LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF
FIRE ISLAND
NATIONAL SEASHORE

INCLUDING:

PUBLIC LAW 88-587 (All) FiIS Enabling Legislation (1964)
PUBLIC LAW 89-244 (All) William Floyd Estate (1965)
PUBLIC LAW 94-578 (Part) Increase Appropriations (1976)

PUBLIC LAW 95-625 (Part) Boundary Changes & Dune District (1978)
PUBLIC LAW 96-585 (All) High Dune Wilderness Designation (1980)
PUBLIC LAW 98-482 (All) FiIS Land Acquisition (1984)
AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH THE FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

(a) for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations certain relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features within Suffolk County, New York, which possess high values to the Nation as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty in close proximity to large concentrations of urban population, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to establish an area to be known as the “Fire Island National Seashore”.

(b) The boundaries of the national seashore shall extend from the easterly boundary of Robert Moses State Park eastward to Moriches Inlet and shall include not only Fire Island proper, but also such islands and marshlands in the Great South Bay, Bellport Bay, and Moriches Bay adjacent to Fire Island as Sexton Island, West Island, Hollins Island, Ridge Island, Pelican Island, Pattersquash Island, and Reeves Island and such other small and adjacent islands, marshlands, and wet lands as would lend themselves to contiguity and reasonable administration within the national seashore and, in addition, the waters surrounding said area to distances of one thousand feet in the Atlantic Ocean and up to four thousand feet in Great South Bay and Moriches Bay, all as delineated on a map identified as “Fire Island National Seashore No. OGP-0002”, dated June 1964. The Secretary shall file said map with the Federal Register, and it may also be examined in the offices of the Department of the Interior.

SECTION 2

(a) The Secretary is authorized to acquire, and it is the intent of Congress that he shall acquire as appropriated funds become available for the purpose or as such acquisition can be accomplished by donation or with donated funds or by transfer, exchange, or otherwise, the lands, waters, and other property, and improvements thereon and any interest therein, within the boundaries of the seashore as established under Section 1 of this Act. Any property or interest therein owned by the State of New York, by Suffolk County, or by any other political subdivision of said State may be acquired only with the concurrence of such owner. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal property located within such area may, with the concurrence of the agency having custody thereof, be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for use by him in carrying out the provisions of the Act. In exercising his authority to acquire property in accordance with the provisions of the subsection, the Secretary may enter into contracts requiring the expenditure, when appropriated, of funds authorized by the Act, but the liability of the United States under any such contract shall be contingent on the appropriation of funds sufficient to fulfill the obligations thereby incurred.

(b) When the Secretary determines that lands and waters or interests therein have been acquired by the United States in sufficient quantity to provide an administrative unit, he shall declare the establishment of the Fire Island National Seashore by publication of notice in the Federal Register.
SECTION 2 (continued)
(c) The Secretary shall pay not more than the fair market value, as determined by him, for any land or interest therein acquired by purchase.

(d) When acquiring land by exchange the Secretary may accept title to any nonfederally owned land located within the boundaries of the national seashore and convey to the grantor any federally owned land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary. The lands so exchanged shall be approximately equal in fair market value, but the Secretary may accept cash from or pay cash to the grantor in order to equalize the values of the lands exchanged.

(e) With one exception the Secretary shall not acquire any privately owned improved property or interests therein within the boundaries of the seashore or any property or interests therein within the communities delineated on the boundary map mentioned in Section 1, except beach or waters and adjoining land within such communities which the Secretary determines are needed for public access to the beach, without the consent of the owners so long as the appropriate local zoning agency shall have in force and applicable to such property a duly adopted, valid, zoning ordinance that is satisfactory to the Secretary. The sole exception to this limitation on the power of the Secretary to condemn improved property where appropriate zoning ordinances exists shall be in the approximately eight-mile area from the easterly boundary of the Brookhaven town park at Davis Park, in the town of Brookhaven, to the westerly boundary of the Smith Point County Park. In this area only, when the Secretary deems it advisable for carrying out the purposes of this Act or to improve the contiguity of the park land and ease its administration, the Secretary may acquire any land or improvements therein by condemnation. In every case in which the Secretary exercises this right of condemnation of improved property the beneficial owner or owners (not being a corporation) of any improved property so condemned, proved he, she, or they held the same or a greater estate in the property on July 1, 1963, may elect as a condition of such acquisition by the Secretary any one of the following three alternatives:

