Public Law 106–143
106th Congress

An Act

To authorize an interpretive center and related visitor facilities within the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park, and for other purposes.

Dec. 7, 1999
[S. 28]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Four Corners Interpretive Center Act.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Four Corners Interpretive Center Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Four Corners Monument is nationally significant as the only geographic location in the United States where 4 State boundaries meet;

(2) the States with boundaries that meet at the Four Corners are Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah; State listing.

(3) between 1868 and 1875 the boundary lines that created the Four Corners were drawn, and in 1899 a monument was erected at the site;

(4) a United States postal stamp will be issued in 1999 to commemorate the centennial of the original boundary marker;

(5) the Four Corners area is distinct in character and possesses important historical, cultural, and prehistoric values and resources within the surrounding cultural landscape;

(6) although there are no permanent facilities or utilities at the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park, each year the park attracts approximately 250,000 visitors;

(7) the area of the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park falls entirely within the Navajo Nation or Ute Mountain Ute Tribe reservations;

(8) the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe have entered into a memorandum of understanding governing the planning and future development of the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park;

(9) in 1992, through agreements executed by the Governors of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, the Four Corners Heritage Council was established as a coalition of State, Federal, tribal, and private interests;

(10) the State of Arizona has obligated $45,000 for planning efforts and $250,000 for construction of an interpretive center at the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park;

(11) numerous studies and extensive consultation with American Indians have demonstrated that development at the

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Four Corners Monument Tribal Park would greatly benefit the people of the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe;

(12) the Arizona Department of Transportation has completed preliminary cost estimates that are based on field experience with rest-area development for the construction of a Four Corners Interpretive Center and surrounding infrastructure, including restrooms, roadways, parking areas, and water, electrical, telephone, and sewage facilities;

(13) an interpretive center would provide important educational and enrichment opportunities for all Americans; and

(14) Federal financial assistance and technical expertise are needed for the construction of an interpretive center.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize the importance of the Four Corners Monument and surrounding landscape as a distinct area in the heritage of the United States that is worthy of interpretation and preservation;

(2) to assist the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in establishing the Four Corners Interpretive Center and related facilities to meet the needs of the general public;

(3) to highlight and showcase the collaborative resource stewardship of private individuals, Indian tribes, universities, Federal agencies, and the governments of States and political subdivisions thereof (including counties); and

(4) to promote knowledge of the life, art, culture, politics, and history of the culturally diverse groups of the Four Corners region.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Four Corners Interpretive Center established under section 4, including restrooms, parking areas, vendor facilities, sidewalks, utilities, exhibits, and other visitor facilities.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, or Utah, or any consortium of 2 or more of those States.

(3) FOUR CORNERS HERITAGE COUNCIL.—The term "Four Corners Heritage Council" means the nonprofit coalition of Federal, State, tribal, and private entities established in 1992 by agreements of the Governors of the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

(4) FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT.—The term "Four Corners Monument" means the physical monument where the boundaries of the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet.

(5) FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT TRIBAL PARK.—The term "Four Corners Monument Tribal Park" means lands within the legally defined boundaries of the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. FOUR CORNERS INTERPRETIVE CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary is authorized to establish within the boundaries of the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park a center for the

interpretation and commemoration of the Four Corners Monument, to be known as the "Four Corners Interpretive Center".

(b) LAND DESIGNATED AND MADE AVAILABLE.—Land for the Center shall be designated and made available by the Navajo Nation or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe within the boundaries of the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park in consultation with the Four Corners Heritage Council and in accordance with—

(1) the memorandum of understanding between the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe that was entered into on October 22, 1996; and

(2) applicable supplemental agreements with the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service.

(c) CONCURRENCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no such center shall be established without the consent of the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

(d) COMPONENTS OF CENTER.—The Center shall include—

(1) a location for permanent and temporary exhibits depicting the archaeological, cultural, and natural heritage of the Four Corners region;

(2) a venue for public education programs;

(3) a location to highlight the importance of efforts to preserve southwestern archaeological sites and museum collections;

(4) a location to provide information to the general public about cultural and natural resources, parks, museums, and travel in the Four Corners region; and

(5) visitor amenities including restrooms, public telephones, and other basic facilities.

SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION GRANT.

(a) GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to award a grant to an eligible entity for the construction of the Center in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the cost of construction of the Center.

(2) ASSURANCES.—To be eligible for the grant, the eligible entity that is selected to receive the grant shall provide assurances that—

(A) the non-Federal share of the costs of construction is paid from non-Federal sources (which may include contributions made by States, private sources, the Navajo Nation, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for planning, design, construction, furnishing, startup, and operational expenses); and

(B) the aggregate amount of non-Federal funds contributed by the States used to carry out the activities specified in subparagraph (A) will not be less than $2,000,000, of which each of the States that is party to the grant will contribute equally in cash or in kind.

(3) FUNDS FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.—A State may use funds from private sources to meet the requirements of paragraph (2)(B).

(4) FUNDS OF STATE OF ARIZONA.—The State of Arizona may apply $45,000 authorized by the State of Arizona during fiscal year 1998 for planning and $250,000 that is held in reserve by the State for construction toward the Arizona share.

(b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive a grant under this Act, the eligible entity selected to receive the grant shall—

Proposal.

(1) submit to the Secretary a proposal that—

(A) meets all applicable—

(i) laws, including building codes and regulations; and

(ii) requirements under the memorandum of understanding described in paragraph (2); and

(B) provides such information and assurances as the Secretary may require; and

(2) enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary providing—

(A) a timetable for completion of construction and opening of the Center;

(B) assurances that design, architectural, and construction contracts will be competitively awarded;

(C) specifications meeting all applicable Federal, State, and local building codes and laws;

(D) arrangements for operations and maintenance upon completion of construction;

(E) a description of the Center collections and educational programming;

(F) a plan for design of exhibits including, but not limited to, the selection of collections to be exhibited, and the providing of security, preservation, protection, environmental controls, and presentations in accordance with professional museum standards;

(G) an agreement with the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe relative to site selection and public access to the facilities; and

(H) a financing plan developed jointly by the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe outlining the long-term management of the Center, including—

(i) the acceptance and use of funds derived from public and private sources to minimize the use of appropriated or borrowed funds;

(ii) the payment of the operating costs of the Center through the assessment of fees or other income generated by the Center;

(iii) a strategy for achieving financial self-sufficiency with respect to the Center by not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iv) appropriate vendor standards and business activities at the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park.

SEC. 6. SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENT.

The Four Corners Heritage Council may make recommendations to the Secretary on grant proposals regarding the design of facilities at the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior to carry out this Act—

(1) $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and

(2) $50,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005 for maintenance and operation of the Center, program development, or staffing in a manner consistent with the requirements of section 5(b).

(b) CARRYOVER.—Funds made available under subsection (a)(1) that are unexpended at the end of the fiscal year for which those funds are appropriated, may be used by the Secretary through fiscal year 2002 for the purposes for which those funds are made available.

(c) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may reserve funds appropriated pursuant to this Act until a grant proposal meeting the requirements of this Act is submitted, but no later than September 30, 2001.

SEC. 8. DONATIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of the planning, construction, and operation of the Center, the Secretary may accept, retain, and expend donations of funds, and use property or services donated, from private persons and entities or from public entities.

SEC. 9. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act is intended to abrogate, modify, or impair any right or claim of the Navajo Nation or the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, that is based on any law (including any treaty, Executive order, agreement, or Act of Congress).

Approved December 7, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 28:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106–144 (Comm. on Indian Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):
Sept. 9, considered and passed Senate.
Nov. 18, considered and passed House.