

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 257

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area in the States of Washington and Oregon, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2007

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area in the States of Washington and Oregon, 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 “Columbia-Pacific Na-
5 tional Heritage Area Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Chinookan people have—

1 (A) lived in the Columbia-Pacific region for
2 over 6,000 years;

3 (B) developed a wealthy and vibrant cul-
4 ture from the abundance of the Columbia River
5 and the sophisticated trade economy of the peo-
6 ple; and

7 (C) established cultural centers in Chinook,
8 Washington, and Seaside, Oregon;

9 (2) early European explorers, including Heceta,
10 Vitus Bering, Sir Francis Drake, and Captain Cook,
11 began to explore and chart the region in search of
12 the Great River of the West, the last remaining
13 major land feature mapped by Europeans;

14 (3) many people travel from around the world
15 to the Columbia-Pacific region to—

16 (A) experience the rich historical culture of
17 the region; and

18 (B) search for new business opportunities
19 in the region;

20 (4) in 1792 Boston-based Captain Robert Gray
21 was the first to bring a sailing ship into the River,
22 naming the River after his ship, the COLUMBIA
23 REDIVIVA;

1 (5) Gray’s trip through the Columbia River
2 opened up the River to trade with east coast cities,
3 European countries, and Asian kingdoms;

4 (6) during the 13 years before the Lewis and
5 Clark Corps of Discovery arrived overland, more
6 than 88 ships entered the Columbia River as part of
7 a sophisticated global trade network that became
8 known as the “Golden Round”, which stimulated the
9 economy of the newly freed colonies and accelerated
10 the development of the international fur trade;

11 (7) ports and communities along the Columbia
12 River continue to support the traditional industries
13 of fishing, seafood processing, timber harvesting,
14 and trade;

15 (8) in 1805 Lewis and Clark, seeking an all
16 water route to the Pacific Ocean for commerce to ex-
17 pand the American claim to the Pacific Ocean, ar-
18 rived at the mouth of the Columbia River where the
19 group built a fort to spend the winter;

20 (9) the legacy of Lewis and Clark continues to
21 be available to the public at the newly expanded
22 units of the Lewis and Clark National Historical
23 Park;

24 (10) in 1811 John Jacob Astor established a
25 permanent settlement for commerce at the mouth of

1 the Columbia River known as “Astoria”, which be-
2 came the first American city west of the Rocky
3 Mountains;

4 (11) Astoria was sold to the Hudson Bay Com-
5 pany and during the period from 1812 to 1828, was
6 a British territory;

7 (12) Astoria was ultimately returned to the
8 United States making Astoria the only city in the
9 United States to become the territory of another
10 country and then revert back to the United States;

11 (13) for several thousand years the approaches
12 to the mouth of the Columbia River have served as
13 the original homeland defense system as the
14 Chinookan people established villages on headlands
15 and promontories of the River in order to watch the
16 traffic entering, leaving, and traveling on the River;

17 (14) with the start of the Civil War, the native
18 villages were replaced with forts operated by the
19 United States Army;

20 (15) the Army forts at Cape Disappointment,
21 Fort Columbia, and Fort Stevens were in continuous
22 operation through the end of World War II;

23 (16) the United States Coast Guard maintains
24 a large homeland security operation through Group
25 Astoria with the Cape Disappointment Motor Life-

1 boat Station, Astoria Air Station, 2 cutters oper-
2 ating out of Astoria, and the Tongue Point mainte-
3 nance yard;

4 (17) through the United States Coast Guard
5 operations, the Columbia River continues to serve as
6 the guard post for the protection of international
7 commerce of the largest river transport system on
8 the west coast;

9 (18) the water offshore Clatsop County, Or-
10 egon, and Pacific County, Washington, is known as
11 the “Graveyard of the Pacific”, because thousands
12 of vessels and lives have been lost in the water, with
13 survivors struggling ashore and seeking refuge in the
14 historic beach communities of Cannon Beach, Sea-
15 side, Gearhart, Seaview, Long Beach, Ocean Park,
16 and Oysterville;

17 (19) shipwrecks and storm waters are still a
18 threat to commercial and recreational boaters in the
19 area;

