

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3715

To establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2026

Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGOS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, 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 “Chiricahua National
5 Park Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL PARK,**
7 **ARIZONA.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chiricahua National
2 Monument in the State of Arizona established by
3 Presidential Proclamation 1692 (54 U.S.C. 320301
4 note; 43 Stat. 1946) shall be known and designated
5 as “Chiricahua National Park” (referred to in this
6 Act as the “National Park”).

7 (2) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the Na-
8 tional Park shall be the boundaries of the Chiri-
9 cahua National Monument as of the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map
11 entitled “Chiricahua National Park Proposed
12 Boundary”, numbered 145/156,356, and dated
13 March 2021.

14 (3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
15 map, regulation, document, or other record of the
16 United States to the Chiricahua National Monument
17 shall be considered to be a reference to the “Chiri-
18 cahua National Park”.

19 (4) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds avail-
20 able for the Chiricahua National Monument shall be
21 available for the National Park.

22 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Interior
23 shall administer the National Park in accordance with—

24 (1) Presidential Proclamation 1692 (54 U.S.C.
25 320301 note; 43 Stat. 1946);

1 (2) Presidential Proclamation 2288 (54 U.S.C.
2 320301 note; 52 Stat. 1551); and

3 (3) the laws generally applicable to units of the
4 National Park System, including—

5 (A) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and
6 sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and
7 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

8 (B) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States
9 Code.

10 **SEC. 3. TRADITIONAL CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES.**

11 (a) PROTECTION OF SITES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure
13 the protection of traditional cultural and religious
14 sites in the National Park in accordance with the
15 laws generally applicable to—

16 (A) the National Park Service; and

17 (B) units of the National Park System.

18 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-
19 graph (1), the Secretary shall consult with Indian
20 Tribes in accordance with laws applicable to the pro-
21 tection of cultural and religious sites.

22 (b) ACCESS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accord-
24 ance with Public Law 95–341 (42 U.S.C. 1996 et
25 seq.)—

1 (A) shall provide access to the sites de-
 2 scribed in subsection (a)(1) by members of In-
 3 dian Tribes for traditional cultural and cus-
 4 tomary uses; and

5 (B) may, on request of an Indian Tribe,
 6 temporarily close to general public use one or
 7 more specific areas of the National Park to pro-
 8 tect traditional cultural and customary uses in
 9 the area by members of the Indian Tribe.

10 (2) LIMITATION.—In closing a portion of a des-
 11 ignated area under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary
 12 shall limit the closure to the smallest practicable
 13 area for the minimum period necessary for the tradi-
 14 tional cultural and religious activities.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
 17 has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the
 18 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
 19 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

20 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 21 the Secretary of the Interior.

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