

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9325

To establish the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area to conserve, protect, and promote the economic benefits of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Upper and Middle Texas Gulf Coast as a unit of the National Park System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2026

Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. BABIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area to conserve, protect, and promote the economic benefits of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Upper and Middle Texas Gulf Coast as a unit of the National Park System.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Establishment; boundaries; land acquisition.
- Sec. 5. Administration.
- Sec. 6. Lone Star Coastal Partnership.
- Sec. 7. Integrated resource management plan.
- Sec. 8. Savings provisions.
- Sec. 9. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of establishing the Lone Star Coastal
3 National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park
4 System are—

5 (1) to promote the expansion of access and op-
6 portunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting
7 and fishing, conservation, and heritage tourism in a
8 way that supports the local economy and rural com-
9 munities;

10 (2) to conserve open space on voluntarily par-
11 ticipating public and nongovernmental lands, with a
12 principle focus on those lands and habitats that con-
13 tribute to improved public access and programs that
14 enhance the coastal area’s attractiveness;

15 (3) to protect the long-term health of the nat-
16 ural coastal ecosystem, with a focus on nationally
17 significant flora and fauna of the coastal area; and

18 (4) to preserve the long-term coastal, natural
19 resource-based economy reliant on recreation, nature
20 and heritage tourism, and traditional land use.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ASSOCIATED SITES.—The term “associated
4 sites” means land or a facility within Jefferson,
5 Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, or Matagorda Coun-
6 ties in Texas that participate in the Network
7 through a cooperative agreement, interagency agree-
8 ment, or other voluntary agreement authorized
9 under this Act, without regard to ownership or
10 transfer of administrative jurisdiction.

11 (2) LAND.—The term “land” includes surface
12 waters and submerged lands.

13 (3) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
14 titled “Proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recre-
15 ation Area”, numbered LSCNRA-001, and dated
16 June 2026.

17 (4) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—The term
18 “National Recreation Area” means the Lone Star
19 Coastal National Recreation Area established by sec-
20 tion 4.

21 (5) NETWORK.—The term “Network” means
22 both the National Recreation Area and the associ-
23 ated sites.

24 (6) PARTNERSHIP.—The term “Partnership”
25 means the Lone Star Coastal Partnership estab-
26 lished by section 6.

1 (7) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means the Inte-
2 grated Resources Management Plan developed under
3 section 7.

4 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
6 rector of the National Park Service.

7 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
8 of Texas or a political subdivision of the State.

9 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT; BOUNDARIES; LAND ACQUI-**
10 **SION.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
13 there is established the Lone Star Coastal National
14 Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park Sys-
15 tem to conserve, protect, interpret, and promote the
16 economic, natural, cultural, and recreational re-
17 sources of the Upper and Middle Texas Gulf Coast
18 for the benefit of current and future generations,
19 and to protect the historical significance of the re-
20 gion to the State of Texas and the United States.

21 (2) CONDITION.—The National Recreation Area
22 shall be established on the date that the Secretary
23 determines that sufficient lands or interests in land
24 have been acquired to constitute a manageable unit
25 of the National Park System.

1 (3) NOTICE.—Not later than 60 days after the
2 date described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall
3 publish in the Federal Register notice of the estab-
4 lishment of the National Recreation Area.

5 (b) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the National
6 Recreation Area shall include any area acquired by the
7 Secretary from the sites depicted on the Map.

8 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
10 the date the Secretary approves the Plan, the Sec-
11 retary shall publish an official boundary map of the
12 National Recreation Area and associated sites. The
13 map shall be on file and available for public inspec-
14 tion in the appropriate offices of the National Park
15 Service and made available to the Texas Parks and
16 Wildlife Department.

17 (2) BOUNDARY REVISION.—If the Secretary ac-
18 quires from willing landowners additional land or in-
19 terests in land in accordance with subsection (d), the
20 Secretary shall make revisions of the boundary of
21 the National Recreation Area by publication of a re-
22 vised map or other boundary description in the Fed-
23 eral Register.

