

Public Law 105–229  
105th Congress

An Act

To ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Aug. 13, 1998  
[H.R. 765]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. MAINTENANCE OF WILD HORSES IN CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE.**

Section 5 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the establishment of the Cape Lookout National Seashore in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes”, approved March 10, 1966 (Public Law 89–366; 16 U.S.C. 459g–4), is amended by inserting “(a)” after “Sec. 5.”, and by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b)(1) The Secretary, in accordance with this subsection, shall allow a herd of 100 free roaming horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Seashore’): *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the Secretary from implementing or enforcing the provisions of paragraph (3).

“(2) Within 180 days after enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Foundation for Shackelford Horses (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of North Carolina), or another qualified nonprofit entity, to provide for management of free roaming horses in the seashore. The agreement shall—

Deadline.  
Contracts.

“(A) provide for cost-effective management of the horses while ensuring that natural resources within the seashore are not adversely impacted; and

“(B) allow the authorized entity to adopt any of those horses that the Secretary removes from the seashore.

“(3) The Secretary shall not remove, assist in, or permit the removal of any free roaming horses from Federal lands within the boundaries of the seashore—

“(A) unless the entity with whom the Secretary has entered into the agreement under paragraph (2), following notice and a 90-day response period, fails to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement; or

“(B) unless the number of free roaming horses on Federal lands within Cape Lookout National Seashore exceeds 110; or

“(C) except in the case of an emergency, or to protect public health and safety.

“(4) The Secretary shall annually monitor, assess, and make available to the public findings regarding the population, structure, and health of the free roaming horses in the national seashore.

Public  
information.

“(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the Secretary to replace horses or otherwise increase the number of horses within the boundaries of the seashore where the herd numbers fall below 100 as a result of natural causes, including, but not limited to, disease or natural disasters.

“(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as creating liability for the United States for any damages caused by the free roaming horses to property located inside or outside the boundaries of the seashore.”.

Approved August 13, 1998.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 765:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 105-179 (Comm. on Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105-115 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 143 (1997): July 22, considered and passed House.

Vol. 144 (1998): July 17, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Aug. 3, House concurred in Senate amendment.

