24, 2021: Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2021 (H.R. 1286) introduced by Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-SC). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.

- June 15, 2021: H.R. 1286 considered at hearings before the House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands (no printed report or hearing number).
- July 22, 2021: Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2021 (S. 2441) introduced by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC). Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- October 6, 2021: S. 2441 among many bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- October 13, 2021: House Committee on Natural Resources considered and held a mark-up session on multiple bills, including H.R. 1286. The Committee reported the bill, with amendments.
- July 14, 2022: H.R. 1286 favorably reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 117-408).
- July 18, 2022: House debated H.R. 1286 (168 Cong. Rec. H6687–89).
- July 19, 2022: House passed H.R. 1286, sent to Senate the following day where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (168 Cong. Rec. H6859–65).
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (amended bill included provisions from S. 2441, to establish the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution NHA) (S. Rep. 117-156). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor. Amended bill (see Amdt. 6587, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81) passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1925 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

## Southern Maryland National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Maryland

### Designation Date:

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- October 1, 2020: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 8488) introduced by Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.

- October 20, 2020: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act (S. 4816) introduced by Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- March 18, 2021: Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act (S. 4816) introduced by Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- March 18, 2021: A bill to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area (H.R. 2024) introduced by Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD).
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 14 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.
- June 15, 2021: H.R. 2024 considered at hearings before the House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands (no printed report or hearing number).
- October 6, 2021: S. 825 and S. 1942 were among bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- October 13, 2021: House Committee on Natural Resources considered and held a mark-up session on multiple bills, including H.R. 2024. The Committee reported the bill, with amendments.
- July 14, 2022: H.R. 2024 favorably reported, with amendment, by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 117-409).
- July 18, 2022: House debated H.R. 2024 (168 Cong. Rec. H6690–91).
- July 19, 2022: House passed H.R. 2024, sent to Senate the following day where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (168 Cong. Rec. H6859–65).
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (amended S. 1942 included provisions from S. 825 to establish Southern Maryland NHA) (S. Rep. 117-156). Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor. Amended bill (see Amdt. 6587, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81) passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).



# St. Croix National Heritage Area

## **Territory:**

- U.S. Virgin Islands

## **Designation Date:**

- January 5, 2023 (Public Law 117-339)

## **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- July 11, 2002: St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 5096) introduced by Introduced by Del. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- October 8, 2002: Comprehensive Natural Resources Protection Act of 2002 (H.R. 5569), which included a provision to authorize the study of St. Croix NHA, introduced by Rep. James V. Hansen (R-UT). Referred to the House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- April 3, 2003: St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 1594) introduced by Del. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI) (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. E682–83). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI.
- September 16, 2003: House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands held hearings that considered H.R. 1594 (no written report or number).
- October 16, 2003: House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands held hearings that considered H.R. 1594 (no written report or number).
- November 17, 2003: H.R. 1594 favorably reported by House Committee on Resources. Placed on House calendar, never brought to House floor.
- November 18, 2003: The House passed H.R. 280 (the National Aviation Heritage Area Act) by voice vote, with amendments, including language to authorize a study of St. Croix National Heritage Area (based on language in H.R. 1594) (149 Cong. Rec. H11448–59). The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration, where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 7, 2004: House passed amended S. 211 (originally to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA, but now including many provisions, among them language to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of St. Croix NHA, based on language in H.R. 1594). Senate never brought bill to the floor.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included study of St. Croix NHA (based on language in H.R. 1594). Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- January 4, 2005: St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 61) introduced by Del. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI). Referred to the House Committee on Resources,

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. No further actions on bill (language from bill eventually incorporated into S. 203).

- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to authorize the study of St. Croix NHA, based on language in H.R. 61 (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338), which authorized the study of St. Croix NHA.
- July 7, 2011: St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 2448) introduced by Del. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- January 3, 2013: St. Croix National Heritage Area Study Act (H.R. 89) introduced by Introduced by Del. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. No further actions on bill.
- May 23, 2013: Provision to establish St. Croix National Heritage Area (based on language in H.R. 89) in the Territorial Omnibus Act of 2013 (H.R. 2200), as introduced by Del. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP). Referred to several relevant committees but never considered at a hearing.
- June 27, 2013: Provision to establish St. Croix National Heritage Area (based on language in H.R. 89) included in the Omnibus Territories Act of 2013 (S. 1237), as introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR).
- July 11, 2013: S. 1237 considered at hearings before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 113-177).
- April 8, 2014: S. 1237 reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported version of the bill removed the provision to establish St. Croix NHA.
- February 3, 2020: St. Croix National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 5747) introduced by Del. Stacey E. Plaskett (D-VI). Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- February 26, 2021: St. Croix National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 1424) introduced by Del. Stacey E. Plaskett (D-VI). Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

- June 15, 2021: H.R. 1424 considered at hearings before the House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands (no printed report or hearing number).
- May 16, 2022: St. Croix National Heritage Area Act (S. 4222) introduced by Sen. Angus S. King, Jr. (I-ME). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 21, 2022: S. 4222 considered at hearings before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill after hearings.
- February 26, 2021: Provision to establish St. Croix NHA (based on H.R. 1424 and S. 4222) included in amendments to the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act (H.R. 803) (167 Cong. Rec. H737–57). Received in the Senate but never considered on the Senate floor.
- December 20, 2022: While the National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942, to establish a National Heritage Area System) was debated on the Senate floor, an amendment added St. Croix NHA to new NHA designations in the bill (see Amdt. 6587, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81). Bill passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1925 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

## Susquehanna National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Pennsylvania

### Designation Date:

- March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- September 26, 2008: A bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area (S. 3619) introduced by Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).
- January 29, 2009: A bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area (S. 349) introduced by Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).
- September 27, 2009: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 349 favorably, with amendment (S. Rep. 111-303).
- June 7, 2011: A bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area (S. 1150) introduced by Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).
- March 7, 2012: S. 1150 considered at a hearing on “National Park Bills,” before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 112-401).

