

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1891

To establish the White Sands National Park in the State of New Mexico
as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico (for herself, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the White Sands National Park in the State
of New Mexico as a unit of the National Park 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “White Sands National Park Establishment Act”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Establishment of White Sands National Park.

TITLE II—MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES OF WHITE SANDS
NATIONAL PARK AND WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

Sec. 201. Transfers of administrative jurisdiction.

Sec. 202. Boundary modifications.

Sec. 203. Administration.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
4 titled “White Sands National Park Proposed Bound-
5 ary Revision & Transfer of Lands Between National
6 Park Service & Department of the Army”, numbered
7 142/136,271, and dated February 14, 2017.

8 (2) MILITARY MUNITIONS.—The term “military
9 munitions” has the meaning given the term in sec-
10 tion 101(e) of title 10, United States Code.

11 (3) MISSILE RANGE.—The term “missile
12 range” means the White Sands Missile Range, New
13 Mexico, administered by the Secretary of the Army.

14 (4) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument”
15 means the White Sands National Monument, New
16 Mexico, established by Presidential Proclamation
17 No. 2025 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note), dated January
18 18, 1933, and administered by the Secretary.

19 (5) MUNITIONS DEBRIS.—The term “munitions
20 debris” has the meaning given the term in volume

1 8 of the Department of Defense Manual Number
2 6055.09–M entitled “DoD Ammunitions and Explo-
3 sives Safety Standards” and dated February 29,
4 2008 (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
5 Act).

6 (6) PARK.—The term “Park” means the White
7 Sands National Park established by section 102(a).

8 (7) PUBLIC LAND ORDER.—The term “Public
9 Land Order” means Public Land Order 833, dated
10 May 21, 1952 (17 Fed. Reg. 4822).

11 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
14 of New Mexico.

15 **TITLE I—WHITE SANDS** 16 **NATIONAL PARK**

17 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress finds that—

19 (1) White Sands National Monument was es-
20 tablished on January 18, 1933, by President Her-
21 bert Hoover under chapter 3203 of title 54, United
22 States Code (commonly known as the “Antiquities
23 Act of 1906”);

24 (2) President Hoover proclaimed that the
25 Monument was established “for the preservation of

1 the white sands and additional features of scenic,
2 scientific, and educational interest”;

3 (3) the Monument was expanded by Presidents
4 Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Carter, and Clinton in 1934,
5 1942, 1953, 1978, and 1996, respectively;

6 (4) the Monument contains a substantially
7 more diverse set of nationally significant historical,
8 archaeological, scientific, and natural resources than
9 were known of at the time the Monument was estab-
10 lished, including a number of recent discoveries;

11 (5) the Monument is recognized as a major unit
12 of the National Park System with extraordinary val-
13 ues enjoyed by more visitors each year since 1995
14 than any other unit in the State;

15 (6) the Monument contributes significantly to
16 the local economy by attracting tourists; and

17 (7) designation of the Monument as a national
18 park would increase public recognition of the diverse
19 array of nationally significant resources at the
20 Monument and visitation to the unit.

21 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF WHITE SANDS NATIONAL**
22 **PARK.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—To protect, preserve, and re-
24 store its scenic, scientific, educational, natural, geological,
25 historical, cultural, archaeological, paleontological,

1 hydrological, fish, wildlife, and recreational values and to
2 enhance visitor experiences, there is established in the
3 State the White Sands National Park as a unit of the Na-
4 tional Park System.

5 (b) ABOLISHMENT OF WHITE SANDS NATIONAL
6 MONUMENT.—

7 (1) ABOLISHMENT.—Due to the establishment
8 of the Park, the Monument is abolished.

9 (2) INCORPORATION.—The land and interests
10 in land that comprise the Monument are incor-
11 porated in, and shall be considered to be part of, the
12 Park.

13 (c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
14 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
15 States to the “White Sands National Monument” shall be
16 considered to be a reference to the “White Sands National
17 Park”.

18 (d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds available
19 for the Monument shall be available for the Park.

20 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
21 ister the Park in accordance with—

22 (1) this title; and

23 (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the
24 National Park System, including section 100101(a),
25 chapter 1003, sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753,

1 and 102101, and chapter 3201 of title 54, United
2 States Code.

3 (f) WORLD HERITAGE LIST NOMINATION.—

4 (1) COUNTY CONCURRENCE.—The Secretary
5 shall not submit a nomination for the Park to be in-
6 cluded on the World Heritage List of the United
7 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organi-
8 zation unless each county in which the Park is lo-
9 cated concurs in the nomination.

10 (2) ARMY NOTIFICATION.—Before submitting a
11 nomination for the Park to be included on the World
12 Heritage List of the United Nations Educational,
13 Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Secretary
14 shall notify the Secretary of the Army of the intent
15 of the Secretary to nominate the Park.

16 (g) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects—

17 (1) valid existing rights (including water
18 rights);

19 (2) permits or contracts issued by the Monu-
20 ment;

21 (3) existing agreements, including agreements
22 with the Department of Defense;

23 (4) the jurisdiction of the Department of De-
24 fense regarding the restricted airspace above the
25 Park; or

1 (5) the airshed classification of the Park under
2 the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

3 **TITLE II—MODIFICATION OF**
4 **BOUNDARIES OF WHITE**
5 **SANDS NATIONAL PARK AND**
6 **WHITE SANDS MISSILE**
7 **RANGE**

8 **SEC. 201. TRANSFERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**

9 (a) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION
10 TO THE SECRETARY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction
12 over the land described in paragraph (2) is trans-
13 ferred from the Secretary of the Army to the Sec-
14 retary.