24 (d) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), nothing in this Act shall be construed to
3 authorize the acquisition of any lands or interest in
4 lands that are not currently designated public lands
5 or lands currently held for preservation or conserva-
6 tion by State, local, or nonprofit organizations.

7 (2) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire
8 any land or interest in land from the sites des-
9 ignated on the Map by—

10 (A) donation;

11 (B) purchase from a willing seller with do-
12 nated funds;

13 (C) exchange; or

14 (D) transfer from another Federal agency.

15 (3) CONDEMNATION.—No land or interest in
16 land for the National Recreation Area may be ac-
17 quired by condemnation.

18 (e) FEDERAL LANDS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
20 graph (2), administrative jurisdiction of the Federal
21 land generally depicted as associated sites on the
22 Map may be transferred to the Secretary—

23 (A) if the Secretary requests, from the
24 head of the agency administering such Federal
25 lands, a transfer of administrative jurisdiction

1 for purposes of inclusion in the National Recre-
2 ation Area; and

3 (B) the head of the Federal agency con-
4 sents to such transfer.

5 (2) USFWS LAND.—The following lands may
6 not be transferred to the Secretary for inclusion
7 within the National Recreation Area:

8 (A) Land within the National Wildlife Ref-
9 uge System.

10 (B) Land administered by the United
11 States Fish and Wildlife Service.

12 (f) COOPERATIVE DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBLE
13 SITES.—In determining the eligibility of lands, waters,
14 and resources for inclusion in the Network, the Secretary
15 shall—

16 (1) work jointly with the Partnership; and

17 (2) base each determination on locally produced
18 documentation submitted voluntarily by landowners,
19 local governments, conservation organizations, and
20 the Lone Star Coastal Alliance.

21 (g) NETWORK PARTICIPATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—A parcel, site, or resource
23 may only be included in the Network with—

24 (A) the written consent of the landowner
25 or administrator of the resource; and

1 (B) the voluntary submission of supporting
2 documentation for review pursuant to sub-
3 section (f).

4 (2) OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT.—Partici-
5 pation in the Network shall not be construed to con-
6 fer Federal ownership or management authority over
7 participating lands or resources.

8 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—

10 (1) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—The Na-
11 tional Recreation Area shall be administered by the
12 Secretary in partnership with the State, local sub-
13 divisions, private landowners, and others—

14 (A) in accordance with this Act; and

15 (B) the provisions of law generally applica-
16 ble to units of the National Park System, in-
17 cluding the National Park Service Organic Act
18 (54 U.S.C. 100301) and the Act of August 21,
19 1935 (54 U.S.C. 320101).

20 (2) ASSOCIATED SITES.—Among the associated
21 sites, the Secretary shall carry out the agreements
22 authorized by this section in consultation with the
23 partners described in paragraph (1) and in accord-
24 ance with the Plan.

1 (b) COORDINATION.—Consistent with the purposes of
2 the National Recreation Area, the Secretary shall coordi-
3 nate the management of the National Recreation Area
4 with the Partnership.

5 (c) AGREEMENTS.—

6 (1) INTERPRETATION AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
7 retary may enter into agreements with other entities
8 to provide informational, educational, and interpre-
9 tive resources throughout the Network, including
10 with respect to—

11 (A) resources located within a national
12 wildlife refuge among the associated sites;

13 (B) the Flower Garden Banks National
14 Marine Sanctuary and other marine and mari-
15 time resources of national interest;

16 (C) Galveston Bay, through the Environ-
17 mental Protection Agency’s National Estuary
18 Program; and

19 (D) National Historic Landmarks and Dis-
20 tricts.

21 (2) COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREE-
22 MENTS.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary
23 may enter into cooperative management agreements
24 with associated sites, governmental entities, or other
25 members of the Partnership to provide for the inter-

1 pretation, coordination, protection, and management
2 of resources within the Network.