- February 4, 2013: A bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area (S. 219) introduced by Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).
- April 23, 2013: S. 219 considered at a hearing on “National Park Bills,” before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 113-27).
- January 21, 2015: A bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania (S. 211) introduced by Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).
- February 15, 2017: A bill to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania (S. 400) introduced by Sen. Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA).
- June 6, 2018: A bill to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania (H.R. 2991) introduced by Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA).
- February 14, 2018: S. 400 considered at a hearing on “Pending Legislation before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 115-504).
- May 11, 2018: H.R. 2991 considered at a hearing before the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 115-670).
- June 5, 2018: H.R. 2991 passed the House (discussion at 164 Cong. Rec. H4750–52, roll call vote at H4760).
- January 4, 2019: A bill to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area (H.R. 262) introduced by Representatives Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Scott Perry (R-PA).
- January 8, 2019: Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47), which contained a provision to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area. The bill was placed on the Senate Calendar the following day.
- February 7, 11, and 12, 2019: Multiple amendments made to S. 47 on Senate floor.
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the Senate floor (165 Cong. Rec. S1178–265).
- February 12, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) passed the Senate (165 Cong. Rec. S1196).
- February 26, 2019: Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) debated on the House floor (165 Cong. Rec. H2141–217).
- February 26, 2019: House passed the Natural Resources Management Act (S. 47) by roll call vote (165 Cong. Rec. H2218–19) and amended it to be referred to as the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
- March 12, 2019: President Donald J. Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law (P.L. 116-9).

# Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area

**State(s):**

- Tennessee

**Designation Date:**

- November 12, 1996 (Public Law 104-333)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- June 29, 1995: Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN) introduced H.R. 1961, “To designate the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area.” It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- September 7, 1995: Hearings on H.R. 1961 held by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources (no written minutes located).
- September 28, 1996: During House floor debate on the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (H.R. 4236), amendments added language from H.R. 1961, to establish the Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, along with several other pieces of heritage area legislation (142 Cong. Rec. H12023–32). The legislation passed the House by vote of 404 yeas to 4 nays (Roll No. 453) (142 Cong. Rec. H12035–36).
- October 3, 1996: H.R. 4236 debated and then passed by the Senate without amendment, by Unanimous Consent (142 Cong. Rec. S12353–67).
- November 12, 1996: H.R. 4236 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 104-333).

# The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor

**State(s):**

- Connecticut, Massachusetts

**Designation Date:**

- November 2, 1994 (Public Law 103-449)

**Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- March 16, 1993: Introduced as H.R. 1348 by Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-CT) as the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1993.
- April 13, 1993: H.R. 1348 was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- July 27 & 29, 1993: The Subcommittee held a hearing and mark-up session on H.R. 1348. The Subcommittee forwarded an amended bill to the Committee on Natural Resources for consideration.
- August 4, 1993: The Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on H.R. 1348 and ordered it to be reported to the full House.

- September 9, 1993: H.R. 1348 reported to the full House with amendments (H.R. Rep. 103-233).
- September 13, 1993: House considered and passed H.R. 1348 by voice vote as amended (139 Cong. Rec. 20940–44).
- September 1993: H.R. 1348 received by the Senate and referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- October 27, 1993: Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks held hearings on H.R. 1348 (S. Hrg. 103-556).
- July 7, 1994: H.R. 1348 reported for consideration to the full Senate, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute (S. Rep. 103-305).
- October 6, 1994: H.R. 1348 debated on the Senate floor. Sen. Wendell H. Ford (D-KY) introduced Senate Amendment 2630 “to strike out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof” language which included the establishment of the Cane River National Heritage Area. Passed Senate by voice vote with amendment (140 Cong. Rec. 28301, 28456–59).
- October 7, 1994: House agreed to Senate amendment of H.R. 1348, without objection.
- November 2, 1994: H.R. 1348 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 103-449).

## Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Connecticut, Massachusetts

### Designation Date:

- October 12, 2006 (Public Law 109-338)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- April 13, 2000: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Study Act of 2000 (H.R. 4312) introduced by Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.
- April 13, 2000: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Study Act of 2000 (S. 2421) introduced by Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- June 27, 2000: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Study Act of 2000 (S. 2421) (S. Rep. 106-317).
- July 13, 2000: House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing that considered H.R. 4312, among other bills (unnumbered hearings).
- July 27, 2000: S. 2421 debated on Senate floor and passed by the Senate (146 Cong. Rec. S7795–96). Sent to House.

- October 17, 2000: H.R. 4312 debated on House floor. Passed House by voice vote (146 Cong. Rec. H9979–80). Sent to Senate.
- October 27, 2000: Senate floor discussion and passage (without amendment, by Unanimous Consent) of H.R. 4312. Sent to President.
- November 9, 2000: S. 4312 signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton (P.L. 106-470).
- April 11, 2003: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Act (H.R. 1798) introduced by Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.
- May 14, 2003: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Act (S. 1056) introduced by Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT) (introductory remarks at 149 Cong. Rec. S6257–58). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- October 16, 2003: House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing that considered H.R. 1798, among other bills (unnumbered).
- November 17, 2003: H.R. 1798 favorably reported by House Committee on Resources (H.R. Rep. 108-365).
- November 18, 2003: The House passed H.R. 280 (the National Aviation Heritage Area Act) by voice vote, with amendments, which included language to establish the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area (149 Cong. Rec. H11448–59). The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration, where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- October 7, 2004: House passed an amended S. 211 (originally to establish the Northern Rio Grande NHA, but now including many provisions, among them the establishment of the Upper Housatonic Valley NHA). Senate never brought bill to the floor.
- December 7, 2004: Senate amended and passed S. 1521, a bill initially unrelated to NHAs and then amended by the House to include a few NHA amending provisions. After being passed by the House, Senate amendments included the establishment of nine national heritage areas and study of four additional areas, including Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area. Differences between Senate and House bills never resolved.
- February 17, 2005: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Act (S. 429) introduced by Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- February 17, 2005: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Act (H.R. 938) introduced by Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT). Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- March 15, 2005: Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing that considered S. 249, among other bills (S. Hrg. 109-28).
- May 16, 2005: House floor debate and passage of H.R. 938. Bill sent to Senate and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (151 Cong. Rec. H3283–86). No further actions on bill.

- July 26, 2005: Senate passed S. 203, with amendments that added national heritage area provisions to the original S. 203 (the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act) and included a provision to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley NHA (151 Cong. Rec. S8989–9008).
- May 8, 2006: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Act (H.R. 5311) introduced by Rep. Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT). Referred to the House Committee on Resources.
- May 9, 2006: H.R. 5311 considered on the House floor, under suspension of the rules. Debate on the House floor (152 Cong. Rec. H2189–91). Passed House by Voice vote and sent to the Senate. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- July 24, 2006: House debated S. 203 on floor (152 Cong. Rec. H5591–615). House passed S. 203, with amendment (152 Cong. Rec. H5648). Sent it back to the Senate.
- September 26, 2006: Senate agreed to House amendment to S. 203 by Unanimous Consent (152 Cong. Rec. S10539–59).
- October 2, 2006: Enrolled version of S. 203 presented it to the President.
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338).

