

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 276

To designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, 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; DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding
6 Natural Area Act of 2007”.

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

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

3 (2) LIGHT STATION.—The term “Light Sta-
4 tion” means Piedras Blancas Light Station.

5 (3) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
6 has the meaning stated in section 103(e) of the Fed-
7 eral Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
8 U.S.C. 1703(e)).

9 (4) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—The term
10 “Outstanding Natural Area” means the Piedras
11 Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural
12 Area established pursuant to section 3.

13 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

14 Congress finds as follows:

15 (1) The publicly owned Piedras Blancas Light
16 Station has nationally recognized historical struc-
17 tures that should be preserved for present and fu-
18 ture generations.

19 (2) The coastline adjacent to the Light Station
20 is internationally recognized as having significant
21 wildlife and marine habitat that provides critical in-
22 formation to research institutions throughout the
23 world.

24 (3) The Light Station tells an important story
25 about California’s coastal prehistory and history in

1 the context of the surrounding region and commu-
2 nities.

3 (4) The coastal area surrounding the Light Sta-
4 tion was traditionally used by Indian people, includ-
5 ing the Chumash and Salinan Indian tribes.

6 (5) The Light Station is historically associated
7 with the nearby world-famous Hearst Castle (Hearst
8 San Simeon State Historical Monument), now ad-
9 ministered by the State of California.

10 (6) The Light Station represents a model part-
11 nership where future management can be success-
12 fully accomplished among the Federal Government,
13 the State of California, San Luis Obispo County,
14 local communities, and private groups.

15 (7) Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station
16 Outstanding Natural Area would make a significant
17 addition to the National Landscape Conservation
18 System administered by the Department of the Inte-
19 rior's Bureau of Land Management.

20 (8) Statutory protection is needed for the Light
21 Station and its surrounding Federal lands to ensure
22 that it remains a part of our historic, cultural, and
23 natural heritage and to be a source of inspiration for
24 the people of the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC**
2 **LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL**
3 **AREA.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to protect, conserve, and
5 enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and fu-
6 ture generations the unique and nationally important his-
7 torical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic,
8 and recreational values of certain lands in and around the
9 Piedras Blancas Light Station, in San Luis Obispo Coun-
10 ty, California, while allowing certain recreational and re-
11 search activities to continue, there is established, subject
12 to valid existing rights, the Piedras Blancas Historic Light
13 Station Outstanding Natural Area.

14 (b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—The bound-
15 aries of the Outstanding Natural Area as those shown on
16 the map entitled “Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station:
17 Outstanding Natural Area”, dated May 5, 2004, which
18 shall be on file and available for public inspection in the
19 Office of the Director, Bureau of Land Management,
20 United States Department of the Interior, and the State
21 office of the Bureau of Land Management in the State
22 of California.

23 (c) BASIS OF MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall
24 manage the Outstanding Natural Area as part of the Na-
25 tional Landscape Conservation System to protect the re-
26 sources of the area, and shall allow only those uses that

1 further the purposes for the establishment of the Out-
2 standing Natural Area, the Federal Land Policy and Man-
3 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other
4 applicable laws.

5 (d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
6 and in accordance with the existing withdrawal as set
7 forth in Public Land Order 7501 (Oct. 12, 2001, Vol. 66,
8 No. 198, Federal Register 52149), the Federal lands and
9 interests in lands included within the Outstanding Natural
10 Area are hereby withdrawn from—

11 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal
12 under the public land laws;

13 (2) location, entry, and patent under the public
14 land mining laws; and

15 (3) operation of the mineral leasing and geo-
16 thermal leasing laws and the mineral materials laws.

17 **SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HIS-**
18 **TORIC LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NAT-**
19 **URAL AREA.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the
21 Outstanding Natural Area in a manner that conserves,
22 protects, and enhances the unique and nationally impor-
23 tant historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational,
24 scenic, and recreational values of that area, including an

1 emphasis on preserving and restoring the Light Station
2 facilities, consistent with the requirements section 3(c).

3 (b) USES.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Sec-
4 retary shall only allow such uses of the Outstanding Nat-
5 ural Area as the Secretary finds are likely to further the
6 purposes for which the Outstanding Natural Area is estab-
7 lished as set forth in section 3(a).

