

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 873

To designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2015

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness 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 “Jay S. Hammond Wil-
5 derness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) on July 21, 1922, Jay Sterner Hammond
9 was born in Troy, New York;

1 (2) Hammond studied petroleum engineering at
2 Penn State University, where he was a member of
3 the Triangle Fraternity;

4 (3) Hammond later served as a Marine Corps
5 fighter pilot, serving—

6 (A) during World War II with the famous
7 Black Sheep Squadron in the South Pacific;
8 and

9 (B) in China from 1945–1946;

10 (4) after leaving military service, Hammond
11 flew to Alaska, where Hammond worked as a Bush
12 pilot, trapper, guide, and laborer;

13 (5) a war-related illness caused Hammond to
14 enroll at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where
15 Hammond earned his degree in biological sciences in
16 1949;

17 (6) after graduating from the University of
18 Alaska, Fairbanks, Hammond went to work as a bi-
19 ologist, field agent, and hunter for the United States
20 Fish and Wildlife Service;

21 (7) in 1950, Hammond was transferred to
22 Southwest Alaska, where Hammond—

23 (A) conducted predator and prey studies
24 on the caribou herd of the Alaska Peninsula;
25 and

1 (B) conducted fisheries enforcement efforts
2 out of Dillingham as a pilot;

3 (8) Hammond—

4 (A) was 1 of the first people to count 64
5 brown bears at McNeil River in Southwest
6 Alaska; and

7 (B) once recorded nearly 500,000 Black
8 Brant geese eclipsing the sun at Izembek Bay;

9 (9) Hammond later cruised the entire shoreline
10 of 45-mile-long Lake Clark counting wildlife and
11 finding a future homestead site on the shore of Lake
12 Clark;

13 (10) upon Alaska entering the Union in 1959,
14 Hammond ran and won election to the Alaska State
15 House of Representatives;

16 (11) Hammond served as an independent in the
17 Alaska State House of Representatives from 1959 to
18 1965;

19 (12) in 1960, Hammond changed his party af-
20 filiation to Republican;

21 (13) after 3 terms in the Alaska State House
22 of Representatives, Hammond served as a State sen-
23 ator from 1967 to 1973;

24 (14) from 1972 to 1974, Hammond served as
25 mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough;

1 (15) during the 1960s and early 1970s, Ham-
2 mond served as the manager of Bristol Bay Borough
3 during periods in which the State legislature was not
4 in session;

5 (16) in 1974, Hammond was drafted by friends
6 to run for Governor of Alaska, defeating former Re-
7 publican Walter J. Hickel in the primary, and de-
8 feating the first Governor of the State, Democrat
9 William A. Egan, in the general election;

10 (17) the 1974 campaign for Governor was
11 dominated by—

12 (A) the opposition of Hammond to oil leas-
13 ing in Kachemak Bay;

14 (B) concern about State salmon fisheries
15 and environmental management; and

16 (C) fear about State overspending after the
17 discovery of oil on the North Slope;

18 (18) Hammond—

19 (A) won the Republican primary for Gov-
20 ernor in 1974 by 7,874 votes; and

21 (B) won the general election for Governor
22 in 1974 by a mere 221 votes after 2 recounts;

23 (19) in 1978, Hammond again defeated Walter
24 J. Hickel in the Republican primary by 98 votes, the

1 closest margin in a statewide election in the history
2 of Alaska;

3 (20) Hammond defeated Walter J. Hickel, a
4 write-in candidate, and Democrat Chancy Croft in
5 the 1978 General Election by 16,000 votes;

6 (21) as Governor, Hammond—

7 (A) oversaw construction of the Trans-
8 Alaska Pipeline;

9 (B) championed the creation of the Alaska
10 Permanent Fund;

11 (C) authored the Alaska Permanent Fund
12 Dividend program, which provides citizens of
13 Alaska a yearly dividend check from interest
14 earnings of the State share of petroleum reve-
15 nues placed in the Alaska Permanent Fund;

16 (D) won approval of a constitutional budg-
17 et reserve;

18 (E) opposed the repeal of the State income
19 tax;