## Wheeling National Heritage Area

### **State(s):**

- West Virginia

### **Designation Date:**

- October 11, 2000 (Public Law 106-291)

### **Chronology of Legislative Milestones:**

- August 3, 1993:
  - Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) introduced S. 1341, the Wheeling National Heritage Area Act (introductory remarks at 139 Cong. Rec. 18485–87). It was referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
  - Rep. Alan B. Mollohan (D-WV) introduced H.R. 2843, the Wheeling National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- September 21, 1993: The Senate Subcommittee held a hearing on S. 1341 and other legislation related to national heritage areas (S. Hrg. 103-516).
- November 16, 1993: The House Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2843 (Serial No. 103-62).
- March 17, 1994: The House Subcommittee held a markup session on H.R. 2843 and reported an amended bill to the full Committee on Natural Resources, by voice vote.



- March 23, 1994: The House Committee on Natural Resources held a markup session on H.R. 2843 and reported the legislation, as amended, to the full House of Representatives (H.R. Rep. 103-471).
- April 12, 1994: The House considered H.R. 2843 but postponed taking a vote (140 Cong. Rec. 7161–64).
- April 13, 1994: The House failed to pass H.R. 2843 by a vote of 264 yeas to 154 nays (2/3 were required to pass) (140 Cong. Rec. 7318–19).
- April 14, 1994: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 1341 favorably, with amendments (S. Rep. 103-249). No additional action was taken on this legislation.
- September 13, 1994: The American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) was introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). The bill included a provision to establish the Wheeling American Heritage Area (based on H.R. 2843).
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on House floor. Failed roll call vote (needed two-thirds majority, vote count was 234–187) (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–27).
- October 5, 1994: H.R. 5044 was debated on the House floor, amended, and passed the House by a vote of 281 yeas to 137 nays (Roll No. 486) (140 Cong. Rec. 27990–8045). The bill was received in the Senate, but that body took no further action.
- September 14, 1999: Sen. Byrd proposed an amendment to H.R. 2466 (the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000) to provide funding for Wheeling National Heritage Area. The bill went to conference between the House and Senate but no final agreement on appropriations was reached.
- March 9, 2000: Sen. Byrd introduced S. 2247, the Wheeling National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 3, 2000: Rep. Mollohan introduced H.R. 4156, the Wheeling National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- July 12, 2000: The Senate Committee reported S. 2247 favorably, with amendments (S. Rep. 106-341).
- July 27, 2000: The Senate passed S. 2247 by Unanimous Consent but then vitiated the action, pushing reconsideration to a later date (146 Cong. Rec. S7798–99).
- September 18, 2000: The Senate passed S. 2247 by Unanimous Consent, with amendments (146 Cong. Rec. S8662–63).
- September 19, 2000: S. 2247 was received in the House and referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.
- September 29, 2000: Language to establish the Wheeling National Heritage Area was included in the House conference report for H.R. 4578, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (H.R. Rep. 106-914 [Conf. Rep]).
- October 3, 2000: The House agreed to the conference report by a vote of 348 yeas to 69 nays (146 Cong. Rec. H8649–57).

- October 4–5, 2000: The Senate considered the conference report for H.R. 4578. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) objected to the inclusion of funds for the Wheeling National Heritage Area due to lack of prior authorization (146 Cong. Rec. S9879–917).
- October 5, 2000: The Senate agreed to the conference report for H.R. 4578 by a vote of 83 yeas and 13 nays (146 Cong. Rec. S9917).
- October 11, 2000: H.R. 4578 signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 106-291).

## Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area

### State(s):

- Arizona

### Designation Date:

- October 19, 2000 (Public Law 106-319)

### Chronology of Legislative Milestones:

- September 9, 1999: Rep. Ed Pastor (D-AZ) introduced H.R. 2833, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act (introductory remarks at 146 Cong. Rec. E1831). It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- November 11, 1999: Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) introduced S. 1988, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- April 4, 2000: The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held hearings on H.R. 2833 (no written minutes located).
- May 18, 2000: The House Subcommittee held a markup session on H.R. 2833 and forwarded the legislation to the full Committee with amendments.
- June 7, 2000:
  - o The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a markup session on S. 1988 and reported it favorably, with amendments (S. Rep. 106-340). No further action was taken on this legislation.
  - o The House Committee on Resources considered and held a markup session for H.R. 2833. It was ordered to be reported to the full House as amended (H.R. Rep. 106-740).
- July 25, 2000: The House considered H.R. 2833 under the suspension of the rules (146 Cong. Rec. H6876–79). It passed, as amended, by voice vote and was sent to the Senate.
- October 5, 2000: The Senate passed H.R. 2833 by Unanimous Consent, without amendment (146 Cong. Rec. S9979).
- October 19, 2000: Signed into law by President William J. Clinton (P.L. 106-319).
- July 21, 2004: Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced H.R. 4884, to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. It was referred to the

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources. No further action was taken on this legislation.

- January 25, 2005: Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced H.R. 326, to amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. It was reported to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Resources.
- March 3, 2005: Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) introduced S. 505, a bill to amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. It was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 29, 2005: The House Subcommittee held hearings on H.R. 326 (no written minutes located).
- October 19, 2005: The House Committee on Resources considered and held a markup session on H.R. 326. It was reported to the full House by Unanimous Consent, with amendments (H.R. Rep. 109-294).
- November 15, 2005:
  - o The Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. 505 and other legislation related to National Parks (S. Hrg. 109-355). No further action was taken on this bill.
  - o The House considered H.R. 326 and passed the legislation, as amended, by voice vote (151 Cong. Rec. H10178–79).
- March 8, 2006: The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources considered H.R. 326 and reported it favorably, without amendment (S. Rep. 109-242).
- September 29, 2006: H.R. 326 passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent, without amendment (152 Cong. Rec. S10535).
- October 11, 2006: Signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-318).

