or interests therein shall not be disposed of by sale, lease, donation, or exchange without the prior approval of the Secretary.


Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, as amended, referred to in text, is act Sept. 2, 1937, ch. 899, 50 Stat. 917, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, which is classified generally to chapter 53 (§968 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 769 of this title and Tables.

The Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, as amended, referred to in text, is act Aug. 9, 1950, ch. 658, 64 Stat. 430, also known as the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Fish Restoration and Management Projects Act, which is classified generally to chapter 103 (§777 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 777 of this title and Tables.


AMENDMENTS


§1226. Federal agency authority to carry out Federal project within an estuary unaffected

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect the authority of any Federal agency to carry out any Federal project heretofore or hereafter authorized within an estuary.


CHAPTER 27—NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Sec.
1241. Congressional statement of policy and declaration of purpose.
1242. National trails system.
1243. National recreation trails; establishment and designation; prerequisites.
1244. National scenic and national historic trails.
1245. Connecting or side trails; establishment, designation, and marking as components of national trails system; location.
1246. Administration and development of national trails system.
1247. State and local area recreation and historic trails.
1248. Easements and rights-of-way.
1250. Volunteer trails assistance.
1251. Definitions.

§1241. Congressional statement of policy and declaration of purpose

(a) Considerations for determining establishment of trails

In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation, trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation, which are often more remotely located.

(b) Initial components

The purpose of this chapter is to provide the means for achieving these objectives by instituting a national system of recreation, scenic and historic trails, by designating the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail as the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

(c) Volunteer citizen involvement

The Congress recognizes the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation’s trails. In recognition of these contributions, it is further the purpose of this chapter to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management, where appropriate, of trails.


Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1983—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98–11, §202(1), substituted “‘the preservation of,’ and ‘and historic resources’ after ‘promote’” and “‘outdoor areas’ and substituted ‘within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation, which are often more remotely located’ for ‘within established scenic areas more remotely located’.


Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE OF 2023 AMENDMENT


SHORT TITLE OF 2020 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 116–111, §1, Jan. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 8, provided that this Act may be cited as the ‘Emancipation National Historic Trail Designation Act’.

SHORT TITLE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

sions set out as a note under section 1244 of this title and enacting and amending provisions listed in a table of Wilderness Areas set out under section 1132 of this title may be cited as the ‘White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006’.

Pub. L. 109–418, § 1, Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2882, provided that: ‘This Act [amending sections 81f and 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Designation Act’.’

SHORT TITLE OF 2004 AMENDMENTS


SHORT TITLE OF 2002 AMENDMENTS


SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENTS


SHORT TITLE OF 1999 AMENDMENT


SHORT TITLE OF 1993 AMENDMENTS


SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENTS


SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENTS


SHORT TITLE OF 1987 AMENDMENT


SHORT TITLE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98–11, title II, § 201, Mar. 28, 1983, 97 Stat. 42, provided that: ‘This title [amending sections 1250 and 1251 of this title and amending this section and sections 1242 to 1247 and 1249 of this title] may be cited as the ‘National Trails System Act Amendments of 1983’.’

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 90–543, § 1, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 918, provided that: ‘This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Trails System Act’.’

Executive Documents

EX. ORD. No. 13195, ‘TRAILS FOR AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY’

Ex. Ord. No. 13195, Jan. 18, 2001, 66 F.R. 7391, provided: By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in furtherance of purposes of the National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1241–1251), the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105–178) [see Short Title of 1998 Amendment note set out under section 101 of Title 23, Highways], and other pertinent statutes, and to achieve the common goal of better establishing and operating America’s national system of trails, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. Federal Agency Duties. Federal agencies will, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable—and in cooperation with Tribes, States, local governments, and interested citizen groups—protect, connect, promote, and assist trails of all types throughout the United States. This will be accomplished by:

(a) Providing trail opportunities of all types, with minimum adverse impacts and maximum benefits for natural, cultural, and community resources;

(b) Protecting the trail corridors associated with national scenic trails and the high priority potential sites and segments of national historic trails to the degrees necessary to ensure that the values for which each trail was established remain intact;

(c) Coordinating maps and data for the components of the national trails system and Millennium Trails network to ensure that these trails are connected into a national system and that they benefit from appropriate national programs;

(d) Promoting and registering National Recreation Trails, as authorized in the National Trails System Act, by incorporating where possible the commitments and partners active with Millennium Trails;

(e) Participating in a National Trails Day the first Saturday of June each year, coordinating Federal events with the National Trails Day’s sponsoring organization, the American Hiking Society;

(f) Familiarizing Federal agencies that are active in tourism and travel with the components of a national system of trails and the Millennium Trails network and including information about them in Federal promotional and outreach programs; and

(g) Fostering volunteer programs and opportunities to engage volunteers in all aspects of trail planning, development, maintenance, management, and education as outlined in 16 U.S.C. 1250.

(h) Encouraging participation of qualified youth conservation or service corps, as outlined in 41 [42] U.S.C.
§ 1242. National trails system
(a) Composition: recreation trails; scenic trails; historic trails; connecting or side trails; uniform markers

The national system of trails shall be composed of the following:

(1) National recreation trails, established as provided in section 1243 of this title, which will provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas.

(2) National scenic trails, established as provided in section 1244 of this title, which will be extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass. National scenic trails may be located so as to represent desert, marsh, grassland, mountain, canyon, river, forest, and other areas, as well as landforms which exhibit significant characteristics of the physiographic regions of the Nation.

(3) National historic trails, established as provided in section 1245 of this title, which will be extended trails which follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historical significance. Designation of such trails or routes shall be continuous, but the established or developed trail, and the acquisition thereof, need not be continuous onsite. National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment. Only those selected land and water based components of an historic trail which are on federally owned lands and which meet the national historic trail criteria established in this chapter are included as Federal protection components of a national historic trail. The appropriate Secretary may certify other lands as protected segments of an historic trail upon application from State or local governmental agencies or private interests involved if such segments meet the national historic trail criteria established in this chapter and such criteria supplemental thereto as the appropriate Secretary may prescribe, and are administered by such agencies or interests without expense to the United States.

(4) Connecting or side trails, established as provided in section 1245 of this title, which will provide additional points of public access to national recreation, national scenic or national historic trails or which will provide connections between such trails.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with appropriate governmental agencies and public and private organizations, shall establish a uniform marker for the national trails system.

(b) Extended trails

For purposes of this section, the term "extended trails" means trails or trail segments which total at least one hundred miles in length, except that historic trails of less than...