3 (3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—To further the pur-
5 poses of this Act and notwithstanding chapter
6 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-
7 retary may enter into cooperative agreements
8 with other Federal agencies, State agencies
9 with a focus on coastal resiliency, members of
10 the Partnership, and nonprofit organizations
11 whose properties have been identified as associ-
12 ated sites—

13 (i) to provide technical and financial
14 assistance for natural, historic, or cultural
15 resource protection, interpretation, access,
16 education and outdoor recreation projects
17 or programs, and in accordance with the
18 Plan; and

19 (ii) subject to the availability of ap-
20 propriations, to provide not more than 25
21 percent of the cost of any natural, historic,
22 or cultural resource protection, interpreta-
23 tion, access, education and outdoor recre-
24 ation project or program that is consistent
25 with the Plan.

1 (B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Any cooperative
2 agreement entered into under this subsection
3 shall include terms for reasonable public access
4 to the applicable site as appropriate, consistent
5 with the purposes of such site.

6 (d) FUNDS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept
8 and use donated funds, property, and services to
9 carry out this Act.

10 (2) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Funds appropriated
11 or donated pursuant to this Act may not be ex-
12 pended until the Secretary approves the Plan, in-
13 cluding—

14 (A) any amendments to the Plan; or

15 (B) interim administration.

16 (3) LARGE ACQUISITIONS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any large acquisition
18 carried out pursuant to this section shall be
19 conducted in accordance with applicable Federal
20 procurement and competitive bidding require-
21 ments, including requirements relating to public
22 notice, competition, and transparency.

23 (B) REIMBURSEMENT.—Any payment
24 made by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)
25 shall be subject to an agreement that the con-

1 version, use, or disposal of the project for pur-
2 poses that are inconsistent with the purposes of
3 this Act, as determined by the Secretary, shall
4 result in a right of the United States to reim-
5 bursement of the greater of—

6 (i) the amount provided by the Sec-
7 retary to the project under subparagraph
8 (A); or

9 (ii) an amount equal to the increase in
10 the value of the project that is attributable
11 to the funds, as determined by the Sec-
12 retary at the time of the conversion, use,
13 or disposal.

14 (C) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a con-
15 dition of the receipt of funds under subpara-
16 graph (A)—

17 (i) the Secretary shall require that
18 any Federal funds made available under a
19 cooperative agreement entered into under
20 this paragraph shall be matched on a ratio
21 of at least three non-Federal dollars to
22 every Federal dollar; and

23 (ii) the non-Federal share of the
24 match may be expended prior to the date
25 of the agreement and may be in the form

1 of cash, services, or in-kind contributions,
2 fairly valued.

3 (e) CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES ON NON-FED-
4 ERAL LANDS.—In order to facilitate the administration of
5 the National Recreation Area and associated sites, the
6 Secretary is authorized, subject to the availability of ap-
7 propriations or donations, to construct essential adminis-
8 trative and visitor facilities on willing non-Federal lands
9 consistent with the Plan.

10 (f) MANAGEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN INTE-
11 GRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary shall pre-
12 serve, interpret, manage, and provide educational and rec-
13 reational uses for the National Recreation Area, in con-
14 sultation with the owners and managers of lands in the
15 Network, in accordance with the Plan.

16 **SEC. 6. LONE STAR COASTAL PARTNERSHIP.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Lone
18 Star Coastal Partnership to facilitate cooperation among
19 and to coordinate the activities of Federal, State, and local
20 governmental entities, nongovernmental organizations, in-
21 dividuals and private entities in the development and im-
22 plementation of the Plan for the Network.

23 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Partnership shall be
25 composed of up to 31 willing members as provided

1 for in this subsection, with not more than 49 percent
2 from Federal and State governmental entities, rep-
3 resenting fee or less than fee interests in land, and
4 such others as appointed by the Secretary within
5 180 days of the effective date of this section as fol-
6 lows:

7 (A) One individual, appointed by the Sec-
8 retary, to represent the National Park Service.