(1) that the Secretary shall take the said property in fee simple absolute and pay the fair market value thereof as of the date of such taking;
(2) that the owner or owners shall retain a life estate in said property, measured on the life of the sole owner or on the life of any one person among multiple owners (notice of the person so designated to be filed in writing with the Secretary within six months after the taking) or on the life of the survivor in title of any estate held on July 1, 1963, as a tenancy by the entirety. The price in such case shall be diminished by the actuarial methods;
(3) that the owner or owners shall retain an estate for twenty-five years. The price in this case shall likewise be diminished by the value of the estate retained.

(f) The term "improved property" as used in this Act shall mean any building, the construction of which was begun before July 1, 1963, and such amount of land, not in excess of two acres in the case of a residence or ten acres in the case of a commercial or industrial use, on which the building is situated as the Secretary considers reasonably necessary to the use of the building: Provided, That the Secretary may exclude from improved properties any beach or waters, together with so much of the land adjoining such beach or waters, as he deems necessary for public access thereto.

SECTION 3
(a) In order to carry out the provisions of section 2, the Secretary shall issue regulations, which may be amended from time to time, specifying standards that are consistent with the purposes of this Act for zoning ordinances which must meet his approval.

(b) The standards specified in such regulations shall have the object of (1) prohibiting
SECTION 3 (continued)
new commercial or industrial uses, other than commercial or industrial uses which the Secretary considers are consistent with the purpose of this Act, of all property within the national seashore, and (2) promoting the protection and development for purposes of the Act of the land within the national seashore by means of acreage, frontage, and setback requirements.

(c) Following issuance of such regulations the Secretary shall approve any zoning ordinance or any amendment to any approved zoning ordinance submitted to him that conforms to the standards contained in the regulations in effect at the time of adoption of the ordinance or amendment. Such approval shall remain effective for so long as such ordinance or amendment remains in effect as approved.

(d) No zoning ordinance or amendment thereof shall be approved by the Secretary which (1) contains any provisions that he considers adverse to the protection and development, in accordance with the purposes of this Act, of the area comprising the national seashore; or (2) fails to have the effect of providing that the Secretary shall receive notice of any variance granted under, or any exception made to, the application such ordinance or amendment.

(e) If any improved property, with respect to which the Secretary's authority to acquire by condemnation has been suspended according to the provisions of this Act, is made the subject of a variance under, or becomes for any reason an exception to, such zoning ordinance, or is subject to any variance, exception, or use that fails to conform to any applicable effect at the time of passage of such ordinance, the suspension of the Secretary's authority to acquire such improved property by condemnation shall automatically cease.

(f) The Secretary shall furnish to any party in interest upon request a certificate indicating the property with respect to which the Secretary's authority to acquire by condemnation is suspended.

SECTION 4

(a) Owners of improved property acquired by the Secretary may reserve for themselves and their successors or assigns a right of use and occupancy of the improved property for noncommercial residential purposes for a term that is not more than twenty-five years. The value of the reserved right shall be deducted from the fair market value paid for the property.

(b) A right of use and occupancy reserved pursuant to this section shall be subject to termination by the Secretary upon his determination that the use and occupancy is not consistent with an applicable zoning ordinance approved by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this Act, and upon tender to the owner of the right an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

SECTION 5

The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and shell-fishing on lands and waters under his administrative jurisdiction within the Fire Island National Seashore in accordance with the laws of New York and the United States of America, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment. Any regulations of the Secretary under this Section shall be issued after consultation with the Conservation Department of the State of New York.

SECTION 6

The Secretary may accept and use for purposes of this Act any real or personal property of moneys that may be donated for such purposes.
SECTION 7
(a) The Secretary shall administer and protect the Fire Island National Seashore with the primary aim of conserving the natural resources located there. The area known as the Sunken Forest Preserve shall be preserved from bay to ocean in as nearly its present state as possible, without developing roads therein, but continuing the present access by those trails already existing and limiting new access to similar trails limited in number to those necessary to allow visitors to explore and appreciate this section of the seashore.

