

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4944

To designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mr. OTTER, Ms. DUNN, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WU, and Mr. BAIRD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail,
and for other purposes.

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 “Ice Age Floods Na-
5 tional Geologic Trail Designation Act of 2004”.

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

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

8 (1) At the end of the last Ice Age, some 12,000
9 to 17,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods

1 occurred in what is now the northwest region of the
2 United States, leaving a lasting mark of dramatic
3 and distinguishing features on the landscape of
4 parts of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

5 (2) Geological features that have exceptional
6 value and quality to illustrate and interpret this ex-
7 traordinary natural phenomenon are present on
8 many Federal, State, tribal, county, municipal, and
9 non-governmental lands in the region.

10 (3) In 2001, a joint study team headed by the
11 National Park Service that included about 70 mem-
12 bers from public and private entities completed a
13 study endorsing the establishment of an Ice Age
14 Floods National Geologic Trail to recognize the na-
15 tional significance of this phenomenon and to coordi-
16 nate public and private sector entities in the presen-
17 tation of the story of the Ice Age Floods.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to des-
19 ignate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail in the
20 States of Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, ena-
21 bling the public to view, experience, and learn about the
22 Ice Age Floods' features and story through the collabo-
23 rative efforts of public and private entities.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 As used in this Act:

1 (1) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the Ice
2 Age Floods National Geologic Trail designated in
3 section 4.

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

6 (3) FLOODS.—The term “Ice Age Floods” or
7 “floods” means the cataclysmic floods that occurred
8 in what is now the northwestern United States dur-
9 ing the last Ice Age primarily from massive, rapid
10 and recurring drainage of Glacial Lake Missoula.

11 **SEC. 4. ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC TRAIL.**

12 (a) DESIGNATION.—In order to provide for public ap-
13 preciation, understanding, and enjoyment of the nationally
14 significant natural and cultural features of the Ice Age
15 Floods, and to promote collaborative efforts for interpreta-
16 tion and education among public and private entities lo-
17 cated along the pathways of the floods, there is designated
18 the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail.

19 (b) LOCATION.—The route of the Trail shall gen-
20 erally follow public roads and highways from the vicinity
21 of Missoula in western Montana, across northern Idaho,
22 through eastern and southern sections of Washington, and
23 across northern Oregon in the vicinity of the Willamette
24 Valley and the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean as
25 generally depicted on the map entitled “Ice Age Floods

1 National Geologic Trail,” numbered _____, and
2 dated _____.

3 (c) MAPS.—

4 (1) REVISIONS.—The Secretary may revise the
5 map by publication in the Federal Register of a no-
6 tice of availability of a new map as part of the Coop-
7 erative Management and Interpretation Plan for the
8 Trail required under section 5(f).

9 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Any map referred to in
10 paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for pub-
11 lic inspection in the appropriate offices of the Na-
12 tional Park Service.

13 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
15 Director of the National Park Service, shall administer the
16 Trail in accordance with this Act.

17 (b) TRAIL MANAGEMENT OFFICE.—In order for the
18 National Park Service to manage the Trail and coordinate
19 Trail activities with other public agencies and private enti-
20 ties, the Secretary may establish and operate a Trail man-
21 agement office within the vicinity of the Trail.

22 (c) INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.—The
23 Secretary shall establish an interagency technical com-
24 mittee to advise the trail management office in technical
25 planning for the development of the Cooperative Manage-

1 ment and Interpretation Plan. The interagency technical
2 committee—

3 (1) shall include representation from the local,
4 State, tribal, and Federal governments with interests
5 in the floods and representation from the Ice Age
6 Floods Institute; and

7 (2) may include private property owners, busi-
8 ness owners, and nonprofit organizations.

9 (d) TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary
10 shall establish and maintain a trail advisory committee
11 comprised of individuals appointed by public land manage-
12 ment agencies, local, State, and tribal governments, pri-
13 vate citizens, and interested nonprofit organizations, in-
14 cluding the Ice Age Floods Institute. The trail advisory
15 committee shall assist the Trail manager and staff with
16 the operation of the Trail.

17 (e) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years
18 after funds are made available for this purpose, the Sec-
19 retary shall prepare a Cooperative Management and Inter-
20 pretation Plan for the Trail in consultation with State,
21 local, and tribal governments, the Ice Age Floods Insti-
22 tute, private property owners, and other interested parties.
23 The Cooperative Management and Interpretation Plan
24 shall—

1 (1) describe strategies for the coordinated de-
2 velopment of the Trail, including an interpretive
3 plan for facilities, waysides, roadside pullouts, exhib-
4 its, media, and programs that would present the
5 floods' story to the public effectively;

6 (2) identify potential partnering opportunities
7 in the development of interpretive facilities and edu-
8 cational programs to educate the public about the
9 story of the flood;

10 (3) confirm and, if appropriate, expand upon
11 the inventory of floods' features contained in the
12 National Park Service study entitled "Ice Age
13 Floods, Study of Alternatives and Environmental
14 Assessment" (February, 2001) by locating features
15 more accurately, improving the description of fea-
16 tures, and reevaluating the features in terms of their
17 interpretive potential; and

18 (4) review and, if appropriate, modify the map
19 of the Trail referred to in section 4(b)(1).

20 (f) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire
21 not more than 25 acres of land for public information and
22 administrative purposes to facilitate the geographic diver-
23 sity of the entire trail throughout Montana, Idaho, Wash-
24 ington and Oregon. Such acquisitions shall be consistent
25 with the Cooperative Management and Interpretation

1 Plan. Of these 25 acres, private land may be acquired
2 from willing sellers only by exchange, donation, or pur-
3 chase with donated or appropriated funds. Non-Federal
4 public lands may be acquired from willing sellers only by
5 donation or exchange and only after consultation with the
6 affected local governments.

7 (g) INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES.—The Secretary may
8 plan, design, and construct interpretive facilities for sites
9 associated with the Trail if the facilities are constructed
10 in partnership with State, local, tribal, or non-profit enti-
11 ties and are consistent with the Cooperative Management
12 and Interpretation Plan.

13 (h) PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this
14 Act shall be construed to require any private property
15 owner to allow public access (including Federal, State or
16 local government access) to such private property or to
17 modify any provision of Federal, State or local law with
18 regard to public access to or use of private lands.

19 (i) LIABILITY.—Designation of the trail shall not be
20 considered to create any liability or to have any effect on
21 any liability under any law of any private property owner
22 with respect to any persons injured on such private prop-
23 erty.

24 (j) COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.—In order to facili-
25 tate the development of coordinated interpretation, edu-

1 cation, resource stewardship, visitor facility development
2 and operation, and scientific research associated with the
3 Trail, and to promote more efficient administration of the
4 sites associated with the Trail, the Secretary may enter
5 into cooperative management agreements with appropriate
6 officials in Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon in
7 accordance with the authority provided for units of the
8 National Park System under section 3(l) of Public Law
9 91-383 (112 Stat. 3522; 16 U.S.C. 1a-2). For purposes
10 of this subsection only, the Trail shall be considered a unit
11 of the National Park System.

12 (k) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary is
13 authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with pub-
14 lic or private entities to further the purposes of this Act.

15 (l) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The
16 Secretary shall use the United States Geological Survey
17 to assist the Interagency Technical Committee and the
18 National Park Service carry out this Act.

19 (m) REGULATIONS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary
20 may not promulgate regulations specifically for manage-
21 ment of the Trail.

22 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
24 as may be necessary to carry out this Act. Not more than

- 1 \$500,000 of funds appropriated for this Act may be used
- 2 in each fiscal year for administration of the Trail.