9 (B) One individual, appointed by the Sec-
10 retary, to represent the United States Fish and
11 Wildlife Service.

12 (C) The Texas Governor's Office of Eco-
13 nomic Development Tourism office, ex officio.

14 (D) The Director of the Texas Parks and
15 Wildlife Department, ex officio.

16 (E) The Director of the Texas Historical
17 Commission, ex officio.

18 (F) The County Judges of Galveston,
19 Brazoria, Matagorda, Chambers, and Jefferson
20 Counties, ex officio.

21 (G) One individual per county to represent
22 private landowners in the respective counties, as
23 recommended by the participating County
24 Judges from Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda,
25 Chambers, and Jefferson Counties, and ap-

1 pointed by the Secretary. These individuals
2 serve at the pleasure of the respective County
3 Judges.

4 (H) Local land managers, ex officio, of
5 each of the associated sites, not to exceed 15
6 board members at one time.

7 (I) The Chairman of the Board, ex officio,
8 of the Lone Star Coastal Alliance, to represent
9 the Alliance, a nonprofit organization the sole
10 purpose of which is to support the Network, in-
11 cluding but not limited to fundraising.

12 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—Any member serv-
13 ing on the Partnership ex officio shall serve by virtue
14 of holding the office that provides for such service
15 and shall continue to serve only for so long as the
16 member holds that office.

17 (c) RESIGNATION.—Any member of the Partnership
18 may resign at any time, removing themselves and their
19 sites from the Partnership. Sites owned by a former part-
20 ner may remain in the Network by written agreement be-
21 tween the former partner and the Partnership.

22 (d) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Partnership
23 shall serve without pay, but while away from their homes
24 or regular places of business in the performance of services
25 for the Partnership, members may be allowed travel ex-

1 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the
2 same manner as persons employed intermittently in the
3 Government service are allowed expenses under section
4 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

5 (e) ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—The Partnership shall
6 elect one of its members as Chairperson and one as Vice
7 Chairperson. The term of office of the Chairperson and
8 Vice Chairperson shall be one year. The Vice Chairperson
9 shall serve as Chairperson in the absence of the Chair-
10 person.

11 (f) VACANCY.—Any vacancy on the Partnership shall
12 be filled in the same manner in which the original appoint-
13 ment was made.

14 (g) MEETINGS.—The Partnership shall meet at the
15 call of the Chairperson or a majority of its members.

16 (h) QUORUM.—A majority of the Partnership shall
17 constitute a quorum.

18 (i) COMMITTEES.—The Chairperson may establish
19 committees and appoint to the committees members and
20 non-members of the Partnership. The purpose of the com-
21 mittees shall be to make recommendations to the Lone
22 Star Coastal Partnership on issues related to the develop-
23 ment and implementation of the Plan, as well as to under-
24 take special activities as requested by the Chairperson.

1 (1) MEMBERSHIP.—In addition to members of
2 the Partnership appointed to the Committees, the
3 Chairperson may appoint nonvoting advisors with
4 knowledge related to the purposes of the committees
5 from the following categories of entities, including
6 but not limited to—

7 (A) municipalities;

8 (B) educational and cultural institutions;

9 (C) environmental organizations;

10 (D) business and commercial entities re-
11 lated to transportation, tourism, energy, and
12 the maritime industry;

13 (E) organizations focused on coastal
14 issues; and

15 (F) Federal, State, and local agency rep-
16 resentatives.

17 (2) OFFICERS.—The Chairperson of the Part-
18 nership shall appoint members of the Partnership to
19 chair respective Committees.

20 (3) PROCEDURES.—All meetings of the Com-
21 mittees shall be open to the public.

22 (j) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The Partnership is au-
23 thorized to establish an executive committee through a
24 two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Partnership

1 for the purposes of overseeing the development and imple-
2 mentation of the Plan.

