

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2346

To amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2014

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. KIRK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery 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 “National Discovery
5 Trails Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT AMENDMENTS.**

7 (a) NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS.—Section 3(a) of
8 the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1242(a)) is
9 amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

1 “(5) National discovery trails, established under
 2 section 5, which will be extended, continuous, inter-
 3 state trails so located as to provide for outstanding
 4 outdoor recreation and travel and to connect rep-
 5 resentative examples of America’s trails and commu-
 6 nities. National discovery trails should provide for
 7 the conservation and enjoyment of significant nat-
 8 ural, cultural, and historic resources associated with
 9 each trail and should be so located as to represent
 10 metropolitan, urban, rural, and back country regions
 11 of the Nation. Any such trail may be designated on
 12 Federal lands and, with the consent of the owner
 13 thereof, on any non-Federal lands.”.

14 (b) DESIGNATION OF THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY
 15 TRAIL AS A NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAIL.—Section 5(a)
 16 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding
 17 at the end the following:

18 “(31) The American Discovery Trail, a trail of
 19 approximately 6,000 miles extending from Cape
 20 Henlopen State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes
 21 National Seashore in California, extending westward
 22 through Delaware, Maryland, the District of Colum-
 23 bia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, where near
 24 Cincinnati it splits into two routes. The Northern
 25 Midwest route traverses Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,

1 Iowa, Nebraska, and Colorado, and the Southern
2 Midwest route traverses Indiana, Illinois, Missouri,
3 Kansas, and Colorado. After the two routes rejoin in
4 Denver, Colorado, the route continues through Colo-
5 rado, Utah, Nevada, and California. The trail is gen-
6 erally described in Volume 2 of the National Park
7 Service feasibility study dated June 1995 which
8 shall be on file and available for public inspection in
9 the office of the Director of the National Park Serv-
10 ice, Department of the Interior, the District of Co-
11 lumbia. The American Discovery Trail shall be ad-
12 ministered by the Secretary of the Interior in co-
13 operation with at least one competent trailwide vol-
14 unteer-based organization and other affected Federal
15 land managing agencies, and State and local govern-
16 ments, as appropriate. No lands or interests outside
17 the exterior boundaries of federally administered
18 areas may be acquired by the Federal Government
19 solely for the American Discovery Trail. The provi-
20 sions of sections 7(e), 7(f), and 7(g) shall not apply
21 to the American Discovery Trail.”.

22 (c) COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAIL
23 PLAN.—Section 7 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1246) is further
24 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
25 section:

1 “(l)(1) For purposes of subsection (5)(b), a trail shall
2 not be considered feasible and desirable for designation
3 as a national discovery trail unless it meets all of the fol-
4 lowing criteria:

5 “(A) The trail must link one or more areas
6 within the boundaries of a metropolitan area (as
7 those boundaries are determined under section
8 134(c) of title 23, United States Code). It should
9 also join with other trails, connecting the National
10 Trails System to significant recreation and resources
11 areas.

12 “(B) The trail must be supported by at least
13 one competent trailwide volunteer-based organiza-
14 tion. Each trail should have extensive local and
15 trailwide support by the public, by user groups, and
16 by affected State and local governments.

17 “(C) The trail must be extended and pass
18 through more than one State. At a minimum, it
19 should be a continuous, walkable route.

20 “(2) The appropriate Secretary for each national dis-
21 covery trail shall administer the trail in cooperation with
22 at least one competent trailwide volunteer-based organiza-
23 tion. Where the designation of discovery trail is aligned
24 with other units of the National Trails System, or State
25 or local trails, the designation of a discovery trail shall

1 not affect the protections or authorities provided for the
2 other trail or trails, nor shall the designation of a dis-
3 covery trail diminish the values and significance for which
4 those trails were established. Not later than three com-
5 plete fiscal years after the date of the enactment of any
6 law designating a national discovery trail, the appropriate
7 Secretary shall submit a comprehensive plan for the pro-
8 tection, management, development, and use of the trail,
9 to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United
10 States House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Sen-
12 ate. The responsible Secretary shall ensure that the com-
13 prehensive plan for the entire trail does not conflict with
14 existing agency direction and shall consult with the af-
15 fected land managing agencies, the Governors of the af-
16 fected States, affected county and local political jurisdic-
17 tions, and local organizations maintaining components of
18 the trail. Components of the comprehensive plan include—

