

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1075

To adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, 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 “Rim of the Valley Cor-
5 ridor Preservation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The Santa Monica Mountains National
9 Recreation Area was authorized as a unit of the Na-
10 tional Park System on November 10, 1978.

(2) The Santa Monica Mountains and the Rim
of the Valley Corridor include—

(A) nationally significant resources—

(i) outstanding examples of geologic
history, including the evolution of the
Transverse Ranges Province;

(ii) a diversity of well-preserved ma-
rine and terrestrial paleontological re-
sources; and

(iii) high biodiversity, including out-
standing examples of native grasslands,
coastal sage scrub, chaparral, dry conif-
erous forests, and alluvian fan sage scrub;
and

(B) nationally significant cultural re-
sources that represent a wide range of themes
related to human use and settlement in the re-
gion—

(i) high concentrations of archeo-
logical resources that provide insight into
more than 10,000 years of Native Amer-
ican history; and

(ii) landmarks that represent topics
such as architecture, recreation, and space
exploration.

1 (3) Expanding the Santa Monica Mountains
 2 National Recreation Area would provide new oppor-
 3 tunities for the National Park Service to serve a
 4 broad range of urban communities, including many
 5 that are underrepresented in national parks and un-
 6 derserved by State and local parks.

7 **SEC. 3. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; LAND ACQUISITION; AD-**
 8 **MINISTRATION.**

9 (a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—Section 507(c)(1) of
 10 the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16
 11 U.S.C. 460kk(c)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by
 12 striking “, which shall” and inserting “ and generally de-
 13 picted as ‘Rim of the Valley Unit Proposed Addition’ on
 14 the map entitled ‘Rim of the Valley Unit—Santa Monica
 15 Mountains National Recreation Area’, numbered 638/
 16 147,723, and dated September 2018. Both maps shall”.

17 (b) RIM OF THE VALLEY UNIT.—Section 507 of the
 18 National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
 19 460kk) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(u) RIM OF THE VALLEY UNIT.—(1) Not later than
 21 3 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
 22 the Secretary shall update the general management plan
 23 for the recreation area to reflect the boundaries designated
 24 on the map referred to in subsection (c)(1) as the ‘Rim
 25 of the Valley Unit’ (hereafter in the subsection referred

1 to as the ‘Rim of the Valley Unit’). Subject to valid exist-
2 ing rights, the Secretary shall administer the Rim of the
3 Valley Unit, and any land or interest in land acquired by
4 the United States and located within the boundaries of
5 the Rim of the Valley Unit, as part of the recreation area
6 in accordance with the provisions of this section and appli-
7 cable laws and regulations.

8 “(2) The Secretary may acquire non-Federal land
9 within the boundaries of the Rim of the Valley Unit only
10 through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing
11 seller. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the use of
12 eminent domain to acquire land or interests in land.

13 “(3) Nothing in this subsection or the application of
14 the management plan for the Rim of the Valley Unit shall
15 be construed to—

16 “(A) modify any provision of Federal, State, or
17 local law with respect to public access to or use of
18 non-Federal land;

19 “(B) create any liability, or affect any liability
20 under any other law, of any private property owner
21 or other owner of non-Federal land with respect to
22 any person injured on private property or other non-
23 Federal land;

1 “(C) affect the ownership, management, or
2 other rights relating to any non-Federal land (in-
3 cluding any interest in any non-Federal land);

4 “(D) require any local government to partici-
5 pate in any program administered by the Secretary;

6 “(E) alter, modify, or diminish any right, re-
7 sponsibility, power, authority, jurisdiction, or entitle-
8 ment of the State, any political subdivision of the
9 State, or any State or local agency under existing
10 Federal, State, and local law (including regulations);

11 “(F) require the creation of protective perim-
12 eters or buffer zones, and the fact that certain ac-
13 tivities or land can be seen or heard from within the
14 Rim of the Valley Unit shall not, of itself, preclude
15 the activities or land uses up to the boundary of the
16 Rim of the Valley Unit;

17 “(G) require or promote use of, or encourage
18 trespass on, lands, facilities, and rights-of-way
19 owned by non-Federal entities, including water re-
20 source facilities and public utilities, without the writ-
21 ten consent of the owner;

22 “(H) affect the operation, maintenance, modi-
23 fication, construction, or expansion of any water re-
24 source facility or utility facility located within or ad-
25 jacent to the Rim of the Valley Unit;

1 “(I) terminate the fee title to lands or cus-
2 tomary operation, maintenance, repair, and replace-
3 ment activities on or under such lands granted to
4 public agencies that are authorized pursuant to Fed-
5 eral or State statute;

6 “(J) interfere with, obstruct, hinder, or delay
7 the exercise of any right to, or access to any water
8 resource facility or other facility or property nec-
9 essary or useful to access any water right to operate
10 any public water or utility system;

11 “(K) require initiation or reinitiation of con-
12 sultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife
13 Service under, or the application of provisions of, the
14 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
15 seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of
16 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), or division A of sub-
17 title III of title 54, United States Code, concerning
18 any action or activity affecting water, water rights
19 or water management or water resource facilities
20 within the Rim of the Valley Unit; or

21 “(L) limit the Secretary’s ability to update ap-
22 plicable fire management plans, which may consider
23 fuels management strategies including managed nat-
24 ural fire, prescribed fires, non-fire mechanical haz-

1 ardous fuel reduction activities, or post-fire remedi-
2 ation of damage to natural and cultural resources.

3 “(4) The activities of a utility facility or water re-
4 source facility shall take into consideration ways to rea-
5 sonably avoid or reduce the impact on the resources of
6 the Rim of the Valley Unit.

7 “(5) For the purpose of paragraph (4)—

8 “(A) the term ‘utility facility’ means electric
9 substations, communication facilities, towers, poles,
10 and lines, ground wires, communications circuits,
11 and other structures, and related infrastructure; and

12 “(B) the term ‘water resource facility’ means
13 irrigation and pumping facilities; dams and res-
14 ervoirs; flood control facilities; water conservation
15 works, including debris protection facilities, sediment
16 placement sites, rain gauges, and stream gauges;
17 water quality, recycled water, and pumping facilities;
18 conveyance distribution systems; water treatment fa-
19 cilities; aqueducts; canals; ditches; pipelines; wells;
20 hydropower projects; transmission facilities; and
21 other ancillary facilities, groundwater recharge facili-
22 ties, water conservation, water filtration plants, and
23 other water diversion, conservation, groundwater re-
24 charge, storage, and carriage structures.”.

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