# Appendix B. Chronology of Legislation to Create an NHA System

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## 103rd Congress (1993–1994)

- June 15, 1993: National Partnership System of Heritage Areas Act (H.R. 2416) introduced by Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), “to establish a national partnership system providing Federal financial and technical assistance to State and local governments, private organizations, or any combination thereof, for heritage areas that provide outstanding, educational, recreational, inspirational and economic opportunities for this and future generations.” Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- November 22, 1993: American Heritage Areas Partnership Program Act of 1994 (H.R. 3707) introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN), to establish and define the American Heritage Partnership Program within DOI. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI.
- March 22, 1994: H.R. 2416 and H.R. 3707 considered at hearings held by the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources (Serial No. 103-78).
- May 19, 1994:
  - o The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources held a Consideration and Mark-Up Session during which they considered H.R. 2416 and H.R. 3707.
  - o No further actions on H.R. 2416. The sponsor of H.R. 2416, Rep. Hinchey, moved his support to H.R. 3707.
- June 30, 1994: H.R. 3707 favorably reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 103-570). Placed on Union Calendar, House of Representatives. No further actions on bill.
- September 13, 1994: American Heritage Areas Act of 1994 (H.R. 5044) introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN), to establish and define the American Heritage Areas Partnership Program within DOI, in addition to other provisions dealing with specifics NHAs. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- September 27, 1994: H.R. 5044 debated on the House floor (140 Cong. Rec. 25902–26). Failed a roll call vote (2/3 required) (Roll No. 442, at 140 Cong. Rec. 25926–27).
- October 5, 1994: House debated H.R. 5044 at length and representatives offered many amendments. H.R. 5044 passed the House on a roll call vote (Roll. No. 486). Sent to the Senate, where it was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.

## 104th Congress (1995–1996)

- March 21, 1995: Technical Assistance Act of 1995 (H.R. 1280), a bill “to establish guidelines for the designation of National Heritage Areas,” introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Parks, Preservation, and Recreation. No related bills.
- March 22, 1995: American Heritage Areas Act of 1995 (H.R. 1301), a bill to establish the American Heritage Areas Partnership Program, and for other purposes, introduced by Rep. Bruce F. Vento (D-MN). Referred to the House Committee on Resources and then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands.
- March 28, 1995: H.R. 1280 and H.R. 1301 considered at a hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Committee on Resources (Serial No. 104-8).
- August 2, 1995: National Heritage Act of 1995 (S. 1110) introduced by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) (introductory remarks at 141 Cong. Rec. S11205–7), to establish and define a National Heritage Areas Partnership Program within DOI. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Parks, Preservation, and Recreation. No related bills.
- September 12, 1995: House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands held a Consideration and Mark-up Session on H.R. 1280. Following the session, the Subcommittee forwarded an amended H.R. 1280 to the full Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- December 12, 1995: Hearings on S. 1110 held by the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 104-432). No further action was taken on S. 1110.
- April 24, 1996: National Heritage Areas Act of 1996 (H.R. 3305) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO). The bill would create a National Heritage Areas Program, among other NHA-related provisions. No related bill. Referred to House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.

## 105th Congress (1997–1998)

No NHA system-wide legislation was introduced during this Congress.

## 106th Congress (1999–2000)

- July 15, 1999: National Heritage Areas Policy Act of 1999 (H.R. 2532) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO), to provide framework and criteria for NHA designation and management without creating a NHA System. Bill was referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. Referred to DOI for comments. No related bills.

- October 26, 1999: H.R. 2532 considered at hearings before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands of the Resources Committee (no number or written report for hearings). No further actions on bill.

## 107th Congress (2001–2002)

- June 28, 2001: National Heritage Areas Policy Act of 2001 (H.R. 2388) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO), to establish the criteria and mechanism for the designation and support of national heritage areas. Referred to House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI.
- November 1, 2001: H.R. 2388 considered at hearings before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands.
- April 18, 2002: H.R. 2388 considered at House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands Consideration and Mark-up Session. Forwarded by the Subcommittee to Committee on Resources (Amended) by voice vote.
- June 11, 2002: H.R. 2388 favorably reported by House Committee on Resources. Placed on the Union Calendar (House), never brought to House floor.

## 108th Congress (2003–2004)

- March 13, 2003: Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held hearings on National Heritage Areas (S. Hrg. 108-23).
- March 25, 2003: National Heritage Areas Policy Act (H.R. 1427) introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO), to establish criteria and mechanisms around NHA study, management, funding, private property rights, significance. Referred to House Committee on Resources and then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. Executive Comment requested from DOI. No further actions on bill.
- March 30, 2004:
  - o The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled, “National Park Service: A More Systemic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas and Actions to Improve Their Accountability Are Needed” (GAO-04-593T).
  - o Following the release of the GAO report (GAO-04-593T), the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing “to conduct oversight on national heritage areas, including findings and recommendations of the General Accounting Office, the definition of a national heritage area, the definition of national significance as it relates to national heritage areas, recommendations for establishing national heritage areas as units of the National Park System, recommendations for prioritizing proposed studies and designations, and options for developing a national heritage area program within the National Park Service” (S. Hrg. 108-551).

- June 17, 2004: National Heritage Partnership Act (S. 2543), to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas, introduced by Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY) (introductory remarks at 150 Cong. Rec. S7012–14). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- June 24, 2004: S. 2543 the sole subject of hearings held by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks (S. Hrg. 108-692).
- August 25, 2004: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources favorably reported the National Heritage Partnership Act (S. 2543), with an amendment (S. Rep. 108-329).
- September 15, 2004: S. 2543 debated on the floor of the Senate and passed Senate (150 Cong. Rec. S9356–60). Sent to House.
- September 17, 2004: S. 2543 received in the House, referred to House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.

## 109th Congress (2005–2006)

- February 1, 2005: National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (S. 243), to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas, introduced by Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY) (introductory remarks at 151 Cong. Rec. S750). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- Feb. 2, 2005: National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (H.R. 760) (identical to S. 243, Related to H.R. 6287), to establish a program and criteria for NHAs, introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO). Referred to the House Committee on Resources, and then its Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- February 17, 2005: H.R. 888, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes, introduced by Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH). Related to S. 1721 (not same as). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and then its Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- March 9, 2005: S. 243 reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment. (S. Rep. 109-26).
- July 26, 2005: S. 243 debated on Senate floor and passed (151 Cong. Rec. S9029–31), with amendment (S. Amdt. 1586).
- July 27, 2005: S. 243 referred to the House Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks. No further actions on bill.
- September 19, 2005: S. 1721, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes, introduced by Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH). Related to H.R. 888 (not same as). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks.

