

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 355

To provide for a resource study of the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting resources of the corridor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. DREIER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for a resource study of the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting resources of the corridor, 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 “Rim of the Valley Cor-
5 ridor Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESOURCE STUDY OF RIM OF THE VALLEY COR-**
2 **RIDOR, CALIFORNIA.**

3 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Inte-
4 rior shall conduct a resource study of the lands, waters,
5 and interests of the area known as the Rim of the Valley
6 Corridor in the State of California to evaluate a range of
7 alternatives for protecting resources of the corridor, in-
8 cluding the alternative of establishing all or a portion of
9 the corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains Na-
10 tional Recreation Area. The Rim of the Valley Corridor
11 generally includes the mountains encircling the San Fer-
12 nando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo
13 Valleys in California.

14 (b) **STUDY TOPICS.**—In conducting the study, the
15 Secretary shall seek to achieve the following objectives:

16 (1) Protecting wildlife populations in the Santa
17 Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by pre-
18 serving habitat linkages and wildlife movement cor-
19 ridors between large blocks of habitat in adjoining
20 regional open space.

21 (2) Establishing connections along the State-
22 designated Rim of the Valley Trail System, with the
23 aim of creating a single contiguous Rim of the Val-
24 ley Trail and encompassing major feeder trails con-
25 necting adjoining communities and regional transit
26 to the trail system.

1 (3) Preserving recreational opportunities and
2 facilitating access to open space for a variety of rec-
3 reational users.

4 (4) Protecting rare, threatened, or endangered
5 plant and animal species, and rare or unusual plant
6 communities and habitats.

7 (5) Protecting historically significant land-
8 scapes, districts, sites, and structures.

9 (6) Respecting the needs of communities within,
10 or in the vicinity of, the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

11 (c) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—As part of the study, the
12 Secretary shall analyze the potential impact that establish-
13 ment of all or a portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor
14 as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recre-
15 ation Area is likely to have on land within or bordering
16 the area that is privately owned at the time the study is
17 conducted. The report required by subsection (g) shall dis-
18 cuss the concerns of private landowners within the existing
19 boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountains National
20 Recreation Area.

21 (d) COST EFFECTIVENESS.—As part of evaluating
22 each alternative considered under the study, the Secretary
23 shall estimate the impact of implementing the alternative
24 on staffing and other potential costs to Federal, State, and
25 local agencies and other organizations.

1 (e) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall conduct
2 the study in consultation with appropriate Federal, State,
3 county, and local government entities.

4 (f) STUDY CRITERIA.—In addition to the special con-
5 siderations specified in this section, the Secretary shall
6 conduct the study using the criteria prescribed for the
7 study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park
8 System in section 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C.
9 1a–5(c)).

10 (g) TRANSMISSION OF STUDY.—Within three years
11 after funds are first made available for the study, the Sec-
12 retary shall transmit a report containing the results of the
13 study to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
14 of the Senate and to the Committee on Resources of the
15 House of Representatives.

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