3 (k) STAFF OF THE PARTNERSHIP.—

4 (1) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may provide
5 the Partnership with such staff and technical assist-
6 ance as the Secretary, after consultation with the
7 Partnership, considers appropriate to enable the
8 Partnership to carry out its duties. The Secretary
9 may accept the services of personnel detailed from
10 the State, or any entity represented on the Partner-
11 ship.

12 (2) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Partnership may
13 hire staff to accomplish the goals as set out in this
14 Act, as deemed appropriate, and through means de-
15 termined by agreement of the Partnership and Exec-
16 utive Committee.

17 (l) HEARINGS.—The Partnership may hold such
18 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such
19 testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Partnership
20 determines appropriate.

21 (m) DONATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
22 sion of law, the Partnership may seek and accept dona-
23 tions of funds, property, or services from individuals, foun-
24 dations, corporations, and other private and public entities
25 for the purpose of carrying out this section.

1 (n) USE OF FUNDS TO OBTAIN MONEY.—The Part-
2 nership may use its funds to obtain money from any
3 source under any program or law requiring the recipient
4 of such money to make a contribution in order to receive
5 such money.

6 (o) MAILS.—The Partnership may use the United
7 States mails in the same manner and upon the same con-
8 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
9 States.

10 (p) OBTAINING PROPERTY.—The Partnership may
11 obtain from willing parties through agreed upon means,
12 such property, facilities, and services as may be needed
13 to carry out its duties, except that the Partnership may
14 not acquire any real property or interest in real property.

15 (q) ETHICS.—All members of the Partnership are ex-
16 pected to comply with applicable ethics rules and regula-
17 tions, which, along with usual and customary conflict of
18 interest disclosure requirements, will be established in the
19 Partnership charter and bylaws.

20 **SEC. 7. INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after its
22 establishment, the Partnership shall submit to the Sec-
23 retary an integrated resource management plan.

24 (b) CONTENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—

1 (1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—To further the pur-
2 poses of this Act, the Plan shall include—

3 (A) an identifiable management plan for
4 the National Park Service owned and managed
5 lands consistent with the requirements of sec-
6 tion 100502 of title 54, United States Code;
7 and

8 (B) an identifiable management plan for
9 associated sites in the Network to facilitate co-
10 operation and coordination among willing own-
11 ers of the associated sites.

12 (2) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—In developing the
13 Plan, the Partnership shall take into consideration—

14 (A) the purposes for creating the National
15 Recreation Area as stated in section 2;

16 (B) a strategy to finance and support the
17 public improvements and services recommended
18 in the Plan, including allocation of non-Federal
19 matching requirements set forth in section 5
20 and a delineation of private-sector roles and re-
21 sponsibilities;

22 (C) a strategy for the coordination of ac-
23 tivities that may be carried out by Federal,
24 State, and local agencies having jurisdiction
25 over land within the Network;

1 (D) criteria for entering and administering
2 agreements, interagency disaster coordination,
3 funding, and all other provisions authorized
4 under this Act;

5 (E) emphasis on local control, including
6 but not limited to, the voluntary submittal of
7 land through cooperative agreements as it re-
8 lates to inclusion and exclusion into the Na-
9 tional Recreation Area and associated sites by
10 willing landowners;

11 (F) that this Act is prohibited from affect-
12 ing—

13 (i) landowner rights to the adjacent
14 and nearby parcels of land included in the
15 National Recreation Area and associated
16 sites; and

17 (ii) existing specific regulations of
18 Federal, State, and local government enti-
19 ties as listed in subsections (a) and (c) of
20 section 8;

21 (G) including a policy statement that rec-
22 ognizes existing economic activities within the
23 area and a program for voluntary coordination
24 and cooperation of willing parties; and

1 (H) any additional savings provisions listed
2 in section 8 of this Act that is not otherwise in-
3 cluded in this section.

4 (3) SUBMISSION TO STATE GOVERNOR.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to submitting the
6 Plan to the Secretary, the Partnership shall—

7 (i) submit the Plan to the Governor of
8 Texas for review; and

9 (ii) consider the Governor’s rec-
10 ommendations with respect to the Plan.

