

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2998

To establish the Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor in the State of Georgia,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor in  
the State of Georgia, 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 “Ocmulgee National  
5       Heritage Corridor Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

8               (1) The Ocmulgee Heritage Corridor is centered  
9       on the fall line of the Ocmulgee River, a crossroads  
10      of history and geography, which divides two geo-

1 graphic regions and creates two distinct ecosystems,  
2 the Piedmont Plateau and the Eastern Coastal  
3 Plain. The intersection of land and water transpor-  
4 tation routes has fostered a continuum of human  
5 settlement that has endured more than 12,000  
6 years.

7 (2) Macon, Georgia, has more acreage listed in  
8 the National Register than any other city in Geor-  
9 gia, including fifty-four individual properties, ten  
10 National Register historic districts with more than  
11 5,500 contributing properties, and two National His-  
12 toric Landmarks.

13 (3) The Ocmulgee National Monument protects  
14 the remains of Native American settlements over a  
15 12,000-year period and has features and artifacts  
16 representing a long cultural continuum from early  
17 hunter-gatherers through the Civil War.

18 (4) The Ocmulgee Old Fields, which consist of  
19 the Ocmulgee National Monument, Bond Swamp  
20 National Wildlife Refuge, Central City Park, and  
21 other private lands in the Ocmulgee floodplain have  
22 been determined eligible for listing in the National  
23 Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural  
24 Property. The Traditional Cultural Property deter-  
25 mination is based on the area's cultural and histor-

1 ical significance in Native American heritage and its  
2 potential for yielding important information about  
3 the history of the Macon Plateau and Ocmulgee  
4 River.

5 (5) The Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor  
6 has been proposed in order to heighten appreciation  
7 of the region, preserve its natural and historical re-  
8 sources, and improve the quality of life and economy  
9 of the area.

10 (6) Macon, Georgia has been designated as one  
11 of Georgia's Preserve America Communities and one  
12 of the National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destina-  
13 tions of 2004.

14 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-  
15 lows:

16 (1) To establish the Ocmulgee National Herit-  
17 age Corridor in the State of Georgia.

18 (2) To implement the national heritage corridor  
19 alternative as described in the document entitled  
20 “Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor Feasibility  
21 Study, September 2004”.

22 (3) To provide a management framework to  
23 foster a close working relationship among all levels  
24 of government, the private sector, and the local com-  
25 munities in the Ocmulgee Heritage Corridor and to

1 conserve the region’s heritage while continuing to  
2 pursue compatible economic opportunities.

3 (4) To assist communities, organizations, and  
4 citizens in the State of Georgia in identifying, pre-  
5 serving, interpreting, and developing the historical,  
6 cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the region  
7 for the educational and inspirational benefit of cur-  
8 rent and future generations.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) HERITAGE CORRIDOR.—The term “Herit-  
12 age Corridor” means the Ocmulgee National Herit-  
13 age Corridor, established in section 4.

14 (2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term  
15 “Local Coordinating Entity” means the local coordi-  
16 nating entity for the Heritage Corridor designated  
17 by section 4(d).

18 (3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-  
19 ment plan” means the management plan for the  
20 Heritage Corridor specified in section 6.

21 (4) MAP.—The term “map” means the map ti-  
22 tled “Boundary Map Ocmulgee National Heritage  
23 Corridor-Alternative B” and dated September 2004.

24 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
2       of Georgia.

3 **SEC. 4. OCMULGEE NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.**

4       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
5 Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor.

6       (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Corridor shall be  
7 comprised of the land and water within the boundaries of  
8 the Heritage Corridor, as depicted on the map, includ-  
9 ing—

10           (1) the City of Macon, Georgia;

11           (2) Ocmulgee National Monument; and

12           (3) the Ocmulgee River Corridor from Water  
13 Works to the Bond Swamp.

14       (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file  
15 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-  
16 fices of the National Park Service, Department of the In-  
17 terior.

