



To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Republican Staff;
Terry Camp (Terry.Camp@mail.house.gov)
Date: November 8, 2021
Subject: Legislative Hearing on Ten Bills

The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands will hold a legislative hearing on ten bills: H.R. 268 (Rep. Vela), “To provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes”; H.R. 980 (Rep. DeFazio), “Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act of 2021”; H.R. 1469 (Rep. Pingree), “York River Wild and Scenic River Act of 2021”; H.R. 2512 (Rep. Estes), “Chisholm National Historic Trail and Western National Historic Trail Designation Act”; H.R. 2551 (Rep. Curtis), “Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act”; H.R. 3600 (Rep. LaHood), “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act”; H.R. 4358 (Rep. Buchanan), “Little Manatee Wild and Scenic River Act”; H.R. 4404 (Rep. Soto), “Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Act”; H.R. 4494 (Rep. Trone), “Frederick Jobs and Historic Preservation Training Center Land Acquisition Act”; and H.R. 5118 (Rep. Neguse), “Continental Divide Trail Completion Act” on **Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 1:00 pm EST** via Cisco WebEx.

Member offices are requested to notify Terry Camp (Terry.Camp@mail.house.gov) **no later than Monday, November 8, at 4:30 pm EST** if their Member intends to participate in person in the hearing room or remotely from his/her laptop from another location. Submissions for the hearing record must be submitted through the Committee’s electronic repository at HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov. Please contact David DeMarco (David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov) or Everett Winnick (Everett.Winnick@mail.house.gov) should any technical difficulties arise.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- This hearing includes four Republican bills: two that establish new National Historic Trails, one that will exchange land to facilitate biking on a popular recreational trail, and one that establishes a locally supported wild and scenic river in Florida.
- This is a hearing of “trails and tribulations,” with several non-controversial and locally supported bills that will advance recreation paired with Representative DeFazio’s partisan “Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act,” a land grab bill which includes more than 100,000 acres of mineral withdrawals.



- Representative DeFazio’s bill continues the Democrat theme of slowly eroding American energy and mineral security by locking up lands against the wishes of local stakeholders.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I:

- **Representative Vern Buchanan**, Florida, 16th District
- **Representative Peter DeFazio**, Oregon, 4th District (*tentative*)
- **Representative Darin LaHood**, Illinois, 1st District
- **Representative Chellie Pingree**, Maine, 1st District (*tentative*)
- **Representative Darren Soto**, Florida, 9th District
- **Representative David Trone**, Maryland, 6th District (*tentative*)
- **Representative Filemon Vela Jr.**, Texas, 34th District (*tentative*)

Panel II:

- **Mr. Tom Medema**, Acting Associate Director, Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Ms. Sandra “Sandy” Watts**, Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Panel III:

- **The Hon. Daniel DeYoung**, Commissioner, Josephine County, Oregon [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 980)
- **Mr. Ron Wilson**, Legislative Chair, International Chisholm Trail Association [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 2512)
- **Ms. Sarah Bennett**, Executive Director, Trails Utah [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 2551)
- **Ms. Casey Claypool**, Executive Director, Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 3600)
- **Mr. Dean Finnerty**, Northwest Director of the Angler Conservation Program, Trout Unlimited (H.R. 980)
- **Ms. Teresa Ann Martinez**, Executive Director & Co-founder, Continental Divide Trail Coalition (H.R. 5118)
- **Mr. Nicholas A. Redding**, President and CEO, Preservation Maryland (H.R. 4494)
- **Mr. Garrett Wallace**, Government Relations Manager, Florida The Nature Conservancy (H.R. 4404)

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 268 \(Vela\)](#)

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Texas is the site of the first major battle of the Mexican-American War and enjoys the distinction of being the only National Park Service

(NPS) unit to interpret the Mexican-American War.¹ Visitors to the Historical Park can experience a landscape largely as it existed on the day of the battle.² Together with the Resaca de la Palma Battlefield unit, Palo Alto Battlefield provides a unique opportunity to learn about the war, its causes and consequences, and its impact on the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico.³