(b) Access to that section of the seashore lying between the easterly boundary of the Brookhaven town park at Davis Park and the westerly boundary of the Smith Point County Park shall be provided by ferries and footpaths only, and no roads shall be constructed in this section except such minimum roads as may be necessary for park maintenance vehicles. No development or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken therein which would be incompatible with the preservation of the flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing, and every effort shall be exerted to maintain and preserve this section of the seashore as well as that set forth in the preceding paragraph in as nearly their present state and condition as possible.

(c) In administering, protecting, and developing the entire Fire Island National Seashore, the Secretary shall be guided by the provisions of this Act and the applicable provisions of the laws relating to the national park system, and the secretary may utilize any other statutory authority available to him for the conservation and development of natural resources to the extent he finds that such authority will further the purposes of this Act. Appropriate user fees may be collected notwithstanding any limitation on such authority by any provision of law.

SECTION 8
(a) The authority of the Chief of Engineers, Department of the Army, to undertake or contribute to shore erosion control or beach protection measures on lands within the Fire Island National Seashore shall be exercised in accordance with a plan that is mutually acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army and that is consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(b) The Secretary shall also contribute the necessary land which may be required at any future date for the construction of the new inlet across Fire Island in such location as may be feasible in accordance with plans for such an inlet which are mutually acceptable to the Secretary of the interior and the Secretary of the Army and that is consistent with the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 9
(a) There is hereby established a Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission). The Commission shall terminate on the tenth anniversary of the date of this Act or on the declaration, pursuant to Section 2 (b) of this Act, of the establishment of the Fire Island National Seashore, whichever occurs first. The Commission shall consist of fifteen members, each appointed for a term of two years by the Secretary, as follows:

(1) Ten members to be appointed from recommendations made by each of the town boards of Suffolk County, New York, one member from the recommendations made by each such board;

(2) Two additional members to be appointed from recommendations of the town boards of the towns of Islip and Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York;

(3) One member to be appointed from the recommendation of the county executive of Suffolk County, New York;

(4) One member to be designated by the Secretary.
(b) The Secretary shall designate one member to be Chairman.
(c) A member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.
(d) The Commission established by this section shall act and advise by affirmative vote of a majority of the members thereof.
(e) The Secretary or his designee shall, from time to time, consult with the members of the Commission with respect to matters relating to the development of Fire Island National Seashore and shall consult with the members with respect to carrying out the provisions of Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act.
(f) (1) Any member of the Advisory Commission appointed under this Act shall be exempted, with respect to such appointment from the operation of Sections 281, 283, 284, and 1914 of title 18 of the United States Code and Section 190 of the Revised Statutes (5 U.S.C. 99) except as otherwise specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection.
   (2) The exemption granted by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not extend--
      (i) to the receipt of payment of salary in connection with the appointee's Government service from any sources other than the private employer of the appointee at the time of his appointment; or
      (ii) during the period of such appointment, and the further period of two years after the termination thereof, to the prosecution or participation in the prosecution, by any person so appointed, of any claim against the Government involving any matter concerning which the appointee had any responsibility arising out of his appointment during the period of such appointment.

SECTION 10
There is hereby authorized to be appropriated not more than $16,000,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in land pursuant to this Act.

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 11, 1964.
AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept a donation of property in the county of Suffolk, State of New York, known as the William Floyd Estate, for addition to the Fire Island National Seashore, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept the donation of approximately six hundred and eleven acres of lands, submerged lands, islands, and marshlands or interests therein, known as the William Floyd Estate, located in the town of Brookhaven, county of Suffolk, and State of New York, delineated on a certain map entitled "Map of the Fire Island National Seashore, Including the William Floyd Estate", numbered OGP-0003, dated May 1965, which map or a true copy thereof shall be filed with the Federal Register and may be examined in the offices of the Department of the Interior. Such donations may be accepted subject to such terms, covenants, and conditions as the Secretary finds will be in the public interest.

SECTION 2

The Secretary is also authorized to accept the donation of the main dwelling on said lands, which was the birthplace and residence of General William Floyd (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) and the furnishings therein and any outbuildings, subject to like terms, covenants, and conditions. The Secretary is authorized to lease said lands, dwellings, and outbuildings to the grantors therefor for a term of not more than twenty-five years, at $1 per annum, and during the period of the leasehold the Secretary may provide protective custody for such property.