15 (2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred
16 to in paragraph (1) is—

17 (A) the approximately 2,826 acres of land
18 identified as “To NPS, lands inside current
19 boundary” on the Map; and

20 (B) the approximately 5,766 acres of land
21 identified as “To NPS, new additions” on the
22 Map.

23 (b) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION
24 TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction
2 over the land described in paragraph (2) is trans-
3 ferred from the Secretary to the Secretary of the
4 Army.

5 (2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred
6 to in paragraph (1) is the approximately 3,737 acres
7 of land identified as “To DOA” on the Map.

8 **SEC. 202. BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS.**

9 (a) PARK.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Park is
11 revised to reflect the boundary depicted on the Map.

12 (2) MAP.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in co-
14 ordination with the Secretary of the Army, shall
15 prepare and keep on file for public inspection in
16 the appropriate office of the Secretary a map
17 and a legal description of the revised boundary
18 of the Park.

19 (B) EFFECT.—The map and legal descrip-
20 tion under subparagraph (A) shall have the
21 same force and effect as if included in this Act,
22 except that the Secretary may correct clerical
23 and typographical errors in the map and legal
24 description.

1 (3) BOUNDARY SURVEY.—As soon as prac-
2 ticable after the date of the establishment of the
3 Park and subject to the availability of funds, the
4 Secretary shall complete an official boundary survey
5 of the Park.

6 (b) MISSILE RANGE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the missile
8 range and the Public Land Order are modified to
9 exclude the land transferred to the Secretary under
10 section 201(a) and to include the land transferred to
11 the Secretary of the Army under section 201(b).

12 (2) MAP.—The Secretary shall prepare a map
13 and legal description depicting the revised boundary
14 of the missile range.

15 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2854 of
16 Public Law 104–201 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note) is repealed.

17 **SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATION.**

18 (a) PARK.—The Secretary shall administer the land
19 transferred under section 201(a) in accordance with laws
20 (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

21 (b) MISSILE RANGE.—Subject to subsection (c), the
22 Secretary of the Army shall administer the land trans-
23 ferred to the Secretary of the Army under section 201(b)
24 as part of the missile range.

25 (c) INFRASTRUCTURE; RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.—

1 (1) RANGE ROAD 7.—

2 (A) INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT.—To
3 the maximum extent practicable, in planning,
4 constructing, and managing infrastructure on
5 the land described in subparagraph (C), the
6 Secretary of the Army shall apply low-impact
7 development techniques and strategies to pre-
8 vent impacts within the missile range and the
9 Park from stormwater runoff from the land de-
10 scribed in that subparagraph.

11 (B) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.—The Sec-
12 retary of the Army shall—

13 (i) manage the land described in sub-
14 paragraph (C) in a manner consistent with
15 the protection of natural and cultural re-
16 sources within the missile range and the
17 Park and in accordance with section
18 101(a)(1)(B) of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C.
19 670a(a)(1)(B)), division A of subtitle III of
20 title 54, United States Code, and the Na-
21 tive American Graves Protection and Re-
22 patriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);
23 and

24 (ii) include the land described in sub-
25 paragraph (C) in the integrated natural

1 and cultural resource management plan for
2 the missile range.

3 (C) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land re-
4 ferred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) is the
5 land that is transferred to the administrative
6 jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army under
7 section 201(b) and located in the area east of
8 Range Road 7 in—

- 9 (i) T. 17 S., R. 5 E., sec. 31;
10 (ii) T. 18 S., R. 5 E.; and
11 (iii) T. 19 S., R. 5 E., sec. 5.

12 (2) FENCE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
14 Army shall continue to allow the Secretary to
15 maintain the fence shown on the Map until
16 such time as the Secretary determines that the
17 fence is unnecessary for the management of the
18 Park.

19 (B) REMOVAL.—If the Secretary deter-
20 mines that the fence is unnecessary for the
21 management of the Park under subparagraph
22 (A), the Secretary shall promptly remove the
23 fence at the expense of the Department of the
24 Interior.

1 (d) RESEARCH.—The Secretary of the Army and the
2 Secretary may enter into an agreement to allow the Sec-
3 retary to conduct certain research in the area identified
4 as “Cooperative Use Research Area” on the Map.

5 (e) MILITARY MUNITIONS AND MUNITIONS DE-
6 BRIS.—

7 (1) RESPONSE ACTION.—With respect to any
8 Federal liability, the Secretary of the Army shall re-
9 main responsible for any response action addressing
10 military munitions or munitions debris on the land
11 transferred under section 201(a) to the same extent
12 as on the day before the date of enactment of this
13 Act.

14 (2) INVESTIGATION OF MILITARY MUNITIONS
15 AND MUNITIONS DEBRIS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may re-
17 quest that the Secretary of the Army conduct
18 one or more investigations of military munitions
19 or munitions debris on any land transferred
20 under section 201(a).

21 (B) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall give ac-
22 cess to the Secretary of the Army to the land
23 covered by a request under subparagraph (A)
24 for the purposes of conducting the one or more
25 investigations under that subparagraph.

1 (C) LIMITATION.—An investigation con-
2 ducted under this paragraph shall be subject to
3 available appropriations.

4 (3) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any activities under-
5 taken under this subsection shall be carried out in
6 accordance with—

7 (A) the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
8 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of
9 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

10 (B) the purposes for which the Park was
11 established; and

12 (C) any other applicable law.

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