

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3691

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Old Spanish National
5 Historic Trail Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Old Spanish Trail served as a major
9 trade route from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Los An-
10 geles, California, between 1829 and 1848;

1 (2) the Old Spanish Trail begins in northern
2 New Mexico and runs in a westerly or northwesterly
3 direction through Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and Ne-
4 vada before ending in southern California;

5 (3) Native Americans, immigrants, sheep ranch-
6 ers, weavers, military groups, explorers, and trap-
7 pers used the Old Spanish Trail during the develop-
8 ment of the West;

9 (4) the travelers promoted cultural interaction
10 among Europeans, Spaniards, Mexicans, Native
11 Americans, and other people of the United States;

12 (5) much of the historic character of the Old
13 Spanish Trail is related to—

14 (A) the route of the trail through the nat-
15 ural environment; and

16 (B) the existence of landscapes relatively
17 unchanged since the trail period;

18 (6) currently, many sections of the Old Spanish
19 Trail appear as the routes appeared to traders and
20 other travelers in the 19th century; and

21 (7) the Old Spanish Trail is a symbol of the
22 cultural interaction between ethnic groups, nations,
23 and the commercial exchange that made possible the
24 development and growth of the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

2 Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16
3 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating the second paragraph (21)
5 as paragraph (22); and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(23) OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Old Spanish National
9 Historic Trail, beginning in Santa Fe, New Mexico,
10 and ending in Los Angeles, California.

11 “(B) MAP.—A map generally depicting the trail
12 shall be on file and available for public inspection in
13 the office of the Director of the National Park Serv-
14 ice.

15 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The trail shall be ad-
16 ministered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting
17 through the Director of the National Park Service
18 (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Secretary’).

19 “(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—The United States
20 shall not acquire for the trail any land or interest
21 in land outside the exterior boundary of any feder-
22 ally managed area without the consent of the owner
23 of the land or interest in land.

24 “(E) VOLUNTEER GROUPS; CONSULTATION.—
25 The Secretary shall—

1 “(i) encourage volunteer trail groups to
2 participate in the development and maintenance
3 of the trail; and

4 “(ii) consult with other Federal, State,
5 local, and tribal agencies in the administration
6 of the trail.”.

○