18       (d) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Ocmulgee  
19 Heritage L.L.C. shall be the local coordinating entity for  
20 the Heritage Corridor.

21 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE LOCAL COORDI-**  
22 **NATING ENTITY.**

23       (a) DUTIES OF THE LOCAL COORDINATING ENTI-  
24 TY.—To further the purposes of the Heritage Corridor,  
25 the local coordinating entity shall—

1           (1) prepare and submit a management plan for  
2 the Heritage Corridor to the Secretary in accordance  
3 with section 6;

4           (2) assist units of local government, regional  
5 planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations  
6 in implementing the approved management plan  
7 by—

8                   (A) carrying out programs and projects  
9 that recognize, protect, and enhance important  
10 resource values within the Heritage Corridor;

11                   (B) establishing and maintaining interpre-  
12 tive exhibits and programs within the Heritage  
13 Corridor;

14                   (C) developing recreational and educational  
15 opportunities in the Heritage Corridor;

16                   (D) increasing public awareness of and ap-  
17 preciation for natural, historical, scenic, and  
18 cultural resources of the Heritage Corridor;

19                   (E) protecting and restoring historic sites  
20 and buildings in the Heritage Corridor that are  
21 consistent with Heritage Corridor themes;

22                   (F) ensuring that clear, consistent, and ap-  
23 propriate signs identifying points of public ac-  
24 cess and sites of interest are posted throughout  
25 the Heritage Corridor; and

1 (G) promoting a wide range of partner-  
2 ships among governments, organizations, and  
3 individuals to further the purposes of the Herit-  
4 age Corridor;

5 (3) consider the interests of diverse units of  
6 government, businesses, organizations, and individ-  
7 uals in the Heritage Corridor in the preparation and  
8 implementation of the management plan;

9 (4) conduct meetings open to the public at least  
10 semiannually regarding the development and imple-  
11 mentation of the management plan;

12 (5) submit an annual report to the Secretary  
13 for any fiscal year in which the local coordinating  
14 entity receives Federal funds under this Act speci-  
15 fying—

16 (A) the specific performance goals and ac-  
17 complishments of the local coordinating entity;

18 (B) the expenses and income of the local  
19 coordinating entity;

20 (C) the amounts and sources of matching  
21 funds;

22 (D) the amounts leveraged with Federal  
23 funds and sources of the leveraging; and

24 (E) grants made to any other entities dur-  
25 ing the fiscal year;

1           (6) make available for audit for any fiscal year  
2           in which it receives Federal funds under this Act, all  
3           information pertaining to the expenditure of such  
4           funds and any matching funds, and require in all  
5           agreements authorizing expenditures of Federal  
6           funds by other organizations, that the receiving or-  
7           ganizations make available for such audit all records  
8           and other information pertaining to the expenditure  
9           of such funds; and

10           (7) encourage by appropriate means economic  
11           viability that is consistent with the purposes of the  
12           Heritage Corridor.

13           (b) AUTHORITIES.—The local coordinating entity  
14           may, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the  
15           management plan for the Heritage Corridor, use Federal  
16           funds made available through this Act to—

17           (1) make grants to the State of Georgia, its po-  
18           litical subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and  
19           other persons;

20           (2) enter into cooperative agreements with or  
21           provide technical assistance to the State of Georgia,  
22           its political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations,  
23           Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

24           (3) hire and compensate staff, which shall in-  
25           clude individuals with expertise in natural, cultural,



1 and historical resources protection, economic and  
2 community development, and heritage planning;

3 (4) obtain funds or services from any source in-  
4 cluding any that are provided under any other Fed-  
5 eral law or program;

6 (5) contract for goods or services; and

7 (6) support activities of partners and any other  
8 activities that further the purposes of the Heritage  
9 Corridor and is consistent with the approved man-  
10 agement plan.