20 (F) championed agricultural development
21 in Interior Alaska; and

22 (G) oversaw the purchase of the Alaska
23 Railroad by the State;

24 (22) with respect to environmental issues,
25 Hammond—

1 (A) opposed construction of a proposed
2 Ramparts hydroelectric dam on the Yukon
3 River;

4 (B) supported the congressional creation of
5 a 200-mile fisheries zone off the coast of the
6 State, which improved State fishery stocks;

7 (C) oversaw the creation of a limited entry
8 fisheries regime in the State;

9 (D) oversaw the creation of the largest
10 State park in the United States, the Wood
11 Tikchik State Park in Southwest Alaska, which
12 contains 1,600,000 acres of wilderness; and

13 (E) in 1980, as Governor, oversaw the en-
14 actment of the Alaska National Interest Lands
15 Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.),
16 which—

17 (i) dissolved the placement of
18 120,000,000 acres of Alaska into protected
19 status under chapter 3203 of title 54,
20 United States Code;

21 (ii) designated 104,000,000 acres of
22 land as units of the National Park System,
23 units of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-
24 tem, National Monuments, components of
25 the National Wilderness Preservation Sys-

1 tem, and components of the National Wild
2 and Scenic Rivers System;

3 (iii) added 5,500,000 acres in 14 new
4 units of the National Wilderness Preserva-
5 tion System;

6 (iv) added more than 40,000,000
7 acres in 10 new units of the National Park
8 System, including the 3,860,000-acre Lake
9 Clark National Park and Preserve, bring-
10 ing to 54,000,000 acres the total size of
11 National Park System holdings in the
12 State;

13 (v) added a number of new units of
14 the National Wildlife Refuge System in the
15 State, bringing to 19 the number of units
16 of the National Wildlife Refuge System
17 covering 76,800,000 acres in the State;

18 (vi) created 13 components of the Na-
19 tional Wild and Scenic Rivers System run-
20 ning 3,131 miles; and

21 (vii) resulted in Alaska containing
22 57,900,000 acres of wilderness;

23 (23) a talented and prolific writer and poet,
24 Hammond—

1 (A) presented to the University of Alaska
2 Library Archives an impressive collection of
3 speeches, testimony, notebooks, and papers; and

4 (B) wrote several books on life in Alaska,
5 including his first book entitled “Tales of Alas-
6 ka’s Bush Rat Governor”;

7 (24) Hammond died on August 2, 2005, at age
8 83, in his sleep, at his homestead at Port Alsworth,
9 Alaska, after having survived—

10 (A) 5 plane crashes; and

11 (B) innumerable close calls with death, in-
12 cluding during—

13 (i) Hammond’s first flight to Alaska
14 and numerous subsequent flights during
15 Hammond’s 59 years in the State; and

16 (ii) a fire at the homestead at Lake
17 Clark;

18 (25) Hammond was survived by—

19 (A) his wife, Bella; and

20 (B) his daughters, Heidi and Dana;

21 (26) Hammond—

22 (A) was well-respected for reaching across
23 the aisle to forge bipartisan alliances; and

24 (B) enjoyed many close friendships—

1 (i) with colleagues in both political
2 parties; and

3 (ii) members of his staff, who were
4 deeply loyal to Hammond; and

5 (27) the designation of the 2,600,000 acres of
6 wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Pre-
7 serve, in which the homestead of Hammond is lo-
8 cated, would—

9 (A) honor Hammond; and

10 (B) be a fitting tribute to the honorable
11 life and legacy of Hammond, who was described
12 by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on Au-
13 gust 7, 2005, as “the finest example of a true
14 public servant . . . there are few men who have
15 influence through their quiet articulation of
16 what is right and fair in the way of Jay Ham-
17 mond”.

18 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF JAY S. HAMMOND WILDERNESS**

19 **AREA.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION.—The approximately 2,600,000
21 acres of National Wilderness Preservation System land lo-
22 cated within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
23 designated by section 201(e)(7)(a) of the Alaska National
24 Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C.

1 410hh(e)(7)(a)) shall be known and designated as the
2 “Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area”.

3 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
4 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
5 States to the wilderness area referred to in subsection (a)
6 shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Jay S. Ham-
7 mond Wilderness Area”.

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