- September 29, 2006: National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (H.R. 6287), to establish criteria for and to create a National Heritage Areas System, introduced by Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO). Referred to House Committee on Resources. No further actions on bill.
- June 22, 2006: Hearings held on S. 1721 (S. Hrg. 109-663).
- October 12, 2006: National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (S. 203) signed into law by President George W. Bush (P.L. 109-338), establishing ten new NHAs. An accompanying Presidential Signing Statement clarified federal authority over grantmaking by local coordinating or management entities.

## 110th Congress (2007–2008)

- January 12, 2007: National Heritage Areas Partnership Act (S. 278), to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas, introduced by Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
- September 17, 2007: S. 278 favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 110-168). No further actions on bill.
- May 8, 2008: Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S. 2739, P.L. 110-229) included a clause for all newly established NHAs and extended NHAs stipulating that three years before the end of an NHA's authorization period, the Secretary of the Interior would evaluate the NHA's accomplishments and submit to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources a report to include recommendations for the future of the NPS role in the NHA. Following P.L. 110-229, all authorizing and reauthorizing legislation included this clause.

## 111th Congress (2009–2010)

- March 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), which established nine new NHAs.
- October 30, 2009: President Barack Obama signed into law the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88), which amended P.L. 111-11 to include a clause on "Requirements for Inclusion and Removal of Property in Heritage Area."
- June 14, 2010: NHA Congressional Caucus formed by Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Charlie Dent (R-PA) (see news release from this date).

## 112th Congress (2011–2012)

- January 24, 2011: Spending Reduction Act of 2011 (H.R. 408) introduced by Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), to cut funding to NHAs. Referred to various relevant committees. No further actions on bills beyond referrals.
- December 16, 2011: A bill to provide that Federal funds may not be used for National Heritage Areas and similar areas, and for other purposes (H.R. 3716) introduced by Rep.



Tim Huelskamp (R-KS). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.

- February 28, 2012: National Heritage Area Act of 2012 (H.R. 4099) introduced by Rep. Charles W. Dent (R-PA) and 43 cosponsors. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, and then its Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. No identical bill in Senate. No further actions on bill.

## 113th Congress (2013–2014)

- February 1, 2013: National Heritage Area Act of 2013 (H.R. 445) introduced by Rep. Charles W. Dent (R-PA), to authorize a National Heritage Area Program and stipulate that the system expire 25 years after enactment. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation.
- July 29, 2014: H.R. 445 considered at hearings before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation of the Committee on Natural Resources (Serial No. 113-84).

## 114th Congress (2015–2016)

- July 31, 2014: A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds and the provision of technical assistance for the Heritage Partnership Program and National Heritage Areas (H.R. 5371) introduced by Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. No further action on bill.
- January 28, 2015: National Heritage Area Act of 2015 (H.R. 581), to authorize a National Heritage Area Program, introduced by Charles W. Dent (R-PA). Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands. No further actions on bill.

## 115th Congress (2017–2018)

- February 13, 2017: National Heritage Area Act of 2017 (H.R. 1002), to authorize a National Heritage Area Program, introduced by Rep. Charles W. Dent (R-PA). No Senate bill. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands. No further actions on bill.
- March 28, 2017: End NHA Earmarking Act (H.R. 1768), “to provide that no additional Federal funds may be made available for National Heritage Areas,” introduced by Rep. Steve Russell (R-OK). No related bills. Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands. No further actions on bill.
- June 26, 2017: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources amended the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act (S. 713) to rename the bill the National Heritage Area Authorization Act of 2017. Amended bill would establish four new NHAs, all with standard provisions (\$10 million ceiling, \$1 million per year, 50%

non-federal matching funds, evaluation and report, section on private property and regulatory protections, management plan, and prohibition of the acquisition of real property) (see S. Rept. 115-118).

- February 7, 2018: Explore America Act of 2018 (S. 2395), “to authorize the provision of technical assistance under the Preserve America Program and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into partnerships with communities adjacent to units of the National Park System to leverage local cultural heritage tourism assets,” introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI). Same as H.R. 5608. Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- April 24, 2018: Explore America Act of 2018 (H.R. 5608) introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK). Same as S. 2395. Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands. No further actions on bill.

## 116th Congress (2019–2020)

- June 5, 2019: Explore America Act of 2019 (S. 1746) introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI). Same as H.R. 5839. Would direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop metric to measure the effectiveness of certain programs, including national heritage areas. Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- February 7, 2019: National Heritage Area Act of 2019 (H.R. 1049) introduced by Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), to authorize an NHA System. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- April 30, 2019: H.R. 1049 considered at hearing before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the Committee on Natural Resources (no written transcript or number).
- January 16, 2020: National Heritage Area Act (S. 3217) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- January 29, 2020: H.R. 1049 favorably reported by House Committee on Natural Resources, by voice vote. Discharged by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands (written report not issued until November 19, 2020: H. Rep. 116-601).
- February 10, 2020: Explore America Act of 2019 (H.R. 5839) introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK). Same as S. 1746. Would direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop metric to measure the effectiveness of certain programs, including national heritage areas. Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. No further actions on bill.
- June 18, 2020: S. 4009 and H.R. 7239 (identical bills) introduced by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), respectively. Would reauthorize Pennsylvania NHAs through FY2036 (Rivers of Steel National, Lackawanna Valley, Delaware and Lehigh, Schuylkill River Valley, Oil Region) and eliminate the limitation on the total amount that may be appropriated for Rivers of Steel, Lackawanna Valley, and Schuylkill River Valley.

- November 19, 2020: H.R. 1049 reported favorably, with amendment, by the House Committee on Natural Resources (H.R. Rep. 116-601).
- December 3, 2020: H.R. 1049 debated on floor of House and passed by House (166 Cong. Rec. H6092–6). Sent to Senate and referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.

