

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 potholes 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.