

CHAPTER 27—NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

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§ 1241. Congressional statement of policy and declaration of purpose**(a) Considerations for determining establishment of trails**

In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and in order to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation, trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation, which are often more remotely located.

(b) Initial components

The purpose of this chapter is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a national system of recreation, scenic and historic trails, by designating the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail as the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system.

(c) Volunteer citizen involvement

The Congress recognizes the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation's trails. In recognition of these contributions, it is further the purpose of this chapter to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management, where appropriate, of trails.

(Pub. L. 90-543, §2, Oct. 2, 1968, 82 Stat. 919; Pub. L. 95-625, title V, §551(1)-(3), Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3511; Pub. L. 98-11, title II, §202, Mar. 28, 1983, 97 Stat. 42.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

1983—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-11, §202(1), substituted “The” for “the” before “purpose”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-11, §202(2), added subsec. (c).

1978—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95-625, §551(1), (2), inserted “the preservation of,” and “and historic resources” after “promote” and “outdoor areas” and substituted “within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation, which are often more remotely located” for

“within established scenic areas more remotely located”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 95-625, §551(3), substituted “, scenic and historic” for “and scenic”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**SHORT TITLE OF 2020 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 116-111, §1, Jan. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 8, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] and enacting and amending provisions listed in a table of Wilderness Areas set out under section 1132 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Emancipation National Historic Trail Study Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-432, div. C, title III, §302, Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3028, provided that: “This title [enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1244 of this title and enacting and amending provisions listed in a table of Wilderness Areas set out under section 1132 of this title] may be cited as the ‘White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006’.”

Pub. L. 109-418, §1, Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2882, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 81f and 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Designation Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2004 AMENDMENTS

Pub. L. 108-424, §2(a), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2403, provided that: “This Act [enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1244 of this title and provisions listed in a table of Wilderness Areas set out under section 1132 of this title and amending provisions listed in a table of National Wildlife Conservation Areas set out under section 668dd of this title] may be cited as the ‘Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004’.”

Pub. L. 108-342, §1, Oct. 18, 2004, 118 Stat. 1370, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2002 AMENDMENTS

Pub. L. 107-338, §1, Dec. 16, 2002, 116 Stat. 2886, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett Trail Study Act of 2002’.”

Pub. L. 107-325, §1, Dec. 4, 2002, 116 Stat. 2790, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Old Spanish Trail Recognition Act of 2002’.”

Pub. L. 107-214, §1, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1053, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Long Walk National Historic Trail Study Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENTS

Pub. L. 106-509, §1, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2361, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Act’.”

Pub. L. 106-307, §1, Oct. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 1074, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-135, §1, Dec. 7, 1999, 113 Stat. 1685, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study Act of 1999’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1993 AMENDMENTS

Pub. L. 103-145, §1, Nov. 17, 1993, 107 Stat. 1496, provided that: “This Act [amending section 1244 of this title] may be cited as the ‘El Camino Real Para Los Texas Study Act of 1993’.”