

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2715

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. McKEON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. DREIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

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 “Rim of the Valley Cor-  
5       ridor Study Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The greater Southern California metropoli-  
2           tan region is the second largest urban concentration  
3           in the United States, with almost one-tenth of the  
4           total population of the country, yet it has one of the  
5           lowest ratios of park-and-recreation-lands-per-thou-  
6           sand-population of any urban area in the country.  
7           Unless action is taken soon, this situation will only  
8           become worse as the region continues to be subjected  
9           to intense growth.

10          (2) The lack of park, recreation, natural open  
11          space, and habitat protection in close proximity to  
12          the greater Southern California metropolitan region  
13          deprives the individuals who reside there of—

14                (A) the health and spiritual welfare bene-  
15                fits of proximity to nature; and

16                (B) the quantifiable benefits of reduced  
17                crime, lower social tension, and increased edu-  
18                cational opportunities that are associated with  
19                the provision of open space in geographic prox-  
20                imity to and accessible to urban populations.

21          (3) The Rim of the Valley Corridor encircling  
22          the San Fernando and La Crescenta valleys provides  
23          important scenic, environmental, recreational, edu-  
24          cational, scientific, and economic assets to the great-  
25          er Southern California metropolitan region. These

1 assets are deserving of increased protection so that  
2 they can continue to provide public benefit in the  
3 21st century and beyond.

4 (4) The Rim of the Valley Corridor, consisting  
5 of parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Su-  
6 sanna Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo  
7 Mountains, San Rafael Hills, and adjacent connector  
8 areas to the Los Padres and San Bernardino Na-  
9 tional Forests, contains significant examples of—

10 (A) the world’s most endangered habitat  
11 area, the Mediterranean chaparral ecosystem;  
12 and

13 (B) significant examples of separate  
14 ecotones indigenous to the area.

15 (5) A key element of the Rim of the Valley Cor-  
16 ridor is the escarpment of the San Gabriel Moun-  
17 tains that is largely contained within the Angeles  
18 National Forest. That national forest is primarily  
19 managed for watershed, recreational, and habitat  
20 values and not for commercial exploitation of forest  
21 resources.

22 (6) Privately owned lands within the Rim of the  
23 Valley Corridor are critical to providing additional  
24 scenic, environmental, recreational, and open space  
25 values. These lands should be brought within public

1 protection through the use of voluntary incentives,  
2 respecting at all times the legitimate private prop-  
3 erty values of existing property owners.

4 (7) The State of California has adopted the  
5 Rim of the Valley Master Plan, and local govern-  
6 ments within the Rim of the Valley Corridor have  
7 made significant progress toward protecting the  
8 unique natural and recreational resources of the  
9 area. However, these efforts have been hampered by  
10 a lack of financial resources, technical assistance,  
11 and resource management expertise that can be pro-  
12 vided by the Federal Government.

13 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR FOR ES-**  
14 **TABLISHMENT AS UNIT OF THE SANTA**  
15 **MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION**  
16 **AREA.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall  
18 conduct a special resource study of the lands, waters, and  
19 interests of the area comprising the Rim of the Valley Cor-  
20 ridor in Southern California, as depicted on the maps on  
21 file on June 15, 2001, in the office of the Secretary of  
22 the State of California pursuant to Division 23 of the Cali-  
23 fornia Public Resources Code (section 33000 et seq.).

24 (b) STUDY TOPICS.—The study shall evaluate the na-  
25 tional significance of the area and the suitability and feasi-

1 bility of establishing it as a unit of the Santa Monica  
2 Mountains National Recreation Area of the National Park  
3 System.

4 (c) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study authorized  
5 by this section, the Secretary shall use the criteria for the  
6 study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park  
7 System contained in section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16  
8 U.S.C. 1a–5).

9 (d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study au-  
10 thorized by this section, the Secretary shall regularly con-  
11 sult with the Rim of the Valley Corridor and Santa Monica  
12 Mountains National Recreation Area Advisory Committee  
13 established by section 4.

14 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Rim  
16 of the Valley Corridor and Santa Monica Mountains Na-  
17 tional Recreation Area Advisory Committee (in this sec-  
18 tion referred to as the “Committee”).