19 “(A) policies and practices to be observed in the
20 administration and management of the trail, includ-
21 ing the identification of all significant natural, his-
22 torical, and cultural resources to be preserved, model
23 agreements necessary for joint trail administration
24 among and between interested parties, and an iden-
25 tified carrying capacity for critical segments of the

1 trail and a plan for their implementation where ap-
 2 propriate;

3 “(B) general and site-specific trail-related de-
 4 velopment including costs; and

5 “(C) the process to be followed by the volun-
 6 teer-based organization, in cooperation with the ap-
 7 propriate Secretary, to implement the trail marking
 8 authorities in subsection (c) conforming to approved
 9 trail logo or emblem requirements. Nothing in this
 10 Act may be construed to impose or permit the im-
 11 position of any landowner on the use of any non-Fed-
 12 eral lands without the consent of the owner thereof.
 13 Neither the designation of a national discovery trail
 14 nor any plan relating thereto shall affect or be con-
 15 sidered in the granting or denial of a right of way
 16 or any conditions relating thereto.”.

17 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

18 The National Trails System Act is amended—

19 (1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 1241(b)), by
 20 striking “scenic and historic” and inserting “scenic,
 21 historic, and discovery”;

22 (2) in the section heading to section 5 (16
 23 U.S.C. 1244), by striking “AND NATIONAL HIS-
 24 TORIC” and inserting “, NATIONAL HISTORIC, AND
 25 NATIONAL DISCOVERY”;

1 (3) in section 5(a) (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)), in the
2 matter preceding paragraph (1)—

3 (A) by striking “and national historic” and
4 inserting “, national historic, and national dis-
5 covery”; and

6 (B) by striking “and National Historic”
7 and inserting “, National Historic, and Na-
8 tional Discovery”;

9 (4) in section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)), in the
10 matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “or na-
11 tional historic” and inserting “, national historic, or
12 national discovery”;

13 (5) in section 5(b)(3) (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)(3)),
14 by striking “or national historic” and inserting “,
15 national historic, or national discovery”;

16 (6) in section 7(a)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1246(a)(2)),
17 by striking “and national historic” and inserting “,
18 national historic, and national discovery”;

19 (7) in section 7(b) (16 U.S.C. 1246(b)), by
20 striking “or national historic” each place such term
21 appears and inserting “, national historic, or na-
22 tional discovery”;

23 (8) in section 7(c) (16 U.S.C. 1246(c))—

1 (A) by striking “scenic or national his-
2 toric” each place it appears and inserting “see-
3 nic, national historic, or national discovery”;

4 (B) in the second proviso, by striking “see-
5 nic, or national historic” and inserting “scenic,
6 national historic, or national discovery”; and

7 (C) by striking “, and national historic”
8 and inserting “, national historic, and national
9 discovery”;

10 (9) in section 7(d) (16 U.S.C. 1246(d)), by
11 striking “or national historic” and inserting “na-
12 tional historic, or national discovery”;

13 (10) in section 7(e) (16 U.S.C. 1246(e)), by
14 striking “or national historic” each place such term
15 appears and inserting “, national historic, or na-
16 tional discovery”;

17 (11) in section 7(f)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1246(f)(2)),
18 by striking “National Scenic or Historic Trail” and
19 inserting “national scenic, historic, or discovery
20 trail”;

21 (12) in section 7(h)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1246(h)(1)),
22 by striking “or national historic” and inserting “na-
23 tional historic, or national discovery”; and

1 (13) in section 7(i) (16 U.S.C. 1246(i)), by
2 striking “or national historic” and inserting “na-
3 tional historic, or national discovery”.

○