

thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this subchapter, the condition of the resources and values of the Conservation Area, and the progress of the Secretary in achieving the purposes for which the Conservation Area is established as set forth in section 460000-3(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-538, § 8, Dec. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 2568.)

SUBCHAPTER CXXVII—BLACK ROCK
DESERT-HIGH ROCK CANYON EMIGRANT
TRAILS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

§ 460ppp. Findings

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The areas of northwestern Nevada known as the Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon contain and surround the last nationally significant, untouched segments of the historic California emigrant Trails,¹ including wagon ruts, historic inscriptions, and a wilderness landscape largely unchanged since the days of the pioneers.

(2) The relative absence of development in the Black Rock Desert and high² Rock Canyon areas from emigrant times to the present day offers a unique opportunity to capture the terrain, sights, and conditions of the overland trails as they were experienced by the emigrants and to make available to both present and future generations of Americans the opportunity of experiencing emigrant conditions in an unaltered setting.

(3) The Black Rock Desert and High Rock Canyon areas are unique segments of the Northern Great Basin and contain broad representation of the Great Basin's land forms and plant and animal species, including golden eagles and other birds of prey, sage grouse, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, free roaming horses and burros, threatened fish and sensitive plants.

(4) The Black Rock-High Rock region contains a number of cultural and natural resources that have been declared eligible for National Historic Landmark and Natural Landmark status, including a portion of the 1843-44 John Charles Fremont exploration route, the site of the death of Peter Lassen, early military facilities, and examples of early homesteading and mining.

(5) The archeological, paleontological, and geographical resources of the Black Rock-High Rock region include numerous prehistoric and historic Native American sites, woolly mammoth sites, some of the largest natural pot-holes of North America, and a remnant dry Pleistocene lakebed (playa) where the curvature of the Earth may be observed.

(6) The two large wilderness mosaics that frame the conservation area offer exceptional opportunities for solitude and serve to protect the integrity of the viewshed of the historic emigrant trails.

(7) Public lands in the conservation area have been used for domestic livestock grazing

for over a century, with resultant benefits to community stability and contributions to the local and State economies. It has not been demonstrated that continuation of this use would be incompatible with appropriate protection and sound management of the resource values of these lands; therefore, it is expected that such grazing will continue in accordance with the management plan for the conservation area and other applicable laws and regulations.

(8) The Black Rock Desert playa is a unique natural resource that serves as the primary destination for the majority of visitors to the conservation area, including visitors associated with large-scale permitted events. It is expected that such permitted events will continue to be administered in accordance with the management plan for the conservation area and other applicable laws and regulations.

(Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, § 125 [§ 2]], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-229, 2763A-353.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, § 125 [§ 1]], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-229, 2763A-353, provided that: "This Act [S. 2273, as enacted by section 1(a)(4)[div. B, title I, § 125] of Pub. L. 106-554, enacting this subchapter and provisions listed in a table of Wilderness Areas set out under section 1132 of this title] may be cited as the 'Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000'."

§ 460ppp-1. Definitions

As used in this subchapter:

(1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The term "public lands" has the meaning stated in section 1702(e) of title 43.

(3) The term "conservation area" means the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area established pursuant to section 460ppp-2 of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, § 125 [§ 3]], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-229, 2763A-354.)

§ 460ppp-2. Establishment of the conservation area

(a) Establishment and purposes

In order to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important historical, cultural, paleontological, scenic, scientific, biological, educational, wildlife, riparian, wilderness, endangered species, and recreational values and resources associated with the Applegate-Lassen and Nobles Trails corridors and surrounding areas, there is hereby established the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in the State of Nevada.

(b) Areas included

The conservation area shall consist of approximately 797,100 acres of public lands as generally depicted on the map entitled "Black Rock Desert Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area" and dated October 3, 2001.

¹ So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.

² So in original. Probably should be capitalized.

(c) Maps and legal description

As soon as practicable after December 21, 2000, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a map and legal description of the conservation area. The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subchapter, except the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in such map and legal description. Copies of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, §125 [§ 4]], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-229, 2763A-354; Pub. L. 107-63, title I, §135(a), Nov. 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 443.)

AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-63 substituted “October 3, 2001” for “July 19, 2000”.

§ 460ppp-3. Management**(a) Management**

The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the conservation area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances its resources and values, including those resources and values specified in subsection¹ 460ppp-2(a) of this title, in accordance with this subchapter, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable provisions of law.

(b) Access**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall maintain adequate access for the reasonable use and enjoyment of the conservation area.

(2) Private land

The Secretary shall provide reasonable access to privately owned land or interests in land within the boundaries of the conservation area.

(3) Existing public roads

The Secretary is authorized to maintain existing public access within the boundaries of the conservation area in a manner consistent with the purposes for which the conservation area was established.

(c) Uses**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the conservation area as the Secretary finds will further the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

(2) Off-highway vehicle use

Except where needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, use of motorized vehicles in the conservation area shall be permitted only on roads and trails and in other areas designated for use of motorized vehicles as part of the management plan prepared pursuant to subsection (e).

(3) Permitted events

The Secretary may continue to permit large-scale events in defined, low impact areas

of the Black Rock Desert playa in the conservation area in accordance with the management plan prepared pursuant to subsection (e).

(d) Hunting, trapping, and fishing

Nothing in this subchapter shall be deemed to diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Nevada with respect to fish and wildlife management, including regulation of hunting and fishing, on public lands within the conservation area.

(e) Management plan

Within three years following December 21, 2000, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive resource management plan for the long-term protection and management of the conservation area. The plan shall be developed with full public participation and shall describe the appropriate uses and management of the conservation area consistent with the provisions of this subchapter. The plan may incorporate appropriate decisions contained in any current management or activity plan for the area and may use information developed in previous studies of the lands within or adjacent to the conservation area.

(f) Grazing

Where the Secretary of the Interior currently permits livestock grazing in the conservation area, such grazing shall be allowed to continue subject to all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders.

(g) Visitor service facilities

The Secretary is authorized to establish, in cooperation with other public or private entities as the Secretary may deem appropriate, visitor service facilities for the purpose of providing information about the historical, cultural, ecological, recreational, and other resources of the conservation area.

(h) Road maintenance

Within the conservation area the Secretary may permit the use of gravel pits for the maintenance of roads within the conservation area under the Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) to the extent consistent with this subchapter and subject to such regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers necessary.

(Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(4) [div. B, title I, §125 [§ 5]], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-229, 2763A-354; Pub. L. 107-63, title I, §135(b), Nov. 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 443.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 94-579, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2743, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 35 (§1701 et seq.) of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of Title 43 and Tables.

The Materials Act of 1947, referred to in subsec. (h), is act July 31, 1947, ch. 406, 61 Stat. 681, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§601 et seq.) of chapter 15 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 601 of Title 30 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 107-63 added subsec. (h).

¹ So in original. Probably should be “section”.