## 117th Congress (2021–2022)

- February 24, 2021: National Heritage Area Act of 2021 (H.R. 1316) introduced by Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), to establish a National Heritage Area System. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.
- February 26, 2021: Amendments to the Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act (H.R. 803) added Title XVII, to establish a National Heritage Area System and provisions for study, local coordinating entities, management, property rights, authorizations of appropriations, and other statutory clarifications (see H.R. 803 as engrossed in House and see 167 Cong. Rec. H737–57 for House floor debate and amendments). Passed by House (167 Cong. Rec. H757–61). Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- May 27, 2021: National Heritage Area Act (S. 1942) introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and 16 cosponsors, “to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas” and establish a National Heritage Area System. The introduced version did not include the establishment of any specific NHAs.
- June 15, 2021: H.R. 1316 at hearings before the House Committee on Natural Resources, then the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands (no printed report or hearing number).
- October 6, 2021: S. 1942 among many bills considered at hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Hrg. 117-450).
- December 17, 2021: National Heritage Area Authority Extension Act of 2021 (S. 3435) introduced by Sen. Joe Manchin, III (D-WV). This bill is the officially numbered and introduced version of the original bill that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources created on November 18, 2021. Bill was placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. No further actions on bill.
- May 3, 2022: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 1942 to be reported favorably, with an amendment (written report not completed until September: see S. Rept. 117-156).
- September 21, 2022: S. 1942 reported favorably, with amendment, by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (S. Rep. 117-156). The amended S. 1942 would establish a National Heritage Area System, authorize the study of two potential NHAs, establish five new NHAs, extend authorizations for 45 existing NHAs, authorize additional appropriations for 11 existing NHAs, change the names of two existing NHAs,

and extend the deadline for certain NHAs to submit management plans. Bill was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.

- November 18, 2022: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources drafted an original bill, the National Heritage Area Authority Extension Act of 2021. Bill would extend authorizations of many NHAs, amends authorized appropriations of several NHAs, extends certain commissions, redesignates certain areas, provides extensions to complete management plans, but does not create a National Heritage Area System.
  - o This bill incorporated language from various NHA bills in the 117th Congress (H.R. 956, H.R. 1220, H.R. 1261, H.R. 1810, H.R. 2235, H.R. 2381, H.R. 2412, H.R. 2845, H.R. 2882, H.R. 4087, H.R. 4149, H.R. 4473, H.R. 5208, H.R. 6035, H.R. 6731, H.R. 7157, S. 336, S. 378, S. 635, S. 787, S. 972, S. 1004, S. 1224, S. 1258, S. 1318, S. 1329, S. 1954, S. 2648, S. 3313, S. 3425, S. 3852, S. 3853).
- December 20, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the Senate floor and amended (see S. Amdt. 6587, the “Manchin Amendment,” based on S. 3435, 168 Cong. Rec. S9677–81). Bill passed by Unanimous Consent (168 Cong. Rec. S9614–18). Sent to the House.
- December 22, 2022: S. 1942 debated on the House floor (168 Cong. Rec. H10002–9). Passed the House by roll call vote (Roll Call No. 540, 168 Cong. Rec. H10030–31).
- January 5, 2023: S. 1942 signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden (P.L. 117-339).

## 118th Congress (2023–2024)

- May 9, 2023: Explore America Act of 2023 (H.R. 3158) introduced by Rep. Mary Sattler Peltola (D-AK). Would support cultural heritage tourism and encourage the NPS director to partner with gateway communities, including NHAs, “to leverage local cultural and historic heritage tourism assets.” No related bills. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.
- September 14, 2023: Increasing our Nation’s Value through Economic Support and Tourism in Our Communities Act (H.R. 5517) introduced by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV). A provision in the bill would create grants that are available to NHAs, among other land management entities. Referred to various committees, no further actions on bill.
- March 20, 2024: INVEST in Our Communities Act (S. 4006) introduced by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV). A provision in the bill would create grants that are available to NHAs, among other land management entities. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. No further actions on bill.
- April 10, 2024: Cultural Resource Challenge Act of 2024 (H.R. 7936) introduced by Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY). Includes a provision that the NPS director “shall enhance cultural resources work within the National Park System, including . . . (6) providing relevant training and technical guidance to State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, National Heritage Area System units, certified local governments, Federal preservation officers, government agencies, and others,” and establish a Cultural Resource Challenge grants program. No related bills. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. No further actions on bill.

# Appendix C. Funding Parameters of Individual NHA-Designating Legislation

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Authorized Appropriations (initial) and Required Non-Federal Match (if applicable)	Initial Cumulative Budget Cap?	Date of Funding Sunset (initial)
P.L. 98-398 (1984)	Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor	\$250,000 per fiscal year	None.	1994: Commission sunsets in 10 years, with option of 5 year extension.
P.L. 99-647 (1986)	John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor	\$250,000 per fiscal year Federal contribution not to exceed 50% of annual operating costs of Commission	None.	1991: Commission sunsets in 5 years, with option of 5 year extension.
P.L. 100-692 (1988)	Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (originally Delaware and Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor)	\$350,000 annually Federal contribution not to exceed 50% of annual costs of Commission	None.	1993: Commission sunsets in 5 years, with option of 5 year extension.
P.L. 100-698 (1988)	Path of Progress (Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission)	\$3,000,000 (doesn't specific timeframe) "Funds may be made available pursuant to this section only to the extent they are matched by equivalent funds from non-Federal sources."	None.	1998: Commission sunsets 10 years from enactment.
P.L. 103-449 (1994)	Cane River National Heritage Area	No specific numbers provided: "There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out titles III [CR National Historic Park] and IV [CR NHA] of this Act." No match required.	None.	11/1/2004: Commission sunsets in 10 years, with option of 5 year extension
P.L. 103-449 (1994)	The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor	\$200,000 for FY 1995; not more than \$250,000 annually thereafter. Federal funding not to exceed 50% of annual costs	None.	11/1/2001 (for a period not to exceed 7 years)
P.L. 104-323 (1996)	Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area	\$50,000 for the first 5 fiscal years	None.	10/18/2001
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Augusta Canal National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Essex National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (originally Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area)	\$150,000 for compact (25% match); \$150,000 for management plan (25% match); \$250,000 annual for operations for both management entities (50% match); \$50,000 annually for technical assistance.	\$10 million	9/30/2012 for secretarial assistance; 10 years with possibility of 5-year extension for funding to management entities

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Authorized Appropriations (initial) and Required Non-Federal Match (if applicable)	Initial Cumulative Budget Cap?	Date of Funding Sunset (initial)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	National Coal Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway (originally Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor)	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area (formerly Steel Industry Heritage Project/Steel Industry American Heritage Area)	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District	\$250,000 annually to the Commission; \$2 million for technical assistance and grants; \$2 million for land acquisition; \$500,000 to management entity	None.	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area (formerly America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership)	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	South Carolina National Heritage Corridor	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 105-355 (1998)	MotorCities National Heritage Area (originally Automobile National Heritage Area)	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2014
P.L. 106-278 (2000)	Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2012
P.L. 106-278 (2000)	Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/5/2015
P.L. 106-291 (2000)	Wheeling National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 25% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2015
P.L. 106-319 (2000)	Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2015
P.L. 106-554 (2000)	Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	9/30/2021 (Established in P.L. 113-291)
P.L. 108-108 (2003)	Blue Ridge National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	11/9/2018
P.L. 108-447 (2004)	Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	None.
P.L. 108-447 (2004)	National Aviation Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	12/7/2019

