

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1862

To establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2003

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. HART, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. FATAH, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. SHERWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

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; DEFINITIONS.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Oil Region National Heritage Area Act”.

6       (b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, the  
7       following definitions shall apply:

8               (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage  
9       Area” means the Oil Region National Heritage Area  
10       established in section 3(a).

1           (2) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term “man-  
2           agement entity” means the Oil Heritage Region,  
3           Inc., or its successor entity.

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7           (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8           (1) The Oil Region of Northwestern Pennsyl-  
9           vania, with numerous sites and districts listed on the  
10          National Register of Historic Places, and designated  
11          by the Governor of Pennsylvania as one of the State  
12          Heritage Park Areas, is a region with tremendous  
13          physical and natural resources and possesses a story  
14          of State, national, and international significance.

15          (2) The single event of Colonel Edwin Drake’s  
16          drilling of the world’s first successful oil well in  
17          1859 has affected the industrial, natural, social, and  
18          political structures of the modern world.

19          (3) Six national historic districts are located  
20          within the State Heritage Park boundary, in  
21          Emlenton, Franklin, Oil City, and Titusville, as well  
22          as 17 separate National Register sites.

23          (4) The Allegheny River, which was designated  
24          as a component of the national wild and scenic riv-  
25          ers system in 1992 by Public Law 102–271, tra-

1       verses the Oil Region and connects several of its  
2       major sites, as do some of the river's tributaries  
3       such as Oil Creek, French Creek, and Sandy Creek.

4               (5) The unspoiled rural character of the Oil Re-  
5       gion provides many natural and recreational re-  
6       sources, scenic vistas, and excellent water quality for  
7       people throughout the United States to enjoy.

8               (6) Remnants of the oil industry, visible on the  
9       landscape to this day, provide a direct link to the  
10      past for visitors, as do the historic valley settle-  
11      ments, riverbed settlements, plateau developments,  
12      farmlands, and industrial landscapes.

13              (7) The Oil Region also represents a cross sec-  
14      tion of American history associated with Native  
15      Americans, frontier settlements, the French and In-  
16      dian War, African Americans and the Underground  
17      Railroad, and immigration of Swedish and Polish in-  
18      dividuals, among others.

19              (8) Involvement by the Federal Government  
20      shall serve to enhance the efforts of the Common-  
21      wealth of Pennsylvania, local subdivisions of the  
22      Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, volunteer organiza-  
23      tions, and private businesses, to promote the cul-  
24      tural, national, and recreational resources of the re-  
25      gion in order to fulfill their full potential.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to enhance  
2 a cooperative management framework to assist the Com-  
3 monwealth of Pennsylvania, its units of local government,  
4 and area citizens in conserving, enhancing, and inter-  
5 preting the significant features of the lands, water, and  
6 structures of the Oil Region, in a manner consistent with  
7 compatible economic development for the benefit and in-  
8 spiration of present and future generations in the Com-  
9 monwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States.

10 **SEC. 3. OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established  
12 the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

13 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the Heritage  
14 Area shall include all of those lands depicted on a map  
15 entitled “Oil Region National Heritage Area”, numbered  
16 OIRE/20,000 and dated October, 2000. The map shall be  
17 on file in the appropriate offices of the National Park  
18 Service. The Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the  
19 Federal Register, as soon as practical after the date of  
20 the enactment of this Act, a detailed description and map  
21 of the boundaries established under this subsection.

22 (c) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The management entity  
23 for the Heritage Area shall be the Oil Heritage Region,  
24 Inc., the locally based private, nonprofit management cor-

1 poration which shall oversee the development of a manage-  
2 ment plan in accordance with section 5(b).

3 **SEC. 4. COMPACT.**

4 To carry out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary  
5 shall enter into a compact with the management entity.  
6 The compact shall include information relating to the ob-  
7 jectives and management of the area, including a discus-  
8 sion of the goals and objectives of the Heritage Area, in-  
9 cluding an explanation of the proposed approach to con-  
10 servation and interpretation and a general outline of the  
11 protection measures committed to by the Secretary and  
12 management entity.

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTI-**  
14 **TY.**

15 (a) **AUTHORITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—**  
16 The management entity may use funds made available  
17 under this Act for purposes of preparing, updating, and  
18 implementing the management plan developed under sub-  
19 section (b). Such purposes may include—

- 20 (1) making grants to, and entering into cooper-  
21 ative agreements with, States and their political sub-  
22 divisions, private organizations, or any other person;  
23 (2) hiring and compensating staff; and  
24 (3) undertaking initiatives that advance the  
25 purposes of the Heritage Area.