This bill authorizes the transfer of roughly 166.44 acres via donation from the International Boundary and Water Commission to the NPS for inclusion in Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. The addition includes the historic Fort Brown site in Brownsville. The fort served a crucial location during the Mexican-American War and became a National Historic Landmark in 1960.⁴ An identical version of this bill was favorably reported by unanimous consent in the 116th Congress. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)**

H.R. 980 (DeFazio)

On December 30, 2016, in the waning days of the Obama Administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) executed a 20-year mineral withdrawal, subject to valid existing rights, on approximately 5,216 acres of public domain and Revested Oregon and California Railroad (O&C) lands and 95,805 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands in Josephine and Curry Counties in Southwestern Oregon.⁵ The Federal Register notice of the 20-year withdrawal stated that the Administration wanted to put the withdrawal in place to provide time for Congress to consider legislation making it permanent.⁶ A few weeks later, on January 12, 2017, President Obama announced a 48,000-acre expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument on the Oregon-California border.⁷

Representative DeFazio introduced legislation in each of the last three Congresses to make the Obama-era mineral withdrawals permanent. The stated goal of the withdrawal is to protect salmon and steelhead strongholds on the southern Oregon Coast.⁸ Representative DeFazio's bill garnered strong opposition from Josephine County, Oregon, one of the two counties impacted by these permanent mineral withdrawals in the bill. Republicans have invited a County Commissioner from Josephine County to convey these concerns and to discuss the revenue challenges facing the county as a result of several restrictive land designations, including the mineral withdrawals and national monument designation. At the start of the 117th Congress, this bill has passed by the House as part of H.R. 803, the "Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act." **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)**

¹ Learn About the Park, National Park Service (2019), <https://www.nps.gov/paal/learn/index.htm> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Fort Brown Brownsville, Texas, National Parks Service, https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american_latino_heritage/Fort_Brown.html (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

⁵ Public Land Order No. 7859; Withdrawal of National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management Public Lands in Southwestern Oregon; Oregon, FEDERAL REGISTER (2017), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/13/2017-00770/public-land-order-no-7859-withdrawal-of-national-forest-system-and-bureau-of-land-management-public> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

⁶ *Id.* at 5.

⁷ Presidential Proclamation, Boundary Enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/12/presidential-proclamation-boundary-enlargement-cascade-siskiyou-national> (January 12, 2017).

⁸ *Id.* at 5.

[H.R. 1469 \(Pingree\)](#)

The York River watershed, located in southern Maine, covers 32 square miles and includes the York River mainstem, wetlands, ponds, tributaries, along with drinking water reservoirs and a salt marsh estuary.⁹ Earlier this year, the NPS completed a Congressionally authorized study of the suitability of the York River for designation as a wild and scenic river.¹⁰ The NPS study concluded that 30.8 miles of York River and its major tributaries are eligible and suitable for wild and scenic river designation.¹¹ The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides for three possible classifications of eligible river segments: wild, scenic, or recreational. The NPS assigned a preliminary classification of recreational to the York River and its major tributaries that are eligible for designation.¹²

The “York River Wild and Scenic River Act of 2021” would designate certain segments, totaling roughly 30.8 miles, of the York River in Maine as a partnership recreational river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate management responsibilities with the York River Stewardship Committee and in accordance with the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The bill also specifies that the segments shall not be administered as a unit of the National Park System or be subject to regulations that govern the National Park System, although the Secretary will be able to acquire land by donation or purchase from willing sellers.

Committee staff have concerns with this legislation. It is hypocritical of Democrats to exempt these segments from the regulations that govern the National Park System and instead arbitrarily deem the zoning ordinances adopted by municipalities as sufficient to meet the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Democrats frequently argue that the heavy hand of federal regulation and administration is necessary when it is a Republican district seeking cooperative management of an area. However, it appears that when it is a Democrat district, National Park System regulations are unnecessary or too burdensome.

