

Calendar No. 574

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2571****[Report No. 107-257]**

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2002

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

Reported by Mr. BINGAMAN, with an amendment and an amendment to the title

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Rim of the Valley Cor-
3 ridor Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The greater Southern California metropoli-
7 tan region is the second largest urban concentration
8 in the United States, with almost one-tenth of the
9 total population of the country, yet it has one of the
10 lowest ratios of park-and-recreation-lands-per-thou-
11 sand-population of any urban area in the country.
12 Unless action is taken soon, this situation will only
13 become worse as the region continues to be subjected
14 to intense growth.

15 (2) The lack of park, recreation, natural open
16 space, and habitat protection in close proximity to
17 the greater Southern California metropolitan region
18 deprives the individuals who reside there of—

19 (A) the health and spiritual welfare bene-
20 fits of proximity to nature; and

21 (B) the quantifiable benefits of reduced
22 crime, lower social tension, and increased edu-
23 cational opportunities that are associated with
24 the provision of open space in geographic prox-
25 imity to and accessible to urban populations.

1 (3) The Rim of the Valley Corridor encircling
 2 the San Fernando and La Creseenta valleys provides
 3 important scenie, environmental, recreational, edu-
 4 cational, scientific, and economic assets to the great-
 5 er Southern California metropolitan region. These
 6 assets are deserving of increased protection so that
 7 they can continue to provide public benefit in the
 8 21st century and beyond.

9 (4) The Rim of the Valley Corridor, consisting
 10 of parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Su-
 11 sanna Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, Verdugo
 12 Mountains, San Rafael Hills, and adjacent connector
 13 areas to the Los Padres and San Bernardino Na-
 14 tional Forests, contains significant examples of—

15 (A) the world's most endangered habitat
 16 area, the Mediterranean chaparral ecosystem;
 17 and

18 (B) significant examples of separate
 19 ecotones indigenous to the area.

20 (5) A key element of the Rim of the Valley Cor-
 21 ridor is the escarpment of the San Gabriel Moun-
 22 tains that is largely contained within the Angeles
 23 National Forest. That national forest is primarily
 24 managed for watershed, recreational, and habitat

1 values and not for commercial exploitation of forest
2 resources.

3 (6) Privately owned lands within the Rim of the
4 Valley Corridor are critical to providing additional
5 scenic, environmental, recreational, and open space
6 values. These lands should be brought within public
7 protection through the use of voluntary incentives,
8 respecting at all times the legitimate private prop-
9 erty values of existing property owners.

10 (7) The State of California has adopted the
11 Rim of the Valley Master Plan, and local govern-
12 ments within the Rim of the Valley Corridor have
13 made significant progress toward protecting the
14 unique natural and recreational resources of the
15 area. However, these efforts have been hampered by
16 a lack of financial resources, technical assistance,
17 and resource management expertise that can be pro-
18 vided by the Federal Government.

19 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR FOR ES-**
20 **TABLISHMENT AS UNIT OF THE SANTA**
21 **MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION**
22 **AREA.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
24 conduct a special resource study of the lands, waters, and
25 interests of the area comprising the Rim of the Valley Cor-

1 ridor in Southern California, as depicted on the maps on
 2 file on June 15, 2001, in the office of the Secretary of
 3 the State of California pursuant to Division 23 of the Cali-
 4 fornia Public Resources Code (section 33000 et seq.).

5 (b) STUDY TOPICS.—The study shall evaluate the na-
 6 tional significance of the area and the suitability and feasi-
 7 bility of establishing it as a unit of the Santa Monica
 8 Mountains National Recreation Area of the National Park
 9 System.

10 (c) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study authorized
 11 by this section, the Secretary shall use the criteria for the
 12 study for areas for potential inclusion in the National
 13 Park System contained in section 8 of Public Law 91-
 14 383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5).

15 (d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study au-
 16 thorized by this section, the Secretary shall regularly con-
 17 sult with the Rim of the Valley Corridor and Santa Monica
 18 Mountains National Recreation Area Advisory Committee
 19 established by section 4.

20 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Rim
 22 of the Valley Corridor and Santa Monica Mountains Na-
 23 tional Recreation Area Advisory Committee (in this sec-
 24 tion referred to as the “Committee”).

1 (b) RECOMMENDATION OF BOUNDARIES FOR EX-
2 PANDED RECREATION AREA.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall—

4 (A) advise the Secretary of the Interior re-
5 garding the conduct of the study under section
6 3; and

7 (B) recommend to the Secretary of the In-
8 terior boundaries for a Santa Monica Moun-
9 tains and Rim of the Valley National Reere-
10 ation Area.