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Authorized Appropriations (initial) and Required Non-Federal Match (if applicable)	Initial Cumulative Budget Cap?	Date of Funding Sunset (initial)
P.L. 108-447 (2004)	Oil Region National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	12/7/2019
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Atchafalaya National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Great Basin National Heritage Area (originally Great Basin National Heritage Route)	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	10/11/2021
P.L. 110-229 (2008)	Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$15 million	5/7/2023
P.L. 110-229 (2008)	Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$15 million	5/7/2023
P.L. 110-229 (2008)	Niagara Falls National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$15 million	5/7/2023
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Baltimore National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Freedom's Way National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Authorized Appropriations (initial) and Required Non-Federal Match (if applicable)	Initial Cumulative Budget Cap?	Date of Funding Sunset (initial)
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Northern Plains National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	South Park National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/29/2024
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/11/2034
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Maritime Washington National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/11/2034
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/11/2034
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/11/2034
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/11/2034
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Susquehanna National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	3/11/2034
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Downeast Maine National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Northern Neck National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Southern Maryland National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	St. Croix National Heritage Area	\$1 million per year. 50% match.	\$10 million	1/4/2038



## Appendix D. Feasibility, Evaluation, and Management Plan Parameters of Individual NHA-Designating Legislation

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 98-398 (1984)	Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor	N. Reconnaissance Survey of Illinois and Michigan Canal in 1980; "Illinois and Michigan Canal: A Concept Plan" (1981)	NPS	No.	Formally added in 2006 by P.L. 109-338 (Title IV, Sec. 402).	None.	N
P.L. 99-647 (1986)	John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor	N.	n/a	No.	Due within 1 year of Commission's first meeting.	None. Amendments in P.L. 109-338 (2006) added evaluation requirement.	N
P.L. 100-692 (1988)	Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor	N. Lehigh Canal study by Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (1981)	HCRS	No.	Due within 2 years of Commission's first meeting.	None.	N
P.L. 100-698 (1988)	Path of Progress	N. Reconnaissance Survey of Western Pennsylvania Roads and Sites in 1985; "Action Plan: America's Industrial Heritage Project" (1987).	NPS	Yes (1987 report cited in designating legislation).	"Study report" within 2 years of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 103-449 (1994)	Cane River National Heritage Area	N. Special Resource Study (1993) identified heritage partnership model as an alternative.	NPS	Yes.	Prepare plan within 3 years.	None.	N

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 103-449 (1994)	The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor	N. 1991 study for feasibility as an NHA or NHC, 1993 follow up study by RTCA.	NPS	Yes.	Governor of CT “encouraged” to develop management plan, with public input.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement. <sup>360</sup>	Y (2016)
P.L. 104-323 (1996)	Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area	N. “Resource Assessment for Proposed Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Corridor” (1990).	NPS	Yes.	Commission to develop Corridor Interpretation Plan.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	N
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Augusta Canal National Heritage Area	N. “Master Plan” (1993) addressed feasibility as an NHA.	Augusta Canal Authority	Yes (1996 legislation references 1993 Master Plan)	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2013)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Essex National Heritage Area	N. “The Salem Project: A Study of Alternatives” (1991) identified a partnership model as an alternative.	NPS	Yes (1991 study referenced in designating legislation).	3 years after designation (calls it a “heritage plan”).	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2013)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area	N. Special Resource Study (1993). NYS program already existed.	NPS	Yes.	5 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2015)

<sup>360</sup> Language from the P.L. 111-11 amendments adding evaluation requirements for older NHAs was worded the same as new NHAs in P.L. 111-11 and appears to be at least nearly the same as provisions for new NHAs in P.L. 110-229.

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	National Coal Heritage Area	Y. “A Coal Mining Heritage Study: Southern West Virginia” (1993), directed by P.L. 100-699 (Title VI).	NPS	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2015)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway	N. Special Resources Study (1993).	NPS	Yes.	3 years after management entity recognized by Secretary of the Interior.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2015)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area	Y. Steel Industry Heritage Concept Plan (1993). P.L. 104-333 then called for a “compact” (requirements mirrored many criteria of NHA feasibility studies).	Steel Industry Heritage Task Force (created by Congress in 1991)	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2015)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District	Y. Study of Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (1992), pursuant to P.L.101-628.	NPS	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	N
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Inc.	N. “Special Resource Study, Cedar Valley, Iowa” (1995).	NPS	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2013)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	South Carolina National Heritage Corridor	No study.	n/a	No.	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2015)

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 104-333 (1996)	Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area	N. Grew out of Civil War Sites Advisory Committee Report (1993)	NPS	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. Amendments in P.L. 111-11 (2009) added evaluation requirement.	Y (2015)
P.L. 105-355 (1998)	MotorCities National Heritage Area	N. “A Shared Vision for Metropolitan Detroit” and “The Machine That Changed the World”; “Labor History Theme Study: Phase III; Suitability-Feasibility” (NPS) laid groundwork.	Local groups; NPS	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. P.L. 113-291 (2014) added evaluation option (to qualify for funding extension).	Y (2016)
P.L. 106-278 (2000)	Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area	N. “Plan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley” (1991) influenced designation.	Lackawanna Heritage Valley Steering Committee	Yes. Designating legislation also required a “compact.”	3 years after designation.	None. P.L. 113-291 (2014) added evaluation option (to qualify for funding extension).	Y (2016)
P.L. 106-278 (2000)	Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area	N. “River of Revolutions” (1992) ahead of state heritage area designation in 1995, and then state required a Management Action Plan.	Schuylkill River Greenway Association	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. P.L. 113-291 (2014) added evaluation option (to qualify for funding extension).	Y (2017)
P.L. 106-291 (2000)	Wheeling National Heritage Area	N. Wheeling Heritage Concept Plan (1991); Plan for the Wheeling National Heritage Area (1992).	Wheeling Heritage Task Force; NPS (with Task Force and City of Wheeling)	Yes.	Comprehensive plan for Wheeling was completed for NPS in 1992, prior to designation.	None. P.L. 113-291 (2014) added evaluation option (to qualify for funding extension).	Y (2019)