The language in this bill already passed the House as part of H.R. 803, the “Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act,” at the start of the 117th Congress. ***Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)***

[H.R. 2512 \(Estes\)](#)

The Chisholm Trail and the Western Trail were the two primary trails used by Texas ranchers and contractors to move cattle from Texas to midwestern and Great Plains states from the 1850s through the 1880s.¹³ These two trails, which include approximately 2,548 miles of routes, passed

⁹ York River, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, <https://www.rivers.gov/rivers/study-york.php> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

¹⁰ York River Final Study Report and Transmittal Letters, National Park Service, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=261&projectID=77340&documentID=113614> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Chisholm and Great Western National Historic Trail Feasibility Study / Environmental Assessment iii, National Park Service, file:///C:/Users/thupman/Downloads/Chisholm%20and%20Great%20Western%20NHT%20Feasibility%20Study%20Environmental%20Assessment%20Final%202019.pdf (2019).

through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska, with distribution routes extending into northern states and even Canada.¹⁴ The development and use of the Chisholm and Western Trails to move cattle to market in the 19th century played a vital role in the economic recovery of Texas and other western states following the Civil War.¹⁵

This bill designates the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail as part of the National Trails System. The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer the trails located on Federal land as a single administrative unit and to administer any portion of the trails located on non-Federal land only with the consent of the property owner. In 2009, Congress authorized the NPS to conduct a national historic trail feasibility study.¹⁶ The NPS transmitted the final feasibility study to Congress in May 2019 and found the trails to be eligible for designation to the National Trails System.¹⁷ **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)**

[H.R. 2551 \(Curtis\)](#)

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) concept began in 1990 as an effort to preserve a heavily used mountain biking, jogging, and walking pathway along a corridor between Emigration Canyon and Dry Canyon on the east side of Salt Lake City, Utah.¹⁸ After receiving unanimous support from the Mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission staff, Salt Lake City adopted the BST as a formal trail system through the foothills east and north of the City.¹⁹ In 1991, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee formed and by 1994, Davis, Weber, and Utah Counties joined Salt Lake County in the effort to create one continuous foothill shoreline trail along the foothills of ancient Lake Bonneville.²⁰ Piece by piece, the existing BST segments have been planned and adopted within each political jurisdiction over the last 30 years. When completed, the BST will be a 280-mile-long regional hiking, biking, and equestrian trail at the back door of more than 1.5 million people.²¹

To advance the completion of the BST, the “Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act” authorizes minor boundary adjustments to swap out approximately 326 acres of wilderness, divided over 20 small parcels, that overlay the trail for an equal amount added in other areas to the Mount Olympus Wilderness in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (Forest). The current portions of the trail within the boundaries of the wilderness area are unusable to bikers, which is impeding the overall vision and connectivity of the BST. All the acreage removed from the National Wilderness Preservation System will continue to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as part of the National Forest System. In addition, the bill also resolves a minor boundary issue in Birch Canyon related to a portion of the trail that runs parallel along a roadway. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)**

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Supra* n. 13.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Bonneville Shoreline Trail History, Bonneville Shoreline Trail (2021), <https://www.bonnevilleshorelinetrail.org/history/> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

[H.R. 3600 \(LaHood\)](#)

Route 66, America’s most well-known road, was commissioned in 1926 as part of the first federal highway system.²² Stretching from Chicago to Santa Monica, this 2,400-mile route played an essential role in American history as it provided a route for refuge during the Dustbowl, acted as a strategic military route during World War II, and to this day acts as a favorite vacation pathway for those who seek quintessential American experiences.²³ The federal government decommissioned Route 66 in 1985. Congress subsequently authorized the Route 66 Study Act in 1990, which directed the NPS to conduct a special resource study to present management and preservation options for the iconic road.²⁴ The NPS released the finalized special resource study in 1995.²⁵ Congress later established the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 1999, facilitating collaboration between private, nonprofit and government partners to identify and prioritize Route 66 preservation needs.²⁶ The Preservation Program was reauthorized in 2009 for ten years and expired in 2019.²⁷

H.R. 3600, the bipartisan “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act,” succeeds the expiration of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program by designating Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. Supporters of the designation believe that adding Route 66 as a National Historic Trail will better preserve historic resources, encourage public access, and facilitate local partnerships and restoration. The bill contains commonsense provisions that ensure the trail will not create buffer zones, impede energy development or transition, or result in eminent domain or land condemnation. An identical version of this bill passed the House in the 115th Congress.

Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)

[H.R. 4358 \(Buchanan\)](#)

The Little Manatee River in Florida begins in a swampy area and flows almost 40 miles before emptying into Tampa Bay. The river has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water and is part of the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve.²⁸ The Little Manatee River also flows through Little Manatee River State Park for 4.5 miles.²⁹ The river transitions from a 10 to 20-foot-wide creek meandering through ash and oak dominated floodplain forest to a 300-foot-wide tide-influenced river flowing through tidal marsh that empties into Tampa Bay.³⁰

²² Route 66: 1926-1945, National Park Service, https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/route66/route66_1926_to_1945.html (last visited Nov. 5, 2021).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Special Resource Study Route 66. National Park Service. (last visited Nov 3, 2021).<http://npshistory.com/publications/route-66.pdf>

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, National Park Service (2020), <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1453/route-66-corridor-preservation-program.htm> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

²⁷ Route 66 Corridor, Historic Preservation Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-45) <https://www.congress.gov/106/plaws/publ45/PLAW-106publ45.pdf>

²⁸ Little Manatee River State Park, Florida State Parks, <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/little-manatee-river-state-park> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ Florida Designated Paddling Trails Little Manatee River, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Little%20Manatee%20Guide_0.pdf (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

H.R. 4358, the “Little Manatee Wild and Scenic River Act,” designates roughly 50 miles of the Little Manatee River as a scenic river of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The bill also requires a mineral withdrawal within the boundaries of the designated river segment. There has not been a congressionally authorized study of the suitability of the Little Manatee River for designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)**

[H.R. 4404 \(Soto\)](#)

Stretching more than 100 miles from Lake Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee in Central Florida, the Kissimmee River is a naturally winding river that serves as both the headwaters for the Everglades and the main drainage route for the expansive Kissimmee River Basin.³¹ The river was historically characterized by an extensive floodplain, reaching up to three miles wide in certain areas, which was seasonally inundated by heavy rains.³² However, following widespread flooding and property damage in the 1947, public outcry prompted Congress to direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to step in and channelize the waterway.³³ This led to the Central and South Florida Project, which resulted in engineering changes to deepen and straighten the Kissimmee River, which drained much of the surrounding floodplain.³⁴ In 1992, citing public outcry and biological changes to the region, Congress approved efforts to restore the original flow of the Kissimmee River.³⁵ At a cost of more than \$1 billion, the Kissimmee River Restoration reestablished historic conditions of 44 miles of the river and nearly 63,000 acres of wetlands.³⁶

H.R. 4404, the “Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Act,” would designate the entire Kissimmee River as a scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, in an attempt to preserve the billion-dollar taxpayer investment in the river restoration project. There has not been a congressionally authorized study of the suitability of the Kissimmee River for designation as a scenic river. In the 115th Congress, legislation introduced by Representative Soto to authorize a suitability study of the Kissimmee River passed the House. Representative Soto reintroduced similar study legislation in the 116th Congress. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)**

[H.R. 4494 \(Trone\)](#)

Since 1977, the NPS operated a Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) in Frederick, Maryland to provide experience-based training to NPS maintenance staff and youth to support park historic preservation projects.³⁷ In 1991, Congress directed the NPS to identify a permanent home for HPTC. The NPS study team surveyed available sites and recommended Monocacy

³¹ Statement of P. Daniel Smith, Acting Director, Exercising the Authority of the Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior on H.R. 3961, Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2018, before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. (2018). <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/hr-3961-0>

³² *Id.*

³³ Kissimmee River, South Florida Water Management District, <https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/kissimmee-river> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

³⁴ *Id.* at 25.

³⁵ *Id.* at 25.

³⁶ *Id.* at 25.

