

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5789

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site of the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. BARR (for himself and Ms. FUDGE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site of the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Jessamine County, Kentucky, 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 “Camp Nelson Heritage
5 Park Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) In June 1863, Camp Nelson was founded
2 and constructed by Major General Ambrose
3 Burnside and the unit under his command, the 9th
4 Corps of the Army of Ohio.

5 (2) Camp Nelson was established as a supply
6 depot for the Union Army during the Civil War and
7 helped support the Union Army's campaigns in Ken-
8 tucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

9 (3) Camp Nelson was one of the Nation's larg-
10 est recruitment and training centers for African-
11 American soldiers during the Civil War, as well as
12 a refugee camp for the wives and children of many
13 of those soldiers.

14 (4) Because of its proximity to Confederate
15 States, thousands of slaves fled to Camp Nelson
16 with their families to escape enslavement and to en-
17 list in the Union Army, thereby gaining their free-
18 dom.

19 (5) Eight regiments of "U.S. Colored Troops",
20 the designation of African-American regiments at
21 that time, were founded at Camp Nelson, and three
22 other regiments were trained at the site.

23 (6) Camp Nelson established a refugee camp
24 for enlisted African-American soldier's families,
25 housing over 3,000 people, primarily women and

1 children, and included a school house, hospital, mess
2 hall, and other accommodations.

3 (7) In 2008, Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage
4 Park was designated as part of the National Park
5 Service's National Underground Railroad Network
6 to Freedom.

7 (8) In 1998, Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage
8 Park was created by Jessamine County Fiscal Court
9 using Federal, State, and local support, and has pre-
10 served large tracts of this site, constructed a visitor
11 center, constructed a replica barracks, recreated a
12 fort, developed interpretive trails, and educated the
13 public about this historic site.

14 (9) There is strong community interest in mak-
15 ing Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park a unit of
16 the National Park System.

17 (10) Jessamine County Fiscal Court has ex-
18 pressed its desire to donate the preserved historic
19 site as a gift to the United States.

20 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (re-
22 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a
23 special resource study of the site of the Camp Nelson Civil
24 War Heritage Park in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and
25 adjacent property (referred to in this Act as the “site”).

1 (b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall conduct the
2 study under subsection (a) in accordance with section
3 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

4 (c) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
5 section (a), the Secretary shall—

6 (1) evaluate the national significance of the
7 site;

8 (2) determine the suitability and feasibility of
9 designating the site as a unit of the National Park
10 System;

11 (3) include cost estimates for any necessary ac-
12 quisition, development, operation, and maintenance
13 of the site; and

14 (4) consult with interested Federal, State, or
15 local governmental entities, private and nonprofit or-
16 ganizations, or other interested individuals.

17 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

18 Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds
19 are made available to carry out the study under subsection
20 (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Nat-
21 ural Resources of the House of Representatives and the
22 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
23 ate a report that describes—

24 (1) the findings and conclusions of the study;
25 and

1 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

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