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 106-319 (2000)	Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area	N. Study and Master Plan/Concept Plan (1999).	Heritage Area Task Force	Yes. Designating legislation also required a “compact.”	3 years after designation.	None. P.L. 113-291 (2014) added evaluation option (to qualify for funding extension).	Y (2016)
P.L. 106-554 (2000)	Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor	N. Special Resource Study (1998).	NPS	Yes.	3 years after designation.	None. <sup>361</sup>	Y (2020)
P.L. 108-108 (2003)	Blue Ridge National Heritage Area	N. “Western North Carolina National Heritage Area Feasibility Study and Plan” (2002); “The Blue Ridge Heritage and Cultural Partnership” (2002)	Handmade in America and Advantage West	Yes, legislation cites both 2002 reports.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	Y (2018)
P.L. 108-447 (2004)	Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area	N. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan.	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources	Yes, cited in legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 108-447 (2004)	National Aviation Heritage Area	N. NHA Concept Study (2002), in addition to other studies demonstrating sufficient historical resources to establish the NHA.	Dayton Aviation Heritage Commission	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	Y (2017)
P.L. 108-447 (2004)	Oil Region National Heritage Area	N. Management Action Plan (1994) and other studies done for state heritage are (est. by PA in 1994).	State of Pennsylvania	Yes.	2 years after date of enactment.	None.	Y (2017)

<sup>361</sup> Evaluation requirements in P.L. 110-229 prompted NPS to develop policy to evaluate all NHAs. Erie Canalway, Blue Ridge, National Aviation, and Oil Region were evaluated per that policy, despite there being no congressionally established requirement for evaluation. See P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, NPS, to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chair, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, October 1, 2018, accessed August 1, 2025, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/Signed-letter-Blue-Ridge-National-Heritage-Area-2018-remediated.pdf>.

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2001).	Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance	Yes. Referenced in designating legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Atchafalaya National Heritage Area	N. Atchafalaya Basin Special Resource Study (1998); negative finding for a park unit.	NPS	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership	N. "Champlain Valley Heritage Corridor Project" (1999). Previously, two Congressional attempts for feasibility study, both failed (102nd, S. Res. 2778; 104th Cong, S. 1225).	NPS	Yes. Referenced in designating legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area	N. Special Resource Study (2002).	NPS	Yes. Referenced in designating legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2004).	Bleeding Kansas National Heritage Area Planning Committee	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Great Basin National Heritage Area	N. "Great Basin Heritage Area Feasibility Report" (1999).	The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor	N. "Low Country Gullah Culture Special Resource Study" (2005).	NPS	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area	N. Two reports ca. 2000/2001: (1) for the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance that analyzed the resources available for the proposed MPNHA; (2) for the Alliance, on coordinating craft industry within proposed MPNHA.	Utah State University.	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area	N. Special Resource Study related to Northern Rio Grande (2001); “Northern Rio Grande, New Mexico Heritage Area: A Proposal” (2001) in support of NHA designation.	NPS; Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Committee	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 109-338 (2006)	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area	Y. Directed by PL 106-470 (2000). Study titled “Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area Feasibility Study” (2003).	NPS	Yes. Referenced in designating legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	None.	N
P.L. 110-229 (2008)	Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area	N. “Feasibility Study of the Proposed Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area” (2007)	Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition	Yes. Referenced in designating legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	Y (2023)
P.L. 110-229 (2008)	Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area	N. Community-led, NPS reviewed and offered technical assistance.	Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership	Yes. Referenced in designating legislation.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	Y (2023)

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 110-229 (2008)	Niagara Falls National Heritage Area	Y. P.L. 107-256 (“Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Study Act”) directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a Niagara Falls NHA. Study completed in 2005.	NPS	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	Y (2022)
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Baltimore National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2006)	City of Baltimore	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area	N. Freedom’s Way Heritage Area Feasibility Study (1997); addendum in 2001 and updates in 2003.	Freedom’s Way Heritage Association and MA Department of Environmental Management	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area	N. No formal/complete feasibility study prior to designation. Community-led public proposal and efforts for public/stakeholder support in early 2000s.	n/a.	No.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area	N. No feasibility study.	n/a	No.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N



Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area	N. Community-led Mississippi Hills Alliance strategic plan (2004) influenced designation; not a formal feasibility study.	n/a	No.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area	Y. Directed by P.L. 107-348 (2002). Never completed. <sup>362</sup>	NPS (contracted with University of North Alabama)	No.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Northern Plains National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2007).	Northern Plains Heritage Foundation	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2005).	Sangre de Cristo NHA Steering Committee of Los Caminos Antiguos Association	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 111-11 (2009)	South Park National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2006).	Park County, CO	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N

<sup>362</sup> NPS contracted with the University of North Alabama in 2004 to conduct the study. In 2008, NPS determined that the draft Study remained inadequate in key areas and, thus, was not made available to the public nor submitted to Congress in accord with the requirements laid forth in its authorizing legislation. NPS was to take over the study in FY 2009. Designation occurred prior to completion of Study. The Study was never completed.

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2007).	Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, Inc.	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Maritime Washington National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2010, revisions in 2012).	Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2012, with revisions in 2014).	Greenway Trust	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2012).	Delta Protection Commission	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2005).	Center for Desert Archaeology	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N
P.L. 116-9 (2019)	Susquehanna National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2008).	The Lancaster-York Heritage Region	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	Yes. Not later than 3 years before date on which Federal funding authority terminates.	N

Designating Legislation (Year)	National Heritage Area	Feasibility Study - Congressionally Authorized (Y/N)	Who conducted feasibility study?	Feasibility study complete at designation?	Management Plan Submittal Deadline	Evaluation Requirements (original)	Evaluation Completed? (year)
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2009, revisions in 2016 and 2021).	University of West Alabama	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2016, revisions in 2022).	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for Black Metropolis National Heritage Commission	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Downeast Maine National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2021, revisions in 2022).	Sunrise County Economic Council	Yes, but at time of designation, had not met all criteria laid out in feasibility study.	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Northern Neck National Heritage Area	Y. Directed by P.L. 111-11 (2009), completed and transmitted to Congress in 2020.	NPS	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor	Y. Directed by P.L. 109-338 (2006), completed in 2014.	NPS	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	Southern Maryland National Heritage Area	N. Community-led feasibility study (2021).	Destination Southern Maryland/ Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium	Yes.	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N
P.L. 117-339 (2023)	St. Croix National Heritage Area	Y (P.L. 109-338)	DOI	Yes	3 years after the date of enactment.	No. The Secretary of the Interior “may” evaluate.	N

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