19 (b) RECOMMENDATION OF BOUNDARIES FOR EX-  
20 PANDED RECREATION AREA.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall—

22 (A) advise the Secretary of the Interior re-  
23 garding the conduct of the study under section  
24 3; and

1 (B) recommend to the Secretary of the In-  
2 terior boundaries for a Santa Monica Moun-  
3 tains and Rim of the Valley National Recre-  
4 ation Area.

5 (2) BOUNDARY REQUIREMENTS.—The bound-  
6 aries recommended by the Committee shall—

7 (A) reflect the boundaries of the Santa  
8 Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, as  
9 in effect on the date of the enactment of this  
10 Act; and

11 (B) generally include the lands, waters,  
12 and interests comprising the Rim of the Valley  
13 Corridor as depicted on the maps as on file on  
14 June 15, 2001, in the office of the Secretary of  
15 the State of California pursuant to Division 23  
16 of the California Public Resources Code (section  
17 33000 et seq.).

18 (3) SUBMISSION.—The Committee shall—

19 (A) submit a recommendation to the Sec-  
20 retary of the Interior under this subsection  
21 within 365 days after the first meeting of the  
22 Committee; and

23 (B) include in the recommendation maps  
24 depicting the boundaries proposed for a Santa

1 Monica Mountains and Rim of the Valley Na-  
2 tional Recreation Area.

3 (4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Committee  
4 shall provide opportunities for public participation in  
5 and comment on the recommendation of boundaries  
6 under this subsection.

7 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee consists of 24  
8 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, as  
9 follows:

10 (1) 17 representatives of local governments hav-  
11 ing jurisdiction over areas in the vicinity of the  
12 recreation area, of whom one shall be nominated by  
13 each of—

14 (A) the mayor of the city of Los Angeles;

15 (B) the board of supervisors of the county  
16 of Los Angeles;

17 (C) the board of supervisors of the county  
18 of Ventura;

19 (D) the city council of the city of Thou-  
20 sand Oaks;

21 (E) the city council of the city of Agoura  
22 Hills;

23 (F) the city council of the city of Westlake  
24 Village;

25 (G) the city council of the city of Malibu;

1           (H) the city council of the city of  
2 Calabasas;

3           (I) the city council of the city of Burbank;

4           (J) the city council of the city of Glendale;

5           (K) the city council of the city of La Can-  
6 ada-Flintridge;

7           (L) the city council of the city of Pasa-  
8 dena;

9           (M) the city council of the city of Sierra  
10 Madre;

11          (N) the city council of the city of South  
12 Pasadena;

13          (O) the city council of the city of Santa  
14 Clarita;

15          (P) the city council of the city of Moor-  
16 park; and

17          (Q) the board of supervisors of Los Ange-  
18 les county to represent the unincorporated com-  
19 munities within the jurisdiction of the East Rim  
20 of the Valley Trail Corridor, after consultation  
21 with the Town Council of Altadena and the  
22 Crescenta Valley Town Council.

23          (2) The Superintendent of the Santa Monica  
24 Mountains National Recreation Area, or a designee  
25 of such Superintendent.



1           (3) The Supervisor of the Angeles National  
2     Forest, or a designee of such Supervisor.

3           (4) The Superintendent of the Angeles District  
4     of the State of California Department of Parks and  
5     Recreation, or a designee of such Superintendent.

6           (5) The Director of the Santa Monica Moun-  
7     tains Conservancy, or a designee of such Director.

8           (6) One representative of the Rancho Simi  
9     Recreation and Park District, nominated by the  
10    Board of Directors of such district.

11          (7) One representative of the Conejo Recreation  
12    and Park District, nominated by the Board of Direc-  
13    tors of such district.

14          (8) One representative of the Pleasant Valley  
15    Recreation and Park District, nominated by the  
16    Board of Directors of such district.

17    (d) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The  
18    Committee shall select from among its members a chair-  
19    person and a vice chairperson.

20    (e) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—The members  
21    of the Committee shall serve without compensation, but  
22    shall be reimbursed by the Secretary of the Interior for  
23    necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
24    duties.

1       (f) QUORUM.—13 members of the Committee shall  
2 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

3       (g) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate  
4 upon the submittal by the Secretary of the special re-  
5 sources study under section 3 to the Congress.

