

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

December 11, 2017

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff —Terry Camp
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Mark-Up: **H.R. 1350 (Rep. Richard Nolan)**, To modify the boundary of Voyageurs National Park in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes.
December 12 & 13, 2017; 1324 Longworth House Office Building

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 1350, introduced by Representative Richard Nolan (D-MN), would authorize the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of lands between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It would also authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands owned by the State of Minnesota by donation or exchange.

Cosponsors

None.

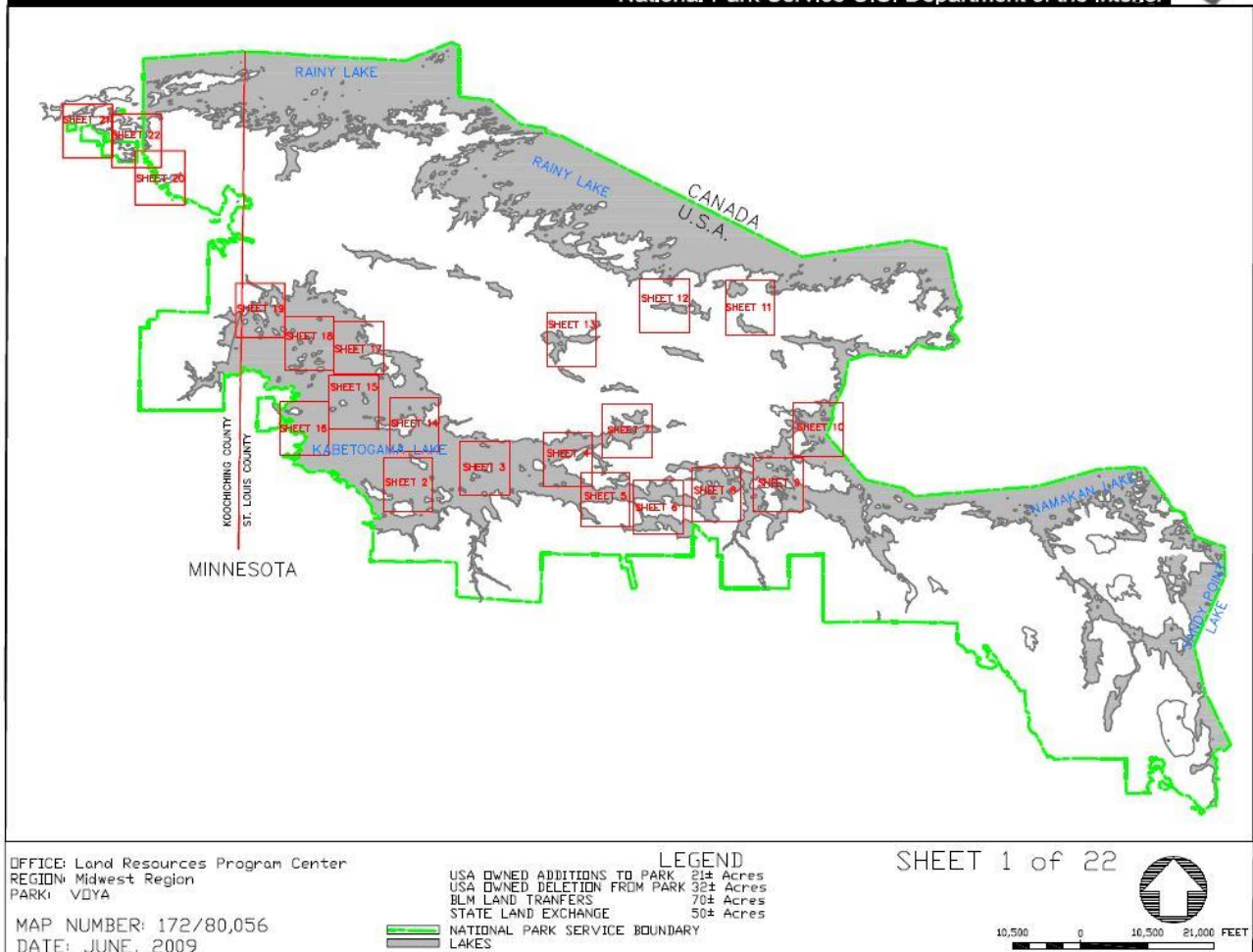
Background

Voyageurs National Park, established in 1975, is a 218,200-acre national park located on the northern edge of Minnesota's border. The name Voyageurs commemorates the French-Canadian fur traders who were the first European settlers to frequently travel through the area. The Kabetogama Peninsula, which lies entirely within the Park and makes up most of its land area, is accessible only by boat. The Park is notable for its remarkable water resources and islands and is popular with canoeists, kayakers, other boaters, and fishermen.

The BLM currently manages lands within the boundaries of the Park that were not transferred to the NPS when the Park was established. H.R. 1350 formally transfers these BLM lands to the NPS. Enactment of the legislation is expected to save agency time and taxpayer money by eliminating duplicative land management. In addition, this legislation resolves an outstanding land management issue faced by the State of Minnesota and Koochiching County by authorizing a land exchange between the State of Minnesota and the NPS for certain State tax-forfeited tracts within the boundaries of Voyageurs National Park with an NPS owned tract outside of the Park boundary.

Voyageurs National Park Proposed Land Transfer & Boundary Adjustment

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill. However, CBO provided a cost estimate for a similar bill, S. 2805, in the 114th Congress. The CBO cost estimate for S. 2805 can be found [here](#).

Administration Position

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

[Effect on Current Law \(Ramseyer\)](#)