³⁷ Historic Preservation Training Center (U.S. National Park Service), National Park Service (2019), <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1098/index.htm> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

National Battlefield as the preferred site.³⁸ In 1995, HPTC administrative offices relocated to the Gambrill House at Monocacy National Battlefield.³⁹ In 1997, the workshop portion of the facilities moved to a leased space at the Jenkins Cannery factory and warehouse, owned by the City of Frederick. In 2018, HPTC exercised its final 5-year Option with the General Services Administration on the Jenkins Cannery.⁴⁰ The HPTC has now outgrown its current facility and the current lease with the City expires in September 2023.⁴¹ H.R. 4494 authorizes the NPS to purchase land in Frederick County to expand the HPTC and provides such sums as are necessary to establish the expanded HPTC. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)*

[H.R. 5118 \(Neguse\)](#)

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, established in 1978, stretches across the United States approximately 3,100 miles between the borders of Mexico and Canada.⁴² About 1,900 miles of the corridor contain existing trails or primitive routes.⁴³ The corridor varies from 4,000 feet to over 13,000 feet in elevation.⁴⁴ Existing and proposed trails along the route traverse a variety of privately and publicly owned lands.⁴⁵ Prior to passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, federal agencies involved in the management of the trail did not have authority to purchase land from willing sellers.⁴⁶ Since that time, lands have been purchased and the trail is estimated to be roughly 96 percent complete.⁴⁷

H.R. 5118, the “Continental Divide Trail Completion Act,” seeks to expedite the land acquisition necessary to eliminate gaps in the Trail by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to substantially complete the land acquisition necessary to complete the Trail by 2028, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Trail. The bill also requires the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, to establish a joint USFS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land acquisition team to facilitate the completion and optimization of the Trail. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x67736)*

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & ANALYSIS

[H.R. 268 \(Vela\)](#)

Section 1. Boundary; Legal Description

- Adjusts the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Texas to include the approximately 166.44 acres of land identified on the map titled “Palo Alto

³⁸ Background information on the HPTC provided to Natural Resources Committee Republican staff on October 29, 2021 by the National Park Service Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² Lindsey Toomer, Rep. Joe Neguse Proposes Legislation to Complete Continental Divide Trail SummitDaily.com (2021), <https://www.summitdaily.com/news/local/rep-joe-neguse-proposes-legislation-to-complete-continental-divide-trail/> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

⁴³ Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, National Park Service (2020), <https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/divide.htm> (last visited Nov 3, 2021).

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 32.

⁴⁷ *Id.* at 32.

Battlefield National Historical Park Addition, Fort Brown Unit (2018),” when the land is donated to the United States.

H.R. 980 (DeFazio)

Section 2. Withdrawal of Federal Land, Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon

- Withdraws land within the Hunter Creek and Pistol River Headwaters and Rough and Ready and Baldface Creeks in Southwestern Oregon from (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.
- Clarifies that the withdrawals are subject to valid existing rights and that nothing in the bill restricts recreational uses, hunting, fishing, forest management activities, or other authorized uses allowed on the date of enactment.

H.R. 1469 (Pingree)

Section 2. Designation of York Wild and Scenic Rivers, Maine

- Designates specified segments of the main stem and the tributaries of the York River in Maine as a recreational river.

Section 3. Management

- Requires the Secretary to coordinate his or her management responsibilities under the Act with the York River Stewardship Committee.
- Authorizes DOI to enter into cooperative agreements to provide for the long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement of the river segments.
- Deems the zoning ordinances adopted by local municipalities to satisfy the standards and requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Clarifies that the York River will not be administered as a unit of the National Park System or be subject to the regulations that govern the National Park System.
- Clarifies that no land or interest in land within the watersheds of the river segments may be acquired by condemnation.

H.R. 2512 (Estes)

Section 2. Designation of the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail

- Designates the Chisholm National Historic Trail, and the Western National Historic Trail as part of the National Trails System.
- Requires DOI to administer any portion of these trails that is located on nonfederal land only with the voluntary consent of the owner of the nonfederal land, and if the portion qualifies for certification as a component of the applicable trail.
- Provides that approval by an owner of applicable nonfederal land of a certification agreement shall satisfy the voluntary consent requirement.
- Clarifies that a certification agreement may be terminated at any time.

