

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 206

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2005

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

To designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail,
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 “Ice Age Floods Na-
5 tional Geologic Trail Designation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) at the end of the last Ice Age, some 12,000
4 to 17,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods
5 occurred in what is now the northwest region of the
6 United States, leaving a lasting mark of dramatic
7 and distinguishing features on the landscape of
8 parts of the States of Montana, Idaho, Washington
9 and Oregon;

10 (2) geological features that have exceptional
11 value and quality to illustrate and interpret this ex-
12 traordinary natural phenomenon are present on Fed-
13 eral, State, tribal, county, municipal, and private
14 land in the region; and

15 (3) in 2001, a joint study team headed by the
16 National Park Service that included about 70 mem-
17 bers from public and private entities completed a
18 study endorsing the establishment of an Ice Age
19 Floods National Geologic Trail—

20 (A) to recognize the national significance
21 of this phenomenon; and

22 (B) to coordinate public and private sector
23 entities in the presentation of the story of the
24 Ice Age floods.

25 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to des-
26 ignate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail in the

1 States of Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, ena-
2 bling the public to view, experience, and learn about the
3 features and story of the Ice Age floods through the col-
4 laborative efforts of public and private entities.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) ICE AGE FLOODS; FLOODS.—The term “Ice
8 Age floods” or “floods” means the cataclysmic floods
9 that occurred in what is now the northwestern
10 United States during the last Ice Age from massive,
11 rapid and recurring drainage of Glacial Lake in Mis-
12 soula, Montana.

13 (2) PLAN.—The term “plan” means the cooper-
14 ative management and interpretation plan author-
15 ized under section 5(e).

16 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (4) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the Ice
19 Age Floods National Geologic Trail designated by
20 section 4(a).

21 **SEC. 4. ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC TRAIL.**

22 (a) DESIGNATION.—In order to provide for public ap-
23 preciation, understanding, and enjoyment of the nationally
24 significant natural and cultural features of the Ice Age
25 floods and to promote collaborative efforts for interpreta-

1 tion and education among public and private entities lo-
2 cated along the pathways of the floods, there is designated
3 the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail.

4 (b) LOCATION.—

5 (1) MAP.—The route of the Trail shall be gen-
6 erally depicted on the map entitled “Ice Age Floods
7 National Geologic Trail,” numbered P43/80,000 and
8 dated June 2004.

9 (2) ROUTE.—The route shall generally follow
10 public roads and highways.

11 (3) REVISION.—The Secretary may revise the
12 map by publication in the Federal Register of a no-
13 tice of availability of a new map as part of the plan.

14 (c) MAP AVAILABILITY.—The map referred to in sub-
15 section (b) shall be on file and available for public inspec-
16 tion in the appropriate offices of the National Park Serv-
17 ice.

18 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
20 Director of the National Park Service, shall administer the
21 Trail in accordance with this Act.

22 (b) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection
23 (f)(2), the Trail shall not be considered to be a unit of
24 the National Park System.

1 (c) TRAIL MANAGEMENT OFFICE.—To improve man-
2 agement of the Trail and coordinate Trail activities with
3 other public agencies and private entities, the Secretary
4 may establish and operate a trail management office at
5 a central location within the vicinity of the Trail.

6 (d) INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES.—The Secretary may
7 plan, design, and construct interpretive facilities for sites
8 associated with the Trail if the facilities are constructed
9 in partnership with State, local, tribal, or non-profit enti-
10 ties and are consistent with the plan.

11 (e) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after
13 funds are made available to carry out this Act, the
14 Secretary shall prepare a cooperative management
15 and interpretation plan for the Trail.

16 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall pre-
17 pare the plan in consultation with—

18 (A) State, local, and tribal governments;

19 (B) the Ice Age Floods Institute;

20 (C) private property owners; and

21 (D) other interested parties.

22 (3) CONTENTS.—The plan shall—

23 (A) confirm and, if appropriate, expand on
24 the inventory of features of the floods contained
25 in the National Park Service study entitled “Ice

1 Age Floods, Study of Alternatives and Environ-
 2 mental Assessment” (February 2001) by—

3 (i) locating features more accurately;
 4 (ii) improving the description of fea-
 5 tures; and

6 (iii) reevaluating the features in terms
 7 of their interpretive potential;

8 (B) review and, if appropriate, modify the
 9 map of the Trail referred to in section 4(b);

10 (C) describe strategies for the coordinated
 11 development of the Trail, including an interpre-
 12 tive plan for facilities, waysides, roadside pull-
 13 outs, exhibits, media, and programs that
 14 present the story of the floods to the public ef-
 15 fectively; and

16 (D) identify potential partnering opportu-
 17 nities in the development of interpretive facili-
 18 ties and educational programs to educate the
 19 public about the story of the floods.

20 (f) COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to facilitate the de-
 22 velopment of coordinated interpretation, education,
 23 resource stewardship, visitor facility development
 24 and operation, and scientific research associated
 25 with the Trail and to promote more efficient admin-

1 istration of the sites associated with the Trail, the
2 Secretary may enter into cooperative management
3 agreements with appropriate officials in the States
4 of Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon in ac-
5 cordance with the authority provided for units of the
6 National Park System under section 3(l) of Public
7 Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–2(l)).

8 (2) AUTHORITY.—For purposes of this sub-
9 section only, the Trail shall be considered a unit of
10 the National Park System.

11 (g) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
12 may enter into cooperative agreements with public or pri-
13 vate entities to carry out this Act.

14 (h) EFFECT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.—
15 Nothing in this Act—

16 (1) requires any private property owner to allow
17 public access (including Federal, State, or local gov-
18 ernment access) to private property; or

19 (2) modifies any provision of Federal, State, or
20 local law with respect to public access to or use of
21 private land.

22 (i) LIABILITY.—Designation of the Trail by section
23 4(a) does not create any liability for, or affect any liability
24 under any law of, any private property owner with respect
25 to any person injured on the private property.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as are necessary to carry out this Act, of which not more
4 than \$12,000,000 may be used for development of the
5 Trail.

Passed the Senate November 16, 2005.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.