

Public Law 111–11

**111th Congress**

**An Act**

To designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation

System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009’’

**TITLE VIII—NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS**

**Subtitle A—Designation of National Heritage Areas**

Sec. 8001. Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, Colorado.

Sec. 8002. Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area, Colorado.

Sec. 8003. South Park National Heritage Area, Colorado.

**Sec. 8004. Northern Plains National Heritage Area, North Dakota.**

Sec. 8005. Baltimore National Heritage Area, Maryland.

Sec. 8006. Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Sec. 8007. Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area.

Sec. 8008. Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area.

Sec. 8009. Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, Alabama.

Sec. 8010. Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, Alaska.

Subtitle B—Studies

Sec. 8101. Chattahoochee Trace, Alabama and Georgia.

Sec. 8102. Northern Neck, Virginia.

Subtitle C—Amendments Relating to National Heritage Corridors

Sec. 8201. Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Sec. 8202. Delaware And Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Sec. 8203. Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Sec. 8204. John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor

**SEC. 8004. NORTHERN PLAINS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA,  
NORTH DAKOTA.**

**(a) DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage Area” means the Northern Plains National Heritage Area established by subsection (b)(1).

(2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term “local coordinating entity” means the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area designated by subsection (c)(1).

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan for the Heritage Area required under subsection (d).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of North Dakota.

**(b) ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Northern Plains National Heritage Area in the State of North Dakota.

(2) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall consist of—

(A) a core area of resources in Burleigh, McLean, Mercer, Morton, and Oliver Counties in the State; and

(B) any sites, buildings, and districts within the core area recommended by the management plan for inclusion in the Heritage Area.

(3) MAP.—A map of the Heritage Area shall be—

(A) included in the management plan; and

(B) on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the local coordinating entity and the National Park Service.

**(c) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—The local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area shall be the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State.

(2) DUTIES.—To further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, as the local coordinating entity, shall—

(A) prepare a management plan for the Heritage Area, Management and submit the management plan to the Secretary, in plan. accordance with this section;

(B) submit an annual report to the Secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this section, specifying—

(i) the specific performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(ii) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity;

(iii) the amounts and sources of matching funds;

(iv) the amounts leveraged with Federal funds and sources of the leveraged funds; and

(v) grants made to any other entities during the fiscal year;

(C) make available for audit for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this section, all information pertaining to the expenditure of the funds and any matching funds; and

(D) encourage economic viability and sustainability that is consistent with the purposes of the Heritage Area.

(3) **AUTHORITIES.**—For the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity may use Federal funds made available under this section to—

(A) make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the Heritage Area;

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(C) hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in—

(i) natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation;

(ii) economic and community development; and

(iii) heritage planning;

(D) obtain funds or services from any source, including other Federal programs;

(E) contract for goods or services; and

(F) support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of the Heritage Area and are consistent with the approved management plan.

(4) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The local coordinating entity may not use Federal funds authorized to be appropriated under this section to acquire any interest in real property.

(5) **OTHER SOURCES.**—Nothing in this section precludes the local coordinating entity from using Federal funds from other sources for authorized purposes.

**(d) MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the local coordinating entity shall submit to the Secretary for approval a proposed management plan for the Heritage Area.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan for the Heritage Area shall—

(A) describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the heritage of the area covered by the Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area;

(B) include a description of actions and commitments that Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(C) specify existing and potential sources of funding or economic development strategies to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the Heritage Area;

(D) include an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area relating to the national importance and themes of the Heritage Area that should be protected, enhanced, interpreted, managed, funded, and developed;

(E) recommend policies and strategies for resource management, including the development of intergovernmental and interagency agreements to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(F) describe a program for implementation for the management plan, including—

(i) performance goals;

(ii) plans for resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development; and

(iii) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any Federal, State, tribal, or local government agency, organization, business, or individual;

(G) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, means by which Federal, State, tribal, and local programs may best be coordinated (including the role of the National Park Service and other Federal agencies associated with the Heritage Area) to further the purposes of this section; and

(H) include a business plan that—

(i) describes the role, operation, financing, and functions of the local coordinating entity and of each of the major activities described in the management plan; and

(ii) provides adequate assurances that the local coordinating entity has the partnerships and financial and other resources necessary to implement the management plan for the Heritage Area.