- Clarifies that establishment of these trails does not authorize any person to enter private property without the consent of the private property's owner.
- Authorizes the Secretary to accept a donation of land or an interest in land for these trails with conditions.
- Clarifies that nothing in the bill prohibits, hinders, or disrupts the development, production, or transmission of energy.
- Prohibits the creation of buffer zones.
- Prohibits the use of eminent domain or condemnation for lands to be included in the Trail.
- Clarifies that the Trail is not a designation of lands in the National Park System for purposes of the Mineral Leasing Act.

[H.R. 2551 \(Curtis\)](#)

Section 2. Wilderness Area Included in Mount Olympus Wilderness

- Designates approximately 326.27 acres in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest as part of the Mount Olympus Wilderness.

Section 3. Wilderness Boundary Adjustments

- Modifies the wilderness designations of certain lands in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah.
- The bill also removes the following lands in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest from designation as wilderness: approximately 11.17 acres in the Mount Naomi Wilderness, approximately 197.4 acres in the Mount Olympus Wilderness, approximately 9.8 acres in the Twin Peaks Wilderness, and approximately 107.9 acres in the Lone Peak Wilderness Area.
- Clarifies that lands removed from designation as wilderness shall be managed as part of the forest.

[H.R. 3600 \(LaHood\)](#)

Section 2. Designation of the Route 66 National Historic Trail

- Amends the National Trails System Act to designate a trail of approximately 2,400 miles extending from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, as the Route 66 National Historic Trail.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to administer the Trail in a manner that respects and maintains its idiosyncratic nature.
- Prohibits the creation of buffer zones.
- Clarifies that nothing in the bill prohibits, hinders, or disrupts the development, production, or transmission of energy.
- Prohibits the Secretary from using eminent domain or condemnation to acquire land or interest in lands for the Trail.

[H.R. 4358 \(Buchanan\)](#)

Section 2. Designation of Wild and Scenic River Segments, Little Manatee River, Florida

- Designates a roughly 50-mile segment of the Little Manatee River in Florida as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Withdraws the federal land within the boundaries of the designated river segment from (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

[H.R. 4404 \(Soto\)](#)

Section 2. Designation of Wild and Scenic River Segments, Kissimmee River, Florida

- Designates a segment of the Kissimmee River in Florida as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Withdraws the federal land within the boundaries of the designated river segment from (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

[H.R. 4494 \(Trone\)](#)

Section 3. Acquisition of Land for Administrative Purposes of Historic Preservation Training Center

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire not more than 20 acres in Frederick County, Maryland for the purposes of supporting the physical space, program initiatives, and workforce development capacity of the NPS HPTC.
- Specifies that the Secretary may acquisition land by donation, transfer, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller using donated or appropriated funds.

Section 4. Authorization of Appropriations.

- Authorizes such sums as are necessary to carry out the Act.

[H.R. 5118 \(Neguse\)](#)

Section 2. Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to substantially complete the land acquisition necessary to ensure completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail by November 10, 2028.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, to establish a joint USFS and BLM land acquisition team.
- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a land acquisition plan within three years of the date of enactment.

- Limits land acquisition to purchases from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, donation, or exchange and prohibits use of eminent domain.
- Requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress detailing the amount of land required and the amount expended, the amount of land planned for acquisition the next fiscal year, and the estimated amount of land remaining to be acquired.
- Requires the Continental Divide Coalition to submit an annual report to Congress with information regarding the progress the Secretary is making, the manner in which negotiations are being conducted, and whether more land is being acquired than is necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

V. COST

None of the bills on this hearing have received a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis. CBO scored previous versions of H.R. 1469 and H.R. 3600 as not affecting direct spending or revenues.⁴⁸

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Biden administration's position on each of these bills is unknown at this time. However, the USFS testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 16, 2021 in support of S. 1222, the Senate companion to H.R. 2551. The USFS testimony on this companion can be read [here](#). Additionally, NPS testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 23, 2021, on S. 491, the Senate companion to H.R. 1469. NPS testimony on this companion can be read [here](#).

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 268](#), [H.R. 1469](#), [H.R. 2512](#), [H.R. 2551](#), [H.R. 3600](#), [H.R. 4358](#), [H.R. 4404](#)

⁴⁸ Congressional Budget Office, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/costestimate/hr801.pdf> and <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2020-11/hr1248.pdf>.