H. R. 5305

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area Study Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:
(1) **Heritage Area.**—The term “Heritage Area” means the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area.

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

(3) **State.**—The term “State” means the State of Kentucky.

(4) **Study Area.**—The term “study area” means—

(A) the counties in the State of Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe Counties; and

(B) any other areas in the State that—

(i) have heritage aspects that are similar to the areas described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, those areas.
SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) In General.—The Secretary, in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, State and local historical societies, State and local tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and governmental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Kentucky National Heritage Area”.

(b) Requirements.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(A) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(B) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(C) would be best managed—

(i) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(ii) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;
(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities—

(A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(B) for recreation and education;

(4) contains resources that—

(A) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(B) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(5) includes residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(A) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;

(B) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(C) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;

(6) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities de-
scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage
Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-
tivity;

(7) could impact the rights of private property
owners with respect to their private property; and

(8) has a conceptual boundary map that is sup-
ported by the public.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
are first made available to carry out this Act, the Sec-
retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study under section 3;

and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the
Secretary.