8 (c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years
9 after of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary shall complete a comprehensive management plan
11 consistent with the requirements of section 202 of the
12 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
13 U.S.C. 1712) to provide long-term management guidance
14 for the public lands within the Outstanding Natural Area
15 and fulfill the purposes for which it is established, as set
16 forth in section 3(a). The management plan shall be devel-
17 oped in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and
18 local government agencies, with full public participation,
19 and the contents shall include—

20 (1) provisions designed to ensure the protection
21 of the resources and values described in section 3(a);

22 (2) objectives to restore the historic Light Sta-
23 tion and ancillary buildings;

24 (3) an implementation plan for a continuing
25 program of interpretation and public education

1 about the Light Station and its importance to the
2 surrounding community;

3 (4) a proposal for minimal administrative and
4 public facilities to be developed or improved at a
5 level compatible with achieving the resources objec-
6 tives for the Outstanding Natural Area as described
7 in subsection (a) and with other proposed manage-
8 ment activities to accommodate visitors and re-
9 searchers to the Outstanding Natural Area; and

10 (5) cultural resources management strategies
11 for the Outstanding Natural Area, prepared in con-
12 sultation with appropriate departments of the State
13 of California, with emphasis on the preservation of
14 the resources of the Outstanding Natural Area and
15 the interpretive, education, and long-term scientific
16 uses of the resources, giving priority to the enforce-
17 ment of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act
18 of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) and the National
19 Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
20 within the Outstanding Natural Area.

21 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In order to better
22 implement the management plan and to continue the suc-
23 cessful partnerships with the local communities and the
24 Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, adminis-
25 tered by the California Department of Parks and Recre-

1 ation, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-
2 ments with the appropriate Federal, State, and local agen-
3 cies pursuant to section 307(b) of the Federal Land Man-
4 agement Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
5 1737(b)).

6 (e) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—In order to continue the
7 successful partnership with research organizations and
8 agencies and to assist in the development and implementa-
9 tion of the management plan, the Secretary may authorize
10 within the Outstanding Natural Area appropriate research
11 activities for the purposes identified in section 3(a) and
12 pursuant to section 307(a) of the Federal Land Policy and
13 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(a)).

14 (f) ACQUISITION.—State and privately held lands or
15 interests in lands adjacent to the Outstanding Natural
16 Area and identified as appropriate for acquisition in the
17 management plan may be acquired by the Secretary as
18 part of the Outstanding Natural Area only by—

- 19 (1) donation;
20 (2) exchange with a willing party; or
21 (3) purchase from a willing seller.

22 (g) ADDITIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL
23 AREA.—Any lands or interest in lands adjacent to the
24 Outstanding Natural Area acquired by the United States
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be added

1 to and administered as part of the Outstanding Natural
2 Area.

3 (h) OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act or the man-
4 agement plan shall be construed to—

5 (1) restrict or preclude overflights, including
6 low level overflights, military, commercial, and gen-
7 eral aviation overflights that can be seen or heard
8 within the Outstanding Natural Area;

9 (2) restrict or preclude the designation or cre-
10 ation of new units of special use airspace or the es-
11 tablishment of military flight training routes over
12 the Outstanding Natural Area; or

13 (3) modify regulations governing low-level over-
14 flights above the adjacent Monterey Bay National
15 Marine Sanctuary.

16 (i) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in
17 this Act shall be construed to preclude or otherwise affect
18 coastal border security operations or other law enforce-
19 ment activities by the Coast Guard or other agencies with-
20 in the Department of Homeland Security, the Department
21 of Justice, or any other Federal, State, and local law en-
22 forcement agencies within the Outstanding Natural Area.

23 (j) NATIVE AMERICAN USES AND INTERESTS.—In
24 recognition of the past use of the Outstanding Natural
25 Area by Indians and Indian tribes for traditional cultural

1 and religious purposes, the Secretary shall ensure access
2 to the Outstanding Natural Area by Indians and Indian
3 tribes for such traditional cultural and religious purposes.
4 In implementing this section, the Secretary, upon the re-
5 quest of an Indian tribe or Indian religious community,
6 shall temporarily close to the general public use of one
7 or more specific portions of the Outstanding Natural Area
8 in order to protect the privacy of traditional cultural and
9 religious activities in such areas by the Indian tribe or In-
10 dian religious community. Any such closure shall be made
11 to affect the smallest practicable area for the minimum
12 period necessary for such purposes. Such access shall be
13 consistent with the purpose and intent of Public Law 95-
14 341 (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.; commonly referred to as the
15 “American Indian Religious Freedom Act”).

16 (k) NO BUFFER ZONES.—The designation of the
17 Outstanding Natural Area is not intended to lead to the
18 creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around
19 area. The fact that activities outside the Outstanding Nat-
20 ural Area and not consistent with the purposes of this Act
21 can be seen or heard within the Outstanding Natural Area
22 shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to
23 the boundary of the Outstanding Natural Area.

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

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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