

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3449

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2008

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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, 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 “Lower Mississippi  
5 River National Historic Site Study Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

18 (4) of particular interest to the area are—

19 (A) Fort St. Philip, originally built in  
20 1749, at which, during the Battle of New Orle-  
21 ans, the British navy was blocked from going  
22 up river and a victory for the Colonial Army  
23 was ensured; and

24 (B) Fort Jackson, built across from Fort  
25 St. Philip at the request of General Andrew

1 Jackson and partially constructed by famous  
2 local Civil War General P.G.T. Beauregard,  
3 which was the site of the famous Civil War bat-  
4 tle known as the “Battle of the Forts”, which  
5 is also referred to as the “night the war was  
6 lost”;

7 (5) the area is—

11 (B) a part of the River Road highway sys-  
12 tem;

13 (6) lower Plaquemines Parish is split down the  
14 middle by the Mississippi River, surrounded on 3  
15 sides by the Gulf of Mexico, and crossed by numer-  
16 ous bayous, canals, and ditches;

19 (A) an ancient Head of Passes site; and

(B) 1 of the most historic areas on the  
Lower Mississippi River known as  
“Plaquemines Bend”;

23 (8) the modern Head of Passes is only 21 miles  
24 south of Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip where the

1 Mississippi River splits into a bird foot delta to travel the last 20 miles to the Gulf of Mexico;

3 (9) there are numerous geological features that  
4 are unique to a large river mouth or delta that could  
5 make a national park in the area a particularly in-  
6triguing attraction;

7 (10) the coastal erosion, subsidence, river hy-  
8draulics, delta features, fresh, salt, and brackish  
9 water marshes, and other unique features of the  
10 area could be an effective classroom for the public  
11 on the challenges of protecting our river and coastal  
12 zones;

13 (11) the area includes the beginning of the Mis-  
14 sissippi River flyway, which is—

15 (A) 1 of the most pristine eco-sites in the  
16 United States; and

17 (B) the site of 2 national wildlife refuges  
18 and 1 state wildlife refuge;

19 (12) the area is culturally diverse in history,  
20 population, industry, and politics;

21 (13) many well-known characters lived or per-  
22 formed deeds of great notoriety in the area;

23 (14) in the area, Creoles, Europeans, Indians,  
24 Yugoslav, African-Americans, and Vietnamese all  
25 worked together to weave an interesting history of

1 survival and success in a very treacherous environment;

3 (15) the area has tremendous tourism potential,  
4 particularly for historical tourism and eco-tourism,  
5 because of the location, pristine ecosystems, and  
6 past indifference of the local government to promote  
7 tourism in the area; and

8 (16) since Hurricane Katrina, the local govern-  
9 ment in the area has—

10 (A) passed a resolution strongly supporting  
11 a national park study; and

12 (B) shown an interest in developing tour-  
13 ism in the area.

14 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 In this Act:

16 (1) STUDY AREA.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Study  
18 Area” means the Lower Mississippi River area  
19 in the State of Louisiana.

20 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Study Area”  
21 includes Fort St. Philip and Fort Jackson, the  
22 Head of Passes, and any related and supporting  
23 historical, natural, cultural, and recreational re-  
24 sources located in Plaquemines Parish, Lou-  
25 isiana.

#### 4 SEC. 4. STUDY.

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after  
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-  
7 sultation with the State of Louisiana and interested  
8 groups and organizations, shall complete a special re-  
9 source study that—

10 (1) evaluates—

11 (A) the national significance of the Study  
12 Area; and

13 (B) the suitability and feasibility of design-  
14 nating the Study Area as a unit of the National  
15 Park System, to be known as the “Lower Mis-  
16 sissippi River National Park”;

17 (2) includes cost estimates for the acquisition,  
18 development, operation, and maintenance of the  
19 Study Area; and

20 (3) identifies alternatives for management, ad-  
21 ministration, and protection of the Study Area.

22 (b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study under sub-  
23 section (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the  
24 study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park

1 System under section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16  
2 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)).

3 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

4 On completion of the study under section 4, the Sec-  
5 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-  
6 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
7 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate  
8 a report that describes—

9 (1) the findings and conclusions of the study;  
10 and  
11 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

12 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
14 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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