11 (B) FAILURE TO RESPOND.—If the Gov-
12 ernor does not respond to the Partnership with
13 recommendations within 90 days of receiving
14 the Plan from the Partnership, the Partnership
15 shall submit the plan to the Secretary.

16 (c) APPROVAL OF PLAN.—

17 (1) TIMELINE.—The Partnership shall submit
18 the Plan to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall
19 approve or disapprove the Plan not later than 90
20 days after the submission.

21 (2) DETERMINATION.—In determining whether
22 or not to approve the associated sites program, the
23 Secretary shall consider—

24 (A) the adequacy of public participation;

1 (B) assurances of Plan implementation
2 from State and local officials; and

3 (C) the adequacy of management and fi-
4 nancial tools in place to implement the Plan.

5 (3) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary dis-
6 approves the Plan, or any portion of the Plan—

7 (A) not later than 60 days after the date
8 of such disapproval, the Secretary shall advise
9 the Partnership in writing of the reasons for
10 disapproval and recommendations for revision;

11 (B) not later than 90 days of receipt of
12 such notice of disapproval, the Partnership
13 shall revise and resubmit the Plan, or respective
14 portions to the Governor of Texas for a 60-day
15 review period;

16 (C) upon receipt of recommendations from
17 the Governor of Texas or the expiration of the
18 review period described in subparagraph (B),
19 whichever occurs first, the Partnership shall re-
20 submit the Plan to the Secretary; and

21 (D) not later than 60 days after resubmis-
22 sion under subparagraph (C), the Secretary
23 shall approve or disapprove the revised Plan or
24 portion of the Plan.

1 (d) INTERIM PROGRAM.—Prior to adoption of the
2 Plan, the Secretary and the Partnership shall assist the
3 owners and managers of land within the Network to en-
4 sure that existing programs, services, and activities that
5 promote the purposes of this section are supported. The
6 Secretary and the Partnership will develop interim criteria
7 to address eligibility for the establishment of an associated
8 site and criteria and eligibility for entering and admin-
9 istering cooperative agreements as provided for under sub-
10 sections (c) and (d) of section 5.

11 **SEC. 8. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**

12 (a) STATE AND LOCAL JURISDICTION.—Nothing in
13 this Act shall be construed to diminish, enlarge, or modify
14 any other Federal authority or program, and any right
15 of the State or any political subdivision thereof, to exercise
16 civil and criminal jurisdiction or to carry out State laws,
17 rules, and regulations, including those relating to fish and
18 wildlife, or to tax persons, corporations, franchises, includ-
19 ing on lands owned by the associated sites.

20 (b) RELATIONSHIP TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—The
21 maintenance, operation, and use of private property, in-
22 cluding the lands in proximity to lands administered by
23 the National Park Service, shall not be deemed to be in-
24 consistent with or otherwise subject to any restriction or
25 regulation as a result of this designation.

1 (1) NO NEW REGULATIONS.—Landowners shall
2 not be subject to any new regulations, directly, indi-
3 rectly or by implication, to any existing or subse-
4 quent regulations, including but not limited to the
5 Endangered Species Act, as a consequence of des-
6 ignation.

7 (2) CLEAN AIR ACT.—The application of the
8 Prevention of Significant Deterioration provisions of
9 the Federal Clean Air Act relative to mandatory des-
10 ignation of Class I Areas shall not apply.

11 (3) FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED OR PERMITTED
12 CHANNELS, STORM SURGE PROTECTION, FLOOD
13 CONTROL DEVICES, OIL AND GAS PIPELINES AND
14 PROJECTS.—The designation shall in no way be in-
15 consistent with or impede the construction, mainte-
16 nance, operation, and use of federally authorized or
17 permitted channels, storm surge protection, flood
18 control devices, oil and gas pipelines and projects
19 and the result of such functions shall not be deemed
20 to be an owned land of a public park, National
21 Recreation Area, or other public resource within the
22 meaning of section 303(c) of title 49, United States
23 Code, and shall not be deemed to have a significant
24 effect on natural, scenic, and recreation assets with-

1 in the meaning of section 47101(h)(2) of title 49,
2 United States Code.