11 (2) BOUNDARY REQUIREMENTS.—The bound-
12 aries recommended by the Committee shall—

13 (A) reflect the boundaries of the Santa
14 Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, as
15 in effect on the date of the enactment of this
16 Act; and

17 (B) generally include the lands, waters,
18 and interests comprising the Rim of the Valley
19 Corridor as depicted on the maps as on file on
20 June 15, 2001, in the office of the Secretary of
21 the State of California pursuant to Division 23
22 of the California Public Resources Code (section
23 33000 et seq.).

24 (3) SUBMISSION.—The Committee shall—

1 (A) submit a recommendation to the Sec-
 2 retary of the Interior under this subsection
 3 within 365 days after the first meeting of the
 4 Committee; and

5 (B) include in the recommendation maps
 6 depicting the boundaries proposed for a Santa
 7 Monica Mountains and Rim of the Valley Na-
 8 tional Recreation Area.

9 (4) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Committee
 10 shall provide opportunities for public participation in
 11 and comment on the recommendation of boundaries
 12 under this subsection.

13 (e) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee consists of 24
 14 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, as
 15 follows:

16 (1) 17 representatives of local governments hav-
 17 ing jurisdiction over areas in the vicinity of the
 18 recreation area, of whom one shall be nominated by
 19 each of—

20 (A) the mayor of the city of Los Angeles;

21 (B) the board of supervisors of the county
 22 of Los Angeles;

23 (C) the board of supervisors of the county
 24 of Ventura;

1 ~~(D)~~ the city council of the city of Thou-
 2 sand Oaks;

3 ~~(E)~~ the city council of the city of Agoura
 4 Hills;

5 ~~(F)~~ the city council of the city of Westlake
 6 Village;

7 ~~(G)~~ the city council of the city of Malibu;

8 ~~(H)~~ the city council of the city of
 9 Calabasas;

10 ~~(I)~~ the city council of the city of Burbank;

11 ~~(J)~~ the city council of the city of Glendale;

12 ~~(K)~~ the city council of the city of La Can-
 13 ada-Flintridge;

14 ~~(L)~~ the city council of the city of Pasa-
 15 dena;

16 ~~(M)~~ the city council of the city of Sierra
 17 Madre;

18 ~~(N)~~ the city council of the city of South
 19 Pasadena;

20 ~~(O)~~ the city council of the city of Santa
 21 Clarita;

22 ~~(P)~~ the city council of the city of Moor-
 23 park; and

24 ~~(Q)~~ the board of supervisors of Los Ange-
 25 les County to represent the unincorporated

1 communities within the jurisdiction of the East
 2 Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor, after con-
 3 sultation with the Town Council of Altadena
 4 and the Crescenta Valley Town Council.

5 (2) The Superintendent of the Santa Monica
 6 Mountains National Recreation Area, or a designee
 7 of such Superintendent.

8 (3) The Supervisor of the Angeles National
 9 Forest, or a designee of such Supervisor.

10 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

11 *This Act may be cited as the “Rim of the Valley Cor-*
 12 *ridor Study Act”.*

13 **SEC. 2. RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY.**

14 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of the Interior and*
 15 *the Secretary of Agriculture (in this Act referred to as the*
 16 *“Secretaries”) shall conduct a joint special resource study*
 17 *of the lands, waters, and interests of the area comprising*
 18 *the Rim of the Valley Corridor in Southern California, as*
 19 *depicted on the map entitled “SANTA MONICA MOUN-*
 20 *TAINS CONSERVANCY ZONE—RIM OF THE VALLEY*
 21 *CORRIDOR Parklands and Open Space” and dated July*
 22 *30, 2002.*

23 (b) *STUDY TOPICS.*—*The study shall evaluate the suit-*
 24 *ability and feasibility of establishing the area as a unit of*
 25 *the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.*

1 (c) *CRITERIA.*—*In conducting the study authorized by*
 2 *this section, the Secretaries shall use the criteria for the*
 3 *study for areas for potential inclusion in the National Park*
 4 *System contained in section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16*
 5 *U.S.C. 1a–5(c)).*

6 (d) *CONSULTATION.*—*In conducting the study author-*
 7 *ized by this section, the Secretaries shall consult with ap-*
 8 *propriate State, county and local government entities.*

9 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 *There are authorized to be appropriated such funds as*
 11 *may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.”.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a joint special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.”

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