

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2749

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2000

Referred to the Committee on Resources

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## AN ACT

To establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “California Trail Inter-  
5       pretive Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) the nineteenth century westward movement  
4 in the United States over the California National  
5 Historic Trail, which occurred from 1840 until the  
6 completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869,  
7 was an important cultural and historical event in—

8 (A) the development of the western land of  
9 the United States; and

10 (B) the prevention of colonization of the  
11 west coast by Russia and the British Empire;

12 (2) the movement over the California Trail was  
13 completed by over 300,000 settlers, many of whom  
14 left records or stories of their journeys; and

15 (3) additional recognition and interpretation of  
16 the movement over the California Trail is appro-  
17 priate in light of—

18 (A) the national scope of nineteenth cen-  
19 tury westward movement in the United States;  
20 and

21 (B) the strong interest expressed by people  
22 of the United States in understanding their his-  
23 tory and heritage.

24 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

25 (1) to recognize the California Trail, including  
26 the Hastings Cutoff and the trail of the ill-fated

1 Donner-Reed Party, for its national, historical, and  
2 cultural significance; and

3 (2) to provide the public with an interpretive fa-  
4 cility devoted to the vital role of trails in the West  
5 in the development of the United States.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CALIFORNIA TRAIL.—The term “California  
9 Trail” means the California National Historic Trail,  
10 established under section 5(a)(18) of the National  
11 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(18)).

12 (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
13 California Trail Interpretive Center established  
14 under section 4(a).

15 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
17 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

18 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
19 of Nevada.

20 **SEC. 4. CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the pur-  
23 poses of section 7(c) of the National Trails System  
24 Act (16 U.S.C. 1246(c)), the Secretary may estab-  
25 lish an interpretation center to be known as the

1 “California Trail Interpretive Center”, near the city  
2 of Elko, Nevada.

3 (2) PURPOSE.—The Center shall be established  
4 for the purpose of interpreting the history of devel-  
5 opment and use of the California Trail in the set-  
6 tling of the West.

7 (b) MASTER PLAN STUDY.—To carry out subsection  
8 (a), the Secretary shall—

9 (1) consider the findings of the master plan  
10 study for the California Trail Interpretive Center in  
11 Elko, Nevada, as authorized by page 15 of Senate  
12 Report 106–99; and

13 (2) initiate a plan for the development of the  
14 Center that includes—

15 (A) a detailed description of the design of  
16 the Center;

17 (B) a description of the site on which the  
18 Center is to be located;

19 (C) a description of the method and esti-  
20 mated cost of acquisition of the site on which  
21 the Center is to be located;

22 (D) the estimated cost of construction of  
23 the Center;

24 (E) the cost of operation and maintenance  
25 of the Center; and

1 (F) a description of the manner and extent  
2 to which non-Federal entities shall participate  
3 in the acquisition and construction of the Cen-  
4 ter.

5 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out subsection (a),  
6 the Secretary may—

7 (1) acquire land and interests in land for the  
8 construction of the Center by—

9 (A) donation;

10 (B) purchase with donated or appropriated  
11 funds; or

12 (C) exchange;

13 (2) provide for local review of and input con-  
14 cerning the development and operation of the Center  
15 by the Advisory Board for the National Historic  
16 California Emigrant Trails Interpretive Center of  
17 the city of Elko, Nevada;

18 (3) periodically prepare a budget and funding  
19 request that allows a Federal agency to carry out  
20 the maintenance and operation of the Center;

21 (4) enter into a cooperative agreement with—

22 (A) the State, to provide assistance in—

23 (i) removal of snow from roads;

24 (ii) rescue, firefighting, and law en-  
25 forcement services; and

1 (iii) coordination of activities of near-  
2 by law enforcement and firefighting de-  
3 partments or agencies; and

4 (B) a Federal, State, or local agency to de-  
5 velop or operate facilities and services to carry  
6 out this Act; and

7 (5) notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
8 accept donations of funds, property, or services from  
9 an individual, foundation, corporation, or public en-  
10 tity to provide a service or facility that is consistent  
11 with this Act, as determined by the Secretary, in-  
12 cluding 1-time contributions for the Center (to be  
13 payable during construction funding periods for the  
14 Center after the date of enactment of this Act)  
15 from—

16 (A) the State, in the amount of  
17 \$3,000,000;

18 (B) Elko County, Nevada, in the amount  
19 of \$1,000,000; and

20 (C) the city of Elko, Nevada, in the  
21 amount of \$2,000,000.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this Act \$12,000,000.

        Passed the Senate October 5 (legislative day, September 22), 2000.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,  
*Secretary.*