3 (4) EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—In the event of
4 emergency conditions created by acts of God, includ-
5 ing natural disasters, any relevant Federal, State, or
6 local governmental entity may provide expedited
7 emergency relief and assistance where necessary to
8 protect life or real property during the pendency of
9 the emergency, the provision of which shall not be
10 deemed inconsistent with or otherwise subject to any
11 restriction or regulation as a result of this designa-
12 tion. This Act does not preempt or otherwise alter
13 any funding or Federal support for lands and im-
14 proved property. National hurricane response efforts
15 and Federal grants would still be accessible to all
16 parties within the Network that qualify under the
17 established criteria for these programs. Nothing in
18 this Act affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of
19 FEMA with respect to lands not owned by the Na-
20 tional Park Service.

21 (c) ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE NATIONAL RECREATION
22 AREA.—

23 (1) HUNTING, FISHING, OFF ROAD VEHICLES
24 AND PERSONAL WATER CRAFT.—Except as provided
25 in paragraphs (2) and (3), and with the written con-

1 sent of the immediate prior grantor of fee or less
2 than fee interest in land to the National Park Serv-
3 ice, the Secretary shall permit hunting and rec-
4 reational and commercial fishing, off road vehicle
5 and personal water craft use on lands and waters
6 owned or managed by the National Park Service
7 within the National Recreation Area, in accordance
8 with applicable Federal and State law.

9 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXCEPTIONS.—The Sec-
10 retary may temporarily restrict such uses under
11 paragraph (1) only as needed to address public safe-
12 ty and emergency situations.

13 (3) CONSULTATION.—Except in public safety
14 and emergency situations, decisions to close loca-
15 tions within the National Recreation Area to such
16 uses shall be made in consultation with, but not lim-
17 ited to, local user groups, including but not limited
18 to, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

19 (4) CLOSURES.—Except as provided in para-
20 graph (2), decisions to close locations within the Na-
21 tional Recreation Area to such uses shall not become
22 effective until the Secretary files public notice pro-
23 viding the justification for the closure, the location
24 or locations being closed and the expected duration.

1 (5) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act af-
2 fects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State
3 with respect to fish and wildlife on Federal land and
4 water covered by this Act.

5 (6) OIL AND GAS MINERALS.—When acquiring
6 land, waters, or interests therein, the Secretary shall
7 permit a reservation by the grantor of all or any
8 part of the oil and gas minerals in such land or
9 waters and of other minerals therein which can be
10 removed by similar means, with the right of occupa-
11 tion and use of so much of the surface of the land
12 or waters as may be required for all purposes rea-
13 sonably incident to the mining or removal of such
14 from beneath the surface of these lands and water
15 and the lands and waters adjacent thereto, under
16 such regulations as may be prescribed by the Sec-
17 retary with respect to such mining or removal.

18 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 (a) GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
20 priated such sums as may be necessary for the Secretary
21 to provide technical assistance, interpretation, planning,
22 marketing, cooperative agreement administration, edu-
23 cation, and signage in furtherance of this Act.

24 (b) EXPENDITURES.—Except for costs associated
25 with the establishment and operations of the Partnership,

1 interim planning, and development of the Plan, expendi-
2 tures shall be consistent with the approved Plan.

3 (c) LAND ACQUISITION BY CONDEMNATION.—Funds
4 appropriated pursuant to this Act may not be used for
5 the acquisition of land or any interest in land by con-
6 demnation.

7 (d) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL OWNERSHIP.—Noth-
8 ing in this Act shall be construed to require or authorize
9 the acquisition of land or interests in land except from
10 willing sellers through donation, purchase with donated
11 funds, exchange, or transfer from another Federal agency,
12 consistent with section 4.

○