Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1320]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 1320), to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

AMENDMENT

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Chiricahua National Park Act”.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

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

(2) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the National Park shall be the boundaries of the Chiricahua National Monument as of the date of enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Chiricahua National Park Proposed Boundary”, numbered 145/156,356, and dated March 2021.

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

(4) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds available for the Chiricahua National Monument shall be available for the National Park.

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

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

As ordered reported, the purpose of S. 1320 is to redesignate the Chiricahua National Monument in the State of Arizona as Chiricahua National Park.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Established by Presidential Proclamation issued by President Coolidge in 1924 under the authority of the Antiquities Act, the Chiricahua National Monument protects approximately 12,000 acres of unique natural and cultural heritage in Cochise County, Arizona. The national monument is primarily known for its unique “standing rock” formations eroded from rhyolitic tuff, but also includes a varied biological landscape due to its location at the crossroads of four biogeographical regions.

The national monument’s cultural landscape includes the homeland of the Chiricahua Apache Indians and their ancestors, 19th century homesteads, Buffalo Soldier history, an early 20th century guest ranch, and a depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps camp. In 1976, Congress designated the majority of the monument as wilderness.

S. 1320 redesignates the national monument as a national park, but does not change the National Park Service management of the area.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Senators Kelly and Sinema introduced S. 1320 on April 22, 2021. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on the bill on June 23, 2021. A related bill, H.R. 6451, was introduced in the House by Representative Kirkpatrick on January 20, 2022. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on the bill on February 3, 2022. No further action has been taken.

In the 116th Congress, Senators McSally and Sinema introduced similar legislation, S. 3121. Senator Kelly later joined as a cosponsor. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on that bill on March 4, 2020, but no further action was taken.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on November 18, 2021, by a majority voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 1320, if amended as described herein.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

During its consideration of S. 1320, the committee adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute. As introduced, the bill abolished the Chiracahua National Monument and established the Chiracahua National Park. The substitute amendment redesig-
nates the national monument as a national park and makes other clarifying edits. The amendment is described in the summary below.

SUMMARY

S. 1320 redesignates the 12,305-acre Chiricahua National Monument as Chiricahua National Park. The bill provides that the boundaries of the National Park shall be the boundaries of Chiricahua National Monument and any reference to the monument or funding made available to the monument shall be available to the park. The national park is to be administered in accordance with the presidential proclamations establishing and expanding the national monument and other laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Congressional Budget Office has not estimated the costs of S. 1320 as passed by the Senate. The Committee has requested, but has not yet received, the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate of the cost of S. 1320 as ordered reported. When the Congressional Budget Office completes its cost estimate, it will be posted on the Internet at www.cbo.gov.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 1320. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses. No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 1320, as ordered reported.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

S. 1320, as ordered reported, does not contain any congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The testimony provided by the Department of the Interior at the June 23, 2021, hearing on S. 1320 follows:

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL CALDWELL, ACTING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PARK PLANNING, FACILITIES, AND LANDS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Chairman King, Ranking Member Daines and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1320, to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes. The Department supports S. 1320.
Chiricahua National Monument was established on April 18, 1924, by President Calvin Coolidge by presidential proclamation. The monument is located in Cochise County, approximately 37 miles southeast of Willcox, Arizona. It is located at the intersection of the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, the southern Rocky Mountains, and the northern Sierra Madre.

Chiricahua National Monument is known as a “Wonderland of Rocks” because of its distinctive pinnacle formations. These formations are the result of powerful volcanic events combined with geologic erosive forces over time creating the rhyolitic rock formations in the monument. The Madrean Sky Island ecosystem of the Monument protects a great diversity of flora and fauna as well as critical habitat for threatened, endangered and endemic species.

Chiricahua National Monument also preserves evidence of diverse human history spanning thousands of years, including prehistoric indigenous peoples, Chiricahua Apaches, Buffalo Soldiers, European American pioneers and ranchers, and the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps. The monument's Faraway Ranch Historic District includes structures, resources and landscapes associated with the former pioneer homestead and working cattle ranch. Stories and evidence of struggle, perseverance, stewardship and connection to the land unite the experiences of each of these groups which left a lasting legacy on the land and our country.

Re-designating the monument as Chiricahua National Park is consistent with the nomenclature patterns of the National Park System. Units designated as national parks generally contain a variety of resources and encompass a large land or water area to help provide adequate protection of the resources. With its wealth of both natural and cultural resources over a large land mass of approximately 12,025 acres, it is appropriate to designate this unit as a national park.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the Subcommittee may have.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill as ordered reported.