

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2420

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2001

Mr. SOUDER (for himself, Mr. ENGLISH, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. JONES OF OHIO, MRS. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. BALLENGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, 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 “Peopling of America
5 Theme Study Act”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) an important facet of the history of the
2 United States is the story of how the United States
3 was populated;

4 (2) the migration, immigration, and settlement
5 of the population of the United States—

6 (A) is broadly termed the “peopling of
7 America”; and

8 (B) is characterized by—

9 (i) the movement of groups of people
10 across external and internal boundaries of
11 the United States and territories of the
12 United States; and

13 (ii) the interactions of those groups
14 with each other and with other popu-
15 lations;

16 (3) each of those groups has made unique, im-
17 portant contributions to American history, culture,
18 art, and life;

19 (4) the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, political,
20 and economic vitality of the United States is a result
21 of the pluralism and diversity of the American popu-
22 lation;

23 (5) the success of the United States in embrac-
24 ing and accommodating diversity has strengthened
25 the national fabric and unified the United States in

1 its values, institutions, experiences, goals, and ac-
2 complishments;

3 (6)(A) the National Park Service’s official the-
4 matic framework, revised in 1996, responds to the
5 requirement of section 1209 of the Civil War Sites
6 Study Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5 note; title XII
7 of Public Law 101–628), that “the Secretary shall
8 ensure that the full diversity of American history
9 and prehistory are represented” in the identification
10 and interpretation of historic properties by the Na-
11 tional Park Service; and

12 (B) the thematic framework recognizes that
13 “people are the primary agents of change” and es-
14 tablishes the theme of human population movement
15 and change—or “peopling places”—as a primary
16 thematic category for interpretation and preserva-
17 tion; and

18 (7) although there are approximately 70,000
19 listings on the National Register of Historic Places,
20 sites associated with the exploration and settlement
21 of the United States by a broad range of cultures
22 are not well represented.

23 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to foster a much-needed understanding of
2 the diversity and contribution of the breadth of
3 groups who have peopled the United States; and

4 (2) to strengthen the ability of the National
5 Park Service to include groups and events otherwise
6 not recognized in the peopling of the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

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

11 (2) THEME STUDY.—The term “theme study”
12 means the national historic landmark theme study
13 required under section 4.

14 (3) PEOPLING OF AMERICA.—The term “peo-
15 pling of America” means the migration, immigra-
16 tion, and settlement of the population of the United
17 States.

18 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK THEME STUDY ON**
19 **THE PEOPLING OF AMERICA.**

20 (a) THEME STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
21 prepare and submit to Congress a national historic land-
22 mark theme study on the peopling of America.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the theme study shall
24 be to identify regions, areas, trails, districts, communities,

1 sites, buildings, structures, objects, organizations, soci-
2 eties, and cultures that—

3 (1) best illustrate and commemorate key events
4 or decisions affecting the peopling of America; and

5 (2) can provide a basis for the preservation and
6 interpretation of the peopling of America that has
7 shaped the culture and society of the United States.

8 (c) IDENTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF POTEN-
9 TIAL NEW NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The theme study shall iden-
11 tify and recommend for designation new national
12 historic landmarks.

13 (2) LIST OF APPROPRIATE SITES.—The theme
14 study shall—

15 (A) include a list, in order of importance
16 or merit, of the most appropriate sites for na-
17 tional historic landmark designation; and

18 (B) encourage the nomination of other
19 properties to the National Register of Historic
20 Places.

21 (3) DESIGNATION.—On the basis of the theme
22 study, the Secretary shall designate new national
23 historic landmarks.

24 (d) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.—

1 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF SITES WITHIN CUR-
 2 RENT UNITS.—The theme study shall identify appro-
 3 priate sites within units of the National Park Sys-
 4 tem at which the peopling of America may be inter-
 5 preted.

6 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SITES.—On the
 7 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall rec-
 8 ommend to Congress sites for which studies for po-
 9 tential inclusion in the National Park System should
 10 be authorized.

11 (e) CONTINUING AUTHORITY.—After the date of sub-
 12 mission to Congress of the theme study, the Secretary
 13 shall, on a continuing basis, as appropriate to interpret
 14 the peopling of America—

15 (1) evaluate, identify, and designate new na-
 16 tional historic landmarks; and

17 (2) evaluate, identify, and recommend to Con-
 18 gress sites for which studies for potential inclusion
 19 in the National Park System should be authorized.

20 (f) PUBLIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.—

21 (1) LINKAGES.—

22 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—On the basis of the
 23 theme study, the Secretary may identify appro-
 24 priate means for establishing linkages—

25 (i) between—

1 (I) regions, areas, trails, dis-
 2 tricts, communities, sites, buildings,
 3 structures, objects, organizations, so-
 4 cieties, and cultures identified under
 5 subsections (b) and (d); and

6 (II) groups of people; and

7 (ii) between—

8 (I) regions, areas, trails, dis-
 9 tricts, communities, sites, buildings,
 10 structures, objects, organizations, so-
 11 cieties, and cultures identified under
 12 subsection (b); and

13 (II) units of the National Park
 14 System identified under subsection
 15 (d).

16 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the link-
 17 ages shall be to maximize opportunities for pub-
 18 lic education and scholarly research on the peo-
 19 pling of America.

20 (2) COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—On the
 21 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall, subject
 22 to the availability of funds, enter into cooperative ar-
 23 rangements with State and local governments, edu-
 24 cational institutions, local historical organizations,
 25 communities, and other appropriate entities to pre-

1 serve and interpret key sites in the peopling of
2 America.

3 (3) EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The documentation in
5 the theme study shall be used for broad edu-
6 cational initiatives such as—

7 (i) popular publications;

8 (ii) curriculum material such as the
9 Teaching with Historic Places program;

10 (iii) heritage tourism products such as
11 the National Register of Historic Places
12 Travel Itineraries program; and

13 (iv) oral history and ethnographic pro-
14 grams.

15 (B) COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.—On the
16 basis of the theme study, the Secretary shall
17 implement cooperative programs to encourage
18 the preservation and interpretation of the peo-
19 pling of America.

20 **SEC. 5. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

21 The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements
22 with educational institutions, professional associations, or
23 other entities knowledgeable about the peopling of
24 America—

25 (1) to prepare the theme study;

1 (2) to ensure that the theme study is prepared
2 in accordance with generally accepted scholarly
3 standards; and

4 (3) to promote cooperative arrangements and
5 programs relating to the peopling of America.

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