11 (c) PROHIBITIONS ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL  
12 PROPERTY.—The local coordinating entity may not use  
13 Federal funds received under this Act to acquire real prop-  
14 erty, but may use any other source of funding, including  
15 other Federal funding outside this authority, intended for  
16 the acquisition of real property.

17 **SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The management plan for the  
19 Heritage Corridor shall—

20 (1) include comprehensive policies, strategies,  
21 and recommendations for conservation, funding,  
22 management, and development of the Heritage Cor-  
23 ridor;

1           (2) take into consideration existing State, coun-  
2           ty, and local plans in the development of the man-  
3           agement plan and its implementation;

4           (3) include a description of actions that govern-  
5           ments, private organizations, and individuals have  
6           agreed to take to protect the natural, historical, and  
7           cultural resources of the Heritage Corridor;

8           (4) specify the existing and potential sources of  
9           funding or economic development strategies to pro-  
10          tect, manage, and develop the Heritage Corridor;

11          (5) include an inventory of the natural, histor-  
12          ical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational  
13          resources of the Heritage Corridor related to the  
14          themes of the Heritage Corridor that should be pre-  
15          served, restored, managed, developed, or maintained;

16          (6) recommend policies and strategies for re-  
17          source management that consider and detail the ap-  
18          plication of appropriate land and water management  
19          techniques including, but not limited to, the develop-  
20          ment of intergovernmental and interagency coopera-  
21          tive agreements to protect the Heritage Corridor's  
22          natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and  
23          recreational resources;

24          (7) describe a program of implementation for  
25          the management plan including performance goals,

1 plans for resource protection, restoration, interpreta-  
2 tion, enhancement, management, and development,  
3 and specific commitments for implementation that  
4 have been made by the local coordinating entity or  
5 any government, organization, or individual;

6 (8) include an analysis and recommendations  
7 for ways in which local, State, and Federal pro-  
8 grams, including the role of the National Park Serv-  
9 ice in the Heritage Corridor, may best be coordi-  
10 nated to further the purposes of this Act;

11 (9) include an interpretive plan for the Heritage  
12 Corridor; and

13 (10) include a business plan that—

14 (A) describes the role, operation, financing,  
15 and functions of the local coordinating entity  
16 and of each of the major activities contained in  
17 the management plan; and

18 (B) provides adequate assurances that the  
19 local coordinating entity has the partnerships  
20 and financial and other resources necessary to  
21 implement the management plan for the Herit-  
22 age Corridor.

23 (b) DEADLINE AND TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—

24 (1) DEADLINE.—The local coordinating entity  
25 shall submit the management plan to the Secretary

1 for approval not later than 3 years after funds are  
2 made available for this Act.

3 (2) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If the man-  
4 agement plan is not submitted to the Secretary in  
5 accordance with this subsection, the local coordi-  
6 nating entity shall not qualify for Federal funding  
7 under this Act until such time as the management  
8 plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

9 **SEC. 7. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

10 (a) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, upon  
12 the request of the local coordinating entity, provide  
13 technical and financial assistance on a reimbursable  
14 or nonreimbursable basis (as determined by the Sec-  
15 retary) to the Heritage Corridor to develop and im-  
16 plement the approved management plan. The Sec-  
17 retary is authorized to enter into cooperative agree-  
18 ments with the local coordinating entity and other  
19 public or private entities for this purpose.

20 (2) PRIORITY ACTIONS.—In assisting the Herit-  
21 age Corridor, the Secretary shall give priority to ac-  
22 tions that in general assist in—

23 (A) conserving the significant natural, his-  
24 torical, cultural, and scenic resources of the  
25 Heritage Corridor; and

1 (B) providing educational, interpretive, and  
2 recreational opportunities consistent with the  
3 purposes of the Heritage Corridor.

4 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT  
5 PLAN.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve  
7 or disapprove the management plan not later than  
8 180 days after receiving the management plan.