1 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The management entity  
2 shall develop a management plan for the Heritage Area  
3 that—

4 (1) presents comprehensive strategies and rec-  
5 ommendations for conservation, funding, manage-  
6 ment, and development of the Heritage Area;

7 (2) takes into consideration existing State,  
8 county, and local plans and involves residents, public  
9 agencies, and private organizations working in the  
10 Heritage Area;

11 (3) includes a description of actions that units  
12 of government and private organizations have agreed  
13 to take to protect the resources of the Heritage  
14 Area;

15 (4) specifies the existing and potential sources  
16 of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Her-  
17 itage Area;

18 (5) includes an inventory of the resources con-  
19 tained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any  
20 property in the Heritage Area that is related to the  
21 themes of the Heritage Area and that should be pre-  
22 served, restored, managed, developed, or maintained  
23 because of its natural, cultural, historic, recreational,  
24 or scenic significance;

1           (6) recommends policies for resource manage-  
2           ment which consider and detail application of appro-  
3           priate land and water management techniques, in-  
4           cluding, but not limited to, the development of inter-  
5           governmental and interagency cooperative agree-  
6           ments to protect the Heritage Area's historical, cul-  
7           tural, recreational, and natural resources in a man-  
8           ner consistent with supporting appropriate and com-  
9           patible economic viability;

10           (7) describes a program for implementation of  
11           the management plan by the management entity, in-  
12           cluding plans for restoration and construction, and  
13           specific commitments for that implementation that  
14           have been made by the management entity and any  
15           other persons for the first 5 years of implementa-  
16           tion;

17           (8) includes an analysis of ways in which local,  
18           State, and Federal programs, including the role for  
19           the National Park Service in the Heritage Area, may  
20           best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this  
21           Act;

22           (9) lists any revisions to the boundaries of the  
23           Heritage Area proposed by the management entity  
24           and requested by the affected local government; and

1           (10) includes an interpretation plan for the  
2 Heritage Area.

3           (c) DEADLINE; TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—

4           (1) DEADLINE.—The management entity shall  
5 submit the management plan to the Secretary within  
6 2 years after the funds are made available for this  
7 Act.

8           (2) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If a manage-  
9 ment plan is not submitted to the Secretary in ac-  
10 cordance with this subsection, the management enti-  
11 ty shall not qualify for Federal assistance under this  
12 Act.

13           (d) DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The man-  
14 agement entity shall—

15           (1) give priority to implementing actions set  
16 forth in the compact and management plan;

17           (2) assist units of government, regional plan-  
18 ning organizations, and nonprofit organizations in—

19                   (A) establishing and maintaining interpre-  
20 tive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

21                   (B) developing recreational resources in  
22 the Heritage Area;

23                   (C) increasing public awareness of and ap-  
24 preciation for the natural, historical, and archi-



1 tectural resources and sites in the Heritage  
2 Area;

3 (D) the restoration of any historic building  
4 relating to the themes of the Heritage Area;

5 (E) ensuring that clear, consistent, and en-  
6 vironmentally appropriate signs identifying ac-  
7 cess points and sites of interest are put in place  
8 throughout the Heritage Area; and

9 (F) carrying out other actions that the  
10 management entity determines to be advisable  
11 to fulfill the purposes of this Act.

12 (3) encourage by appropriate means economic  
13 viability in the Heritage Area consistent with the  
14 goals of the management plan;

15 (4) consider the interests of diverse govern-  
16 mental, business, and nonprofit groups within the  
17 Heritage Area; and

18 (5) for any year in which Federal funds have  
19 been provided to implement the management plan  
20 under subsection (b)—

21 (A) conduct public meetings at least annu-  
22 ally regarding the implementation of the man-  
23 agement plan;

24 (B) submit an annual report to the Sec-  
25 retary setting forth accomplishments, expenses

1 and income, and each person to which any  
2 grant was made by the management entity in  
3 the year for which the report is made; and

4 (C) require, for all agreements entered into  
5 by the management entity authorizing expendi-  
6 ture of Federal funds by any other person, that  
7 the person making the expenditure make avail-  
8 able to the management entity for audit all  
9 records pertaining to the expenditure of such  
10 funds.

11 (e) PROHIBITION ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL  
12 PROPERTY.—The management entity may not use Fed-  
13 eral funds received under this Act to acquire real property  
14 or an interest in real property.