20 (20) modern navigation aids include light-
21 houses, lightships, and lifesaving stations;

22 (21) the United States Coast Guard continues
23 to operate the Cape Disappointment Lifesaving Sta-
24 tion and the National Motor Lifeboat School;

1 (22) members of the United States Coast
2 Guard from throughout the United States are sent
3 to the “Top Gun” training center to—

4 (A) challenge some of the most dangerous
5 waters in the world; and

6 (B) prepare for service at stations
7 throughout the United States;

8 (23) the Columbia River is home to 1 of the
9 most abundant commercial and sport fisheries in the
10 world;

11 (24) for centuries, the people in the Columbia-
12 Pacific region have made a living from the Columbia
13 River, including—

14 (A) the Chinookan people, who developed a
15 sophisticated and vibrant culture using the re-
16 sources of the River; and

17 (B) beginning in the 1840’s, American set-
18 tlers and European and Asian immigrants, who
19 developed a vibrant economy around the salmon
20 fisheries;

21 (25) the communities of Astoria, Warrenton,
22 Hammond, Chinook, and Ilwaco—

23 (A) have their roots in the development of
24 the early fishing industry; and

1 (B) continue to support both commercial
2 and sport fisheries that—

3 (i) provide—

4 (I) economic opportunities for
5 residents; and

6 (II) recreational opportunities for
7 visitors; and

8 (ii) preserve over a century of cultural
9 traditions;

10 (26) commercial timber harvesting has been an
11 important component of the culture of the Columbia
12 River for over 150 years;

13 (27) timber has been harvested and used in
14 local mills or transported, primarily along the Co-
15 lumbia River to the Pacific Ocean; and

16 (28) raw logs and forest products continue to
17 be transported along the Columbia River and across
18 the Bar to markets around the world.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “Heritage
22 Area” means the Columbia-Pacific National Herit-
23 age Area.

24 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
2 means—

3 (A) the coastal areas of Clatsop County,
4 Oregon, and Pacific County, Washington, which
5 are known as the “North Beach Peninsula”;
6 and

7 (B) areas relating to Native American his-
8 tory, local history, Euro-American settlement
9 culture, and related economic activities of the
10 Columbia River within a corridor along the Co-
11 lumbia River eastward in Clatsop County, Or-
12 egon, and Pacific, Columbia, and Wahkiakum
13 Counties, Washington.

14 **SEC. 4. COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**
15 **STUDY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
17 with the managers of any Federal land within the Herit-
18 age Area, appropriate State and local governmental agen-
19 cies, and any interested organizations, shall conduct a
20 study to determine the feasibility of designating the study
21 area as the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area.

22 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-
23 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether—

24 (1) the study area—

1 (A) has an assemblage of natural, historic,
2 cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational re-
3 sources that together are nationally important
4 to the heritage of the United States;

5 (B) represent distinctive aspects of the
6 heritage of the United States worthy of recogni-
7 tion, conservation, interpretation, and con-
8 tinuing use;

9 (C) are best managed through agreements
10 between public and private entities at the local
11 or regional level;

12 (D) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs,
13 and folklife that are a valuable part of the her-
14 itage of the United States;

15 (E) provides outstanding opportunities to
16 conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic
17 features;

18 (F) provides outstanding recreational and
19 educational opportunities; and

20 (G) has resources and traditional uses that
21 have national importance;

22 (2) residents, business interests, nonprofit orga-
23 nizations, the Federal Government (including rel-
24 evant Federal land management agencies), and

1 State, local, and tribal governments within the study
 2 area—

3 (A) are involved in the planning; and

4 (B) have demonstrated significant support
 5 through letters and other means for designation
 6 and management of the Heritage Area; and

7 (3) the study area—

8 (A) has been identified; and

9 (B) is supported by State and local agen-
 10 cies, the public, and private businesses.

11 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

12 Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which
 13 funds are made available to carry out the study, the Sec-
 14 retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Nat-
 15 ural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Re-
 16 sources of the House of Representatives a report that de-
 17 scribes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of
 18 the Secretary with respect to the study.

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
 21 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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