9 (2) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining  
10 the approval of the management plan, the Secretary  
11 shall consider whether—

12 (A) the local coordinating entity is rep-  
13 resentative of the diverse interests of the Herit-  
14 age Corridor including governments, natural  
15 and historic resource protection organizations,  
16 educational institutions, businesses, and rec-  
17 reational organizations;

18 (B) the local coordinating entity has af-  
19 forded adequate opportunity, including public  
20 hearings, for public and governmental involve-  
21 ment in the preparation of the management  
22 plan;

23 (C) the resource protection and interpreta-  
24 tion strategies contained in the management  
25 plan, if implemented, would adequately protect

1 the natural, historical, and cultural resources of  
2 the Heritage Corridor;

3 (D) the Secretary has received adequate  
4 assurances from the appropriate State and local  
5 officials whose support is needed to ensure the  
6 effective implementation of the State and local  
7 aspects of the management plan; and

8 (E) the local coordinating entity has dem-  
9 onstrated the financial capability, in partner-  
10 ship with others, to carry out the plan.

11 (3) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the  
12 Secretary disapproves the management plan, the  
13 Secretary shall advise the local coordinating entity in  
14 writing of the reasons that the management plan  
15 was disapproved and shall make recommendations  
16 for revisions to the management plan. The Secretary  
17 shall approve or disapprove a proposed revision with-  
18 in 180 days after the date it is submitted.

19 (4) APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.—Substantial  
20 amendments to the management plan shall be re-  
21 viewed by the Secretary and approved in the same  
22 manner as provided for the original management  
23 plan. The local coordinating entity shall not use  
24 Federal funds authorized by this Act to implement

1 any amendments until the Secretary has approved  
2 the amendments.

3 **SEC. 8. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects the au-  
5 thority of a Federal agency to provide technical or finan-  
6 cial assistance under any other law.

7 (b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The head  
8 of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that  
9 may have an impact on the Heritage Corridor is encour-  
10 aged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Sec-  
11 retary and the local coordinating entity to the maximum  
12 extent practicable.

13 (c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this  
14 Act—

15 (1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regu-  
16 lation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Fed-  
17 eral land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-  
18 cy;

19 (2) limits the discretion of a Federal land man-  
20 ager to implement an approved land use plan within  
21 the boundaries of the Heritage Corridor; or

22 (3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized  
23 use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Fed-  
24 eral agency.

1 **SEC. 9. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTEC-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 Nothing in this Act—

4 (1) abridges the rights of any property owner  
5 (whether public or private), including the right to re-  
6 frain from participating in any plan, project, pro-  
7 gram, or activity conducted within the Heritage Cor-  
8 ridor;

9 (2) requires any property owner to permit pub-  
10 lic access (including access by Federal, State, or  
11 local agencies) to the property of the property  
12 owner, or to modify public access or use of property  
13 of the property owner under any other Federal,  
14 State, or local law;

15 (3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation,  
16 approved land use plan, or other regulatory author-  
17 ity of any Federal, State, or local agency, or conveys  
18 any land use or other regulatory authority to any  
19 local coordinating entity;

20 (4) authorizes or implies the reservation or ap-  
21 propriation of water or water rights;

22 (5) diminishes the authority of the State to  
23 manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of  
24 fishing and hunting within the Heritage Corridor; or

25 (6) creates any liability, or affects any liability  
26 under any other law, or any private property owner



1 with respect to any person injured on the private  
2 property.

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

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
5 priated for the purposes of this Act not more than  
6 \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Not more than a total of  
7 \$10,000,000 may be appropriated for the Heritage Cor-  
8 ridor under this Act.

9 (b) MATCHING FUNDS.—Federal funding provided  
10 under this Act may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost  
11 of any assistance or grant provided or authorized under  
12 this Act.

13 **SEC. 11. SUNSET.**

14 The authority of the Secretary to provide financial  
15 assistance under this Act shall terminate on the day occur-  
16 ring 15 years after the date of the enactment of the Act.

○