

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2985

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in the State of Kentucky as the Kentucky Wildlands National Heritage Area, 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 “Kentucky Wildlands  
5 National Heritage Area Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1           (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage  
2 Area” means the Kentucky Wildlands National Her-  
3 itage Area.

4           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6           (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
7 of Kentucky.

8           (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”  
9 means—

10           (A) Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt,  
11 Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, El-  
12 liott, Floyd, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson,  
13 Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie,  
14 Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary,  
15 Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley,  
16 Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Rus-  
17 sell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe Counties in the  
18 State; and

19           (B) any other areas in the State that—

20           (i) have heritage aspects that are  
21 similar to the heritage aspects of the areas  
22 described in subparagraph (A); and

23           (ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity  
24 of, the areas described in that subpara-  
25 graph.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
3 with State and local historic preservation officers, State  
4 and local historical societies, State and local tourism of-  
5 fices, and other appropriate organizations and govern-  
6 mental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suit-  
7 ability and feasibility of designating the study area as a  
8 National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Kentucky  
9 Wildlands National Heritage Area”.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-  
11 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the  
12 study area—

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

15 (A) represent distinctive aspects of the her-  
16 itage of the United States;

17 (B) are worthy of recognition, conserva-  
18 tion, interpretation, and continuing use; and

19 (C) would be best managed—

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

22 (ii) by linking diverse and sometimes  
23 noncontiguous resources and active com-  
24 munities;

1           (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and  
2           folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the  
3           United States;

4           (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

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

7                 (B) for recreation and education;

8           (4) contains resources that—

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

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

13           (5) includes residents, business interests, non-  
14           profit organizations, and State and local govern-  
15           ments that—

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

18                (B) have developed a conceptual financial  
19                plan that outlines the roles of all participants in  
20                the Heritage Area, including the Federal Gov-  
21                ernment; and

22                (C) have demonstrated support for the des-  
23                ignation of the Heritage Area;

24           (6) has a potential management entity to work  
25           in partnership with the individuals and entities de-

1 scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage  
2 Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-  
3 tivity;

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

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

8 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

9 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds  
10 are first made available to carry out this Act, the Sec-  
11 retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Nat-  
12 ural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-  
13 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a report  
14 that describes—

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

16 and

17 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the  
18 Secretary.

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