15 **SEC. 6. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

16 (a) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—

18 (A) OVERALL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
19 may, upon the request of the management enti-  
20 ty, and subject to the availability of appropria-  
21 tions, provide technical and financial assistance  
22 to the management entity to carry out its du-  
23 ties under this Act, including updating and im-  
24 plementing a management plan that is sub-  
25 mitted under section 5(b) and approved by the

1 Secretary and, prior to such approval, providing  
2 assistance for initiatives.

3 (B) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—If the Secretary  
4 has the resources available to provide technical  
5 assistance to the management entity to carry  
6 out its duties under this Act (including updat-  
7 ing and implementing a management plan that  
8 is submitted under section 5(b) and approved  
9 by the Secretary and, prior to such approval,  
10 providing assistance for initiatives), upon the  
11 request of the management entity the Secretary  
12 shall provide such assistance on a reimbursable  
13 basis. This subparagraph does not preclude the  
14 Secretary from providing nonreimbursable as-  
15 sistance under subparagraph (A).

16 (2) PRIORITY.—In assisting the management  
17 entity, the Secretary shall give priority to actions  
18 that assist in the—

19 (A) implementation of the management  
20 plan;

21 (B) provision of educational assistance and  
22 advice regarding land and water management  
23 techniques to conserve the significant natural  
24 resources of the region;

1 (C) development and application of tech-  
2 niques promoting the preservation of cultural  
3 and historic properties;

4 (D) preservation, restoration, and reuse of  
5 publicly and privately owned historic buildings;

6 (E) design and fabrication of a wide range  
7 of interpretive materials based on the manage-  
8 ment plan, including guide brochures, visitor  
9 displays, audio-visual and interactive exhibits,  
10 and educational curriculum materials for public  
11 education; and

12 (F) implementation of initiatives prior to  
13 approval of the management plan.

14 (3) DOCUMENTATION OF STRUCTURES.—The  
15 Secretary, acting through the Historic American  
16 Building Survey and the Historic American Engi-  
17 neering Record, shall conduct studies necessary to  
18 document the industrial, engineering, building, and  
19 architectural history of the Heritage Area.

20 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT  
21 PLANS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor  
22 of Pennsylvania, shall approve or disapprove a manage-  
23 ment plan submitted under this Act not later than 90 days  
24 after receiving such plan. In approving the plan, the Sec-  
25 retary shall take into consideration the following criteria:

1           (1) The extent to which the management plan  
2           adequately preserves and protects the natural, cul-  
3           tural, and historical resources of the Heritage Area.

4           (2) The level of public participation in the de-  
5           velopment of the management plan.

6           (3) The extent to which the board of directors  
7           of the management entity is representative of the  
8           local government and a wide range of interested or-  
9           ganizations and citizens.

10          (c) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the Sec-  
11          retary disapproves a management plan, the Secretary shall  
12          advise the management entity in writing of the reasons  
13          for the disapproval and shall make recommendations for  
14          revisions in the management plan. The Secretary shall ap-  
15          prove or disapprove a proposed revision within 90 days  
16          after the date it is submitted.

17          (d) APPROVING CHANGES.—The Secretary shall re-  
18          view and approve amendments to the management plan  
19          under section 5(b) that make substantial changes. Funds  
20          appropriated under this Act may not be expended to im-  
21          plement such changes until the Secretary approves the  
22          amendments.

23          (e) EFFECT OF INACTION.—If the Secretary does not  
24          approve or disapprove a management plan, revision, or  
25          change within 90 days after it is submitted to the Sec-

1 retary, then such management plan, revision, or change  
2 shall be deemed to have been approved by the Secretary.

3 **SEC. 7. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES.**

4 Any Federal entity conducting or supporting activi-  
5 ties directly affecting the Heritage Area shall—

6 (1) consult with the Secretary and the manage-  
7 ment entity with respect to such activities;

8 (2) cooperate with the Secretary and the man-  
9 agement entity in carrying out their duties under  
10 this Act and, to the maximum extent practicable, co-  
11 ordinate such activities with the carrying out of such  
12 duties; and

13 (3) to the maximum extent practicable, conduct  
14 or support such activities in a manner that the man-  
15 agement entity determines shall not have an adverse  
16 effect on the Heritage Area.

17 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

18 The Secretary may not make any grant or provide  
19 any assistance under this Act after the expiration of the  
20 15-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of  
21 this Act.

22 **SEC. 9. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.**

23 Nothing in this Act shall preclude the management  
24 entity from using Federal funds available under Acts other

1 than this Act for the purposes for which those funds were  
2 authorized.

3 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
5 priated to carry out this Act—

6 (1) not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal  
7 year; and

8 (2) not more than a total of \$10,000,000.

9 (b) 50 PERCENT MATCH.—Financial assistance pro-  
10 vided under this Act may not be used to pay more than  
11 50 percent of the total cost of any activity carried out with  
12 that assistance.

○