SECTION 3

Upon expiration or surrender of the aforesaid lease the property shall become a detached unit of the Fire Island National Seashore, and shall be administered, protected, and developed in accordance with the laws applicable thereto subject, with respect to said main dwelling and the furnishings therein, to such terms, covenants, and conditions which the Secretary shall have accepted and approved upon the donation thereof as in the public interest.

APPROVED OCTOBER 9, 1965.
AN ACT

To provide for increases in appropriation ceilings and boundary changes in certain units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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

TITLE I -- ACQUISITION CEILING INCREASES

SECTION 101

The limitations on appropriations for the acquisition of lands and interests therein within units of the National Park System contained in the following Acts are amended as follows:

(5) FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, NEW YORK: Section 10 of the Act of September 11, 1964 (78 Stat. 928) is amended by changing "$16,000,000" to "$18,000,000".

APPROVED OCTOBER 21, 1976
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS
Section 1. This Act may be cited as the "National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978".

TITLE III - BOUNDARY CHANGES

SECTION 322. Fire Island National Seashore
(a) Subsection 1 (b) of the Act of September 11, 1964 (78 Stat. 928), as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"(b) The boundaries of the national seashore shall extend from the easterly boundary of the main unit of Robert Moses State Park eastward to Moriches Inlet and shall include not only Fire Island proper, but also such islands and marshlands in the Great South Bay, Bellport Bay, and Moriches Bay adjacent to Fire Island as Sexton Island, West Island, Hollins Island, Ridge Island, Pelican Island, Pattersquash Island, and Reeves Island and such other small and adjacent islands, marshlands, and wetlands as would lend themselves to contiguity and reasonable administration within the national seashore and, in addition, the waters surrounding said area to distances of one thousand feet in the Atlantic Ocean and up to four thousand feet in Great South Bay and Moriches Bay and, in addition, mainland terminal and headquarters sites, not to exceed a total of twelve acres, on the Patchogue River within Suffolk County, New York, all as delineated on a map identified as ‘Fire Island National Seashore’, numbered OGP-0004, dated May 1978. The Secretary shall publish said map in the Federal Register, and it may also be examined in the offices of the Department of the Interior."

(b) Section 2 of such Act is amended by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

"(g) The authority of the Secretary to condemn undeveloped tracts within the Dune District as depicted on map entitled ‘Fire Island National Seashore’ numbered OGP-0004 dated May, 1978, is suspended so long as the owner or owners of the undeveloped property therein maintain the property in its natural state. Undeveloped property within the Dune District that is acquired by the Secretary shall remain in its natural state."

(c) Section 7 (b) of such Act is amended by striking the phrase "Brookhaven town park at" and inserting in lieu thereof: "Ocean Ridge portion of".

(d) Section 10 of such Act is amended by striking "$18,000,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "$23,000,000".

APPROVED NOVEMBER 10, 1978.
AN ACT

TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN LANDS OF THE FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL
SEASHORE AS THE "OTIS PIKE FIRE ISLAND HIGH DUNE
WILDERNESS", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), certain lands in the Fire Island National Seashore, New York, comprising approximately one thousand three hundred and sixty three acres, and potential wilderness additions comprising approximately eighteen acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Wilderness Plan—Fire Island National Seashore", dated December 1980, are hereby designated as the "Fire Island Wilderness". The southern boundary of the wilderness shall be the toe of the primary dunes.

(b) As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, a map and a description of the boundaries of the wilderness area shall be filed with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, and such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in that Act: Provided, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such map and description may be made. The map and description of boundaries shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Superintendent of the Fire Island National Seashore and the Director of the National Park Service.

(c) Lands which represent potential wilderness additions, upon publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary of the Interior that all uses prohibited thereon by the Wilderness Act have ceased, shall thereby be designated wilderness. Pending such designation, the Secretary shall administer such lands in such manner as to preserve, insofar as is possible, their wilderness or potential wilderness character.

(d) Wilderness designation shall not preclude the repair of breaches that occur in the wilderness area, in order to prevent loss of life, flooding, and other severe economic and physical damage to the Great South Bay and surrounding areas.

(e) Section 10 of the Act of September 11, 1964 (78 Stat. 928) is amended by changing the period to a comma, and by adding the following: "and, after the date of enactment of this provision, not more than $500,000 for development".

(f) Authorizations of moneys to be appropriated under this Act shall be effective on October 1, 1981. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, authority to enter into contracts, to incur obligations, or to make payments under this Act shall be effective only to the extent, and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriate Acts.

