

agement plans, relationship to other Federal agencies, private property and regulatory protections, evaluation and report, and authorization of appropriations.

CONDITIONAL EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES

Pub. L. 113-291, div. B, title XXX, §3052(a)(2), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3802, which made most of the amendments by section 3052(a)(1) of Pub. L. 113-291 applicable through Sept. 20, 2020, unless an evaluation and report regarding national heritage areas were completed, was repealed by Pub. L. 117-339, §2(c), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6163.

§ 120103. National Heritage Area studies and designation

(a) STUDIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may carry out or review a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of each proposed National Heritage Area for designation as a National Heritage Area.

(2) PREPARATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A study under paragraph

(1) may be carried out—

(i) by the Secretary, in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, State and local historical societies, State and local tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and governmental agencies; or

(ii) by interested individuals or entities, if the Secretary certifies that the completed study meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

(B) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a study carried out by interested individuals or entities under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall review and certify whether the study meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A study under paragraph (1) shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the proposed National Heritage Area—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(iii) would be best managed—

(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(C) provides outstanding opportunities—

(i) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(ii) for recreation and education;

(D) contains resources that—

(i) are important to any identified themes of the proposed National Heritage Area; and

(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(E) includes a diverse group of residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(i) are involved in the planning of the proposed National Heritage Area;

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the proposed National Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(iii) have demonstrated significant support for the designation of the proposed National Heritage Area;

(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the proposed National Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(4) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each study carried out under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(i) any correspondence received by the Secretary demonstrating support for, or opposition to, the establishment of the National Heritage Area;

(ii) the findings of the study; and

(iii) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

(B) TIMING.—

(i) STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY THE SECRETARY.—With respect to a study carried out by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(i), the Secretary shall submit a report under subparagraph (A) not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study.

(ii) STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.—With respect to a study carried out by interested individuals or entities in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(ii), the Secretary shall submit a report under subparagraph (A) not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary certifies under paragraph (2)(B) that the study meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

(b) DESIGNATION.—An area shall be designated as a National Heritage Area only by an Act of Congress.

(Added Pub. L. 117-339, §2(a), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6159.)

§ 120104. Evaluation

(a) IN GENERAL.—At reasonable and appropriate intervals, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of a National Heritage Area in accordance with subsection (b); and

(2) prepare and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes recommendations for the continued role of the Service with respect to each National Heritage Area in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) COMPONENTS.—An evaluation under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the applicable local coordinating entity of a National Heritage Area with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the applicable National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the management plan;

(2) analyze Federal, State, local, Tribal government, and private investments in the National Heritage Area to determine the leverage and impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report under subsection (a)(2) shall include—

(1) if the report contains a recommendation of the Secretary that Federal funding for the applicable National Heritage Area should be continued, an analysis of—

(A) any means by which that Federal funding may be reduced or eliminated over time; and

(B) the appropriate time period necessary to achieve the recommended reduction or elimination of Federal funding; or

(2) if the report contains a recommendation of the Secretary that Federal funding for the applicable National Heritage Area should be eliminated, a description of potential impacts on conservation, interpretation, and sustainability in the applicable National Heritage Area.

(Added Pub. L. 117-339, §2(a), Jan. 5, 2023, 136 Stat. 6161.)

Subtitle II—Outdoor Recreation Programs

CHAPTER 2001—COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS

Sec.	
200101.	Findings and declaration of policy.
200102.	Definitions.
200103.	Authority of Secretary to carry out certain functions and activities.
200104.	Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation ¹

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2025—Pub. L. 118-234, title I, §113(c), Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 2841, added item 200104 and struck out former

¹ So in original. Does not conform to section catchline and probably should be followed by a period.

item 200104 “Consultations of Secretary with administrative officers; execution of administrative responsibilities in conformity with nationwide plan”.

§ 200101. Findings and declaration of policy

Congress finds and declares it is desirable—

(1) that all American people of present and future generations be assured adequate outdoor recreation resources; and

(2) for all levels of government and private interests to take prompt and coordinated action to the extent practicable without diminishing or affecting their respective powers and functions to conserve, develop, and utilize those resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people.

(Pub. L. 113-287, §3, Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3169.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
200101	16 U.S.C. 460l.	Pub. L. 88-29, §1, May 28, 1963, 77 Stat. 49.

Executive Documents

A 21ST CENTURY STRATEGY FOR AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS

Memorandum of President of the United States, Apr. 16, 2010, 75 F.R. 20767, provided:

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior[,] the Secretary of Agriculture[,] the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency[, and] the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality

Americans are blessed with a vast and varied natural heritage. From mountains to deserts and from sea to shining sea, America’s great outdoors have shaped the rugged independence and sense of community that define the American spirit. Our working landscapes, cultural sites, parks, coasts, wild lands, rivers, and streams are gifts that we have inherited from previous generations. They are the places that offer us refuge from daily demands, renew our spirits, and enhance our fondest memories, whether they are fishing with a grandchild in a favorite spot, hiking a trail with a friend, or enjoying a family picnic in a neighborhood park. They also are our farms, ranches, and forests—the working lands that have fed and sustained us for generations. Americans take pride in these places, and share a responsibility to preserve them for our children and grandchildren.

Today, however, we are losing touch with too many of the places and proud traditions that have helped to make America special. Farms, ranches, forests, and other valuable natural resources are disappearing at an alarming rate. Families are spending less time together enjoying their natural surroundings. Despite our conservation efforts, too many of our fields are becoming fragmented, too many of our rivers and streams are becoming polluted, and we are losing our connection to the parks, wild places, and open spaces we grew up with and cherish. Children, especially, are spending less time outside running and playing, fishing and hunting, and connecting to the outdoors just down the street or outside of town.

Across America, communities are uniting to protect the places they love, and developing new approaches to saving and enjoying the outdoors. They are bringing together farmers and ranchers, land trusts, recreation and conservation groups, sportsmen, community park groups, governments and industry, and people from all over the country to develop new partnerships and innovative programs to protect and restore our outdoors legacy. However, these efforts are often scattered and sometimes insufficient. The Federal Government, the Nation’s largest land manager, has a responsibility to