(3) DEADLINE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to develop the management plan after designation of the Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(B) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If the management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with subparagraph (A), the local coordinating entity shall not qualify for any additional financial assistance under this section until such time as the management plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

(4) APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after receiving Deadline. the plan, the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove the management plan for the Heritage Area on the basis of the criteria established under subparagraph

(B) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining whether to approve a management plan for the Heritage Area, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(i) the local coordinating entity represents the diverse interests of the Heritage Area, including Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, natural, and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners;

(ii) the local coordinating entity—

(I) has afforded adequate opportunity for public and Federal, State, tribal, and local governmental involvement (including through workshops and hearings) in the preparation of the management plan; and

(II) provides for at least semiannual public meetings to ensure adequate implementation of the management plan;

(iii) the resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development strategies described in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area;

(iv) the management plan would not adversely affect any activities authorized on Federal land under public land laws or land use plans;

(v) the local coordinating entity has demonstrated the financial capability, in partnership with others, to carry out the plan;

(vi) the Secretary has received adequate assurances from the appropriate State, tribal, and local officials whose support is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State, tribal, and local elements of the management plan; and

(vii) the management plan demonstrates partnerships among the local coordinating entity, Federal, State, tribal, and local governments, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, or private sector parties for implementation of the management plan.

**(C) DISAPPROVAL.—**

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary—

(I) shall advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(II) may make recommendations to the local coordinating entity for revisions to the management plan.

(ii) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a revised management plan, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the revised management plan.

**(D) AMENDMENTS.—**

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An amendment to the management plan that substantially alters the purposes of the Heritage Area shall be reviewed by the Secretary and approved or disapproved in the same manner as the original management plan.

(ii) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds authorized to be appropriated by this section to implement an amendment to the management plan until the Secretary approves the amendment.

**(E) AUTHORITIES.—**The Secretary may—

(i) provide technical assistance under this section for the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(ii) enter into cooperative agreements with interested parties to carry out this section.

**(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this section affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

**(2) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—On the request of the local coordinating entity, the Secretary may provide financial assistance and, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, technical assistance to the local coordinating entity to develop and implement the management plan.

(B) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the local coordinating entity and other public or private entities to provide technical or financial assistance under subparagraph (A).

(C) **PRIORITY.**—In assisting the Heritage Area, the Secretary shall give priority to actions that assist in—

(i) conserving the significant natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources of the Heritage Area; and

(ii) providing educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities consistent with the purposes of the Heritage Area.

(3) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the local coordinating entity.

(4) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Nothing in this section—

(A) modifies or alters any laws (including regulations) authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(B) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

(C) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

**(f) PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.**—

Nothing in this section—

(1) abridges the rights of any owner of public or private property, including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to—

(A) permit public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner; or

(B) modify public access to, or use of, the property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, tribal, or local agency;

(4) conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to the local coordinating entity;

(5) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(6) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area; or

(7) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

**(g) EVALUATION; REPORT.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for the Heritage Area under subsection (i), the Secretary shall—

(A) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the Heritage Area; and

(B) prepare a report in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(A) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(i) accomplishing the purposes of this section for the Heritage Area; and

(ii) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the Heritage Area;

(B) analyze the Federal, State, local, and private investments in the Heritage Area to determine the leverage and impact of the investments; and

(C) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustain-

ability of the Heritage Area.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Based on the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall prepare a report that includes recommendations for the future role

of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the Heritage Area.

**(B) REQUIRED ANALYSIS.**—If the report prepared under subparagraph (A) recommends that Federal funding for the Heritage Area be reauthorized, the report shall include an analysis of—

(i) ways in which Federal funding for the Heritage Area may be reduced or eliminated; and

(ii) the appropriate time period necessary to achieve the recommended reduction or elimination.

**(C) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—On completion of the report, the Secretary shall submit the report to—

(i) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

**(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

**(1) IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000, of which not more than \$1,000,000 may be made available for any fiscal year.

**(2) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

**(A) IN GENERAL.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity under this section shall be not more than 50 percent.

**(B) FORM.**—The non-Federal contribution may be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services fairly valued.

(i) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance under this section terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.