APPROVED DECEMBER 23, 1980.
AN ACT

TO MODIFY FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICIES CARRIED OUT WITH RESPECT TO FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the “Fire Island National Seashore amendments Act of 1984”.

SECTION 2

Section 2 of the Act entitled “An Act to establish the Fire Island National Seashore, and for other purposes”, approved September 11, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 459e-1), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsections:

“(h)(1)(A) The Secretary shall sell any property described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph acquired by condemnation under this Act to the highest bidder; except that—

“(i) no property shall be sold at less than its fair market value; and

“(ii) no property shall be sold unless it is sold subject to covenants or other restrictions that will ensure that the use of such property conforms—

“(i) to the standards specified in regulations issued under section 3(a) of this Act which are in effect at the time of such sale, and

“(ii) to any approved zoning ordinance or amendment thereof to which such property is subject.

“(B) The property referred to in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is any property within the boundaries of the national seashore as delineated on the map mentioned in section 1 except—

“(i) property within the Dune district referred to in subsection (g) of this section;

“(ii) beach or waters and adjoining land within the exempt communities referred to in the first sentence of subsection (e) of this section; and

“(iii) property within the eight-mile area described in the second sentence of subsection (e) of this section; and

“(iv) any property acquired prior to October 1, 1982, that the Secretary determines should be retained to further the purpose of this Act.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all moneys received from sales under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be retained and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, only for purposes of acquiring property under this Act.

“(i)(1) Upon or after the commencement of any action for condemnation with respect to any property under this Act, the Secretary, through the Attorney General of the United States, may apply to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York for a temporary restraining order or injunction to prevent any use of, or construction upon, such property that—
"(A) fails, or would result in a failure of such property, to conform to the standards specified in regulations issued under section 3(a) of this Act in effect at the time such use or construction began; or

"(B) in the case of undeveloped tracts in the Dune district referred to in subsection (g) of this section, would result in such undeveloped property not being maintained in its natural state.

"(2) Any temporary restraining order or injunction issued pursuant to such an application shall terminate in accordance with the provisions of section 3(g) of this Act.

SECTION 3

Section 3(e) of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Fire Island National Seashore, and for other purposes", approved September 11, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 459e-2(e)), is

"(e) In the case of any property, including improved property but excluding undeveloped property in the Dune district referred to in section 2(g) of this Act, with respect to which the Secretary's authority to acquire by condemnation has been suspended under this Act if—

"(1) such property is, after the date of the enactment of the Fire Island National Seashore Amendments Act of 1984, made the subject of a variance under, or becomes for any reason an exception to, any applicable zoning ordinance approved under this section; and

"(2) such variance or exception results, or will result, in such property being used in a manner that fails to conform to any applicable standard contained in regulations of the Secretary issued pursuant to this section and in effect at the time such variance or exception took effect;

then the suspension of the Secretary's authority to acquire such property by condemnation shall automatically cease.

SECTION 4

Subsection (b) of section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Fire Island National Seashore, and for other purposes", approved September 11, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 459e-2(b)) is amended by striking out "by means of acreage, frontage, and setback requirements." and inserting "by means of limitations or restrictions on the size, location or use of any commercial, residential, and other structures. In accomplishing these objectives, such standards shall seek to reconcile the population density of the seashore at the time of enactment of the Fire Island National Seashore Amendments Act of 1984 with the protection of the natural resources of the Seashore consistent with the purposes for which it has been established as provided by this Act.

SECTION 5

Section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Fire Island National Seashore, and for other purposes", approved September 11, 1984 (16 U.S.C. 459e-2) is amended by adding the following new subsection (g) after subsection (f):

"(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Attorney General of the United States, may apply to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York for a temporary restraining order or injunction to prohibit the use of, including construction upon, any property within the seashore in a manner that—

"(1) will cause or is likely to cause significant harm to the natural resources of the seashore, or

"(2) is inconsistent with the purposes for which the seashore was established.
Except to the extent the Court may deem necessary in extraordinary circumstances, no such order or injunction shall continue in effect for more than one hundred and eighty days. During the period of such order or injunction, the Secretary shall diligently and in good faith negotiate with the owner of the property to assure that following termination of the order or injunction, the inconsistent use is abated or the significant harm to the natural resources is mitigated.

APPROVED OCTOBER 17, 1984.