

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2959

To establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) (both by request) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge, 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 “National Park Centen-
5 nial Challenge Fund Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress here by finds that—

8 (1) Our national parks are icons of America;

9 (2) The one hundredth anniversary of the Na-
10 tional Park System will be in 2016;

1 (3) It is appropriate for all Americans to help
2 in the efforts to enhance our parks as the country
3 gets ready for this centennial celebration;

4 (4) The President has proposed a National
5 Park Centennial Initiative that, over ten years, will
6 provide up to \$3 billion to prepare parks for another
7 century of conservation, preservation, and enjoy-
8 ment; and

9 (5) A part of that Initiative is the establishment
10 of a Centennial Challenge to encourage individuals,
11 foundations, and the private sector to donate money
12 each year by providing up to \$100 million in dedi-
13 cated Federal funding to match donations for signa-
14 ture projects and programs.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-
16 lish a fund in the Treasury that will be used to finance
17 signature projects and programs to enhance the National
18 Park System as it approaches its centennial in 2016 and
19 to prepare the parks for another century of conservation,
20 preservation, and enjoyment.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 For purposes of this Act, the term—

23 (1) “Challenge Fund” means the National Park
24 Centennial Challenge Fund.

1 (2) “Director” means the Director of the Na-
2 tional Park Service.

3 (3) “Secretary” means Secretary of the Inte-
4 rior.

5 (4) “Signature project or program” means, for
6 the purposes of this Act, any project or program
7 identified by the Director as one that will help pre-
8 pare the national parks for another century of con-
9 servation, preservation and enjoyment.

10 (5) “Qualified donation” means a cash non-
11 Federal donation to the National Park Service that
12 the Director certifies is for a listed signature project
13 or program.

14 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
16 Treasury a fund to be known as the National Park Cen-
17 tennial Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund shall consist
18 of:

19 (1) Qualified donations transferred from the
20 Donations to the National Park Service account, in
21 accordance with section 6(a) of this Act: and

22 (2) Amounts appropriated from the general
23 fund of the Treasury, in accordance with section
24 6(b) of this Act.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY.—All amounts deposited in the
2 Challenge Fund shall be available, subject to restrictions
3 in section 6(c) of this Act, to the Secretary for signature
4 projects and programs under this Act without further ap-
5 propriation and without fiscal year limitation. No monies
6 shall be available for indirect administrative costs. The ex-
7 penditure of amounts in the Challenge Fund shall follow
8 Federal procurement and financial laws and standards.

9 **SEC. 5. SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) LIST.—The Secretary, acting through the Direc-
11 tor, shall develop a list of signature projects and programs
12 eligible for funding from the Challenge Fund. The list
13 shall be submitted to the President and to the Committees
14 on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources in
15 the United States Senate, and to the Committees on Ap-
16 propriations and Natural Resources in the House of Rep-
17 resentatives.

18 (b) SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—For
19 purposes of this Act, a signature project or program shall
20 be a project or program identified by the Director as one
21 that will help prepare the national parks for another cen-
22 tury of conservation, preservation and enjoyment.

23 (c) UPDATES.—The Secretary, acting through the
24 Director, may, from time to time as the Secretary or Di-
25 rector finds necessary, add any project or program to the

1 list developed pursuant to subsection (a) that the Director
2 believes is a signature project or program. If the Director
3 adds any project or program to the list, the Secretary shall
4 notify the Committees referred to in subsection (a) at the
5 time the project or program is added.

6 **SEC. 6. DONATIONS AND MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS.**

7 (a) **QUALIFIED DONATIONS.**—Beginning on October
8 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary
9 may transfer to the Challenge Fund qualified donations
10 of cash, including cash to liquidate a letter of credit, re-
11 ceived by the National Park Service.

12 (b) **MATCHING AMOUNT.**—There is hereby appro-
13 priated in each fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2007
14 and ending on September 30, 2017, an amount equal to
15 the qualified donations received and the pledge of dona-
16 tions through letters of credit in the same fiscal year, not
17 to exceed \$100 million in any one year. In no case may
18 the matching amount exceed the amount of donations re-
19 ceived or pledged in any year. For the purpose of this sub-
20 section, the Secretary may consider a donation for any fis-
21 cal year to be received when a pledge of a donation for
22 that fiscal year is guaranteed and a valid irrevocable letter
23 of credit is issued for such purposes.

24 (c) The Secretary may not obligate any amounts
25 based on a letter of credit, or amounts to match a letter

1 of credit pursuant to subsection (b), until amounts from
2 that letter of credit are deposited in the Challenge Fund.

3 (d) SOLICITATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
4 strued as expanding any authority that exists on the date
5 of its enactment with respect to the ability of the National
6 Park Service and its employees to receive or solicit for do-
7 nations.

8 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

9 The Secretary shall provide with the submission of
10 the President's budget a list of the signature projects and
11 programs and the status of their funding.

12 **SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.**

13 The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as
14 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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