



To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff; Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov), Terry Camp (Terry.Camp@mail.house.gov) & Ashley Nichols (Ashley.Nichols@mail.house.gov)
Date: April 25, 2022
Subject: Hybrid Legislative Hearing on Six Bills

The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands will hold a hybrid legislative hearing on six bills: H.R. 4878 (Rep. DeSaulnier), “National Discovery Trails Act”; H.R. 6589 (Rep. Leger Fernandez), “Historic Preservation Enhancement Act”; H.R. 6805 (Rep. Adams), “African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act”; H.R. 7002 (Rep. Wagner), “Gateway Solidarity Act”; H.R. 7075 (Rep. Spartz), “Ukrainian Independence Park Act of 2022”; and H.R. 7218, (Rep. Neguse) “Colorado National Heritage Areas Reauthorization Act,” on **Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 2:00 pm** in 1324 Longworth House Office Building and via Cisco WebEx.

Republican Members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in person from the hearing room.

Member offices are requested to notify Terry Camp (Terry.Camp@mail.house.gov) **no later than Tuesday, April 26, at 4:30 pm** if their Member intends to participate in person in the hearing room or remotely via his/her laptop from another location. Submissions for the hearing record must be submitted through the Committee’s electronic repository at HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov. Please contact David DeMarco (David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov) or Everett Winnick (Everett.Winnick@mail.house.gov) should any technical difficulties arise.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- Committee Democrats are claiming they want to reauthorize a conservation program while simultaneously declaring war on the very energy revenues that fund it. They are cutting off their own nose to spite their face, and the hypocrisy is blinding. If the Biden administration and congressional Democrats were interested in more than just rhetoric, they would roll-back the red-tape they have put in place to stymie sustainable energy production on federal lands and waters.
- With inflation skyrocketing, gas prices increasing, and crises ongoing across the globe, the last thing Congress should be fixated on is creating billions of dollars in new mandatory spending. Millions of American families are struggling to pay for gas and



basic necessities while Democrats continue their exorbitant spending practices. Democrats are fiddling while Rome burns.

- Republicans have real-world solutions, and the two Republican bills included in the hearing emphasize America’s unwavering support for Ukraine and its people. Republicans have also introduced larger efforts since Putin’s unhinged rampage – including the “American Energy Independence from Russia Act” and the “No Timber From Tyrants Act,” – that will ultimately make the U.S. less dependent on Russian products.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I:

- **Representative Ann Wagner**, Missouri, 2nd Congressional District
- **Representative Mark DeSaulnier**, California, 11th Congressional District
- **Representative Joe Neguse**, Colorado, 2nd Congressional District
- **Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez**, New Mexico, 3rd Congressional District
- **Representative Victoria Spartz**, Indiana, 5th Congressional District

Panel II:

- **Ms. Joy Beasley**, Association Director of Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

Panel III:

- **Mr. Nick Loris**, Vice President of Public Policy, C3 Solutions [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 6589)
- **Michael Sawkiw, Jr.**, Executive Vice President, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and Director, Ukrainian National Information Service [*Republican Witness*] (H.R. 7002 & H.R. 7075)
- **Mr. Reno Keoni Franklin**, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe (H.R. 6589)
- **Ms. Sabrina Stoker**, Executive Director, Poudre Heritage Alliance (H.R. 7218)
- **Ms. Angela M. Thorpe**, Director, North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (H.R. 6805)

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 4878 \(DeSaulnier\)](#)

The National Trails System Act establishes four classes of trails: national scenic trails, national historic trails, national recreation trails, and side and connecting trails.¹ Currently, the National Trails System totals more than 88,600 miles and includes 11 national scenic trails, 19 national historic trails, 1,300 national recreational trails, and seven side and connecting trails.² National

¹ Public Law 90-543, as amended through Public Law 116-9, Mar. 12, 2019.

² Pacific Crest Trail Association, “America’s National Trail System,” <https://www.pcta.org/our-work/national-trails-system/#:~:text=America's%20National%20Trails%20System%20is,seven%20side%20and%20connecting%20trails>.

scenic trails are long-distance (more than 100 miles), recreational in nature, and intended to showcase nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural resources.³ National historic trails recognize original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance including former routes of military action, exploration, and migration.⁴ National recreation trails offer opportunities for outdoor recreation in and around urban areas and have no minimum length requirement. Side and connecting trails are intended to give additional access to and between sections of the National Trails System. Whereas national scenic and historic trails are authorized and designated only by an Act of Congress, both national recreation trails and side and connecting trails may be designated by either the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.⁵

H.R. 4878 would amend the *National Trails System Act* to create a new class of trails, national discovery trails, and would designate the American Discovery Trail (ADT) as part of the National Trails System. The ADT, which is already complete, is managed by the American Discovery Trail Society, a non-profit organization.⁶ The trail extends approximately 6,000 miles from Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes National Seashore in California, with a split into two routes near Cincinnati, Ohio, that rejoin in Denver, Colorado.⁷



Source: American Discovery Trail Society⁸

The ADT was initially proposed in 1990 as a continuous, coast-to-coast trail to link large metro areas to the nation's major long-distance trails, as well as to shorter local and regional trails.⁹ In 1992, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility and desirability of adding the ADT to the National Trails System. This study, completed in 1995, concluded that the

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ American Discovery Trail Society, "American Discovery Trail," <https://discoverytrail.org/the-trail/>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ O'Dell, Peggy, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, Statement Before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Concerning S. 2608, A Bill to Authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to Place Signage on Federal Land Along the Trail Known as the "American Discovery Trail" and for Other Purposes," Mar. 17, 2016, <https://www.doi.gov/oc/s-2608>.

ADT could be appropriate for designation as a new class of national trails, national discovery trails.¹⁰ The National Park Service (NPS) study partially proposed the establishment of national discovery trails to address a potential conflict with national scenic trails along roads, as the National Trails System Act prohibits the use of motorized vehicles along national scenic trails. National discovery trails, however, could be located along roadways, if necessary, to make the trails continuous.¹¹ Although Congress has not acted to federally establish the ADT, in 2019, through the *John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation Management, and Recreation Act*, Congress authorized the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to post donated signage for the ADT on federal lands under each Secretary’s jurisdiction. Currently more than half of the 6,000-mile route is marked with ADT signs.¹² **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x6-9722)**

H.R. 6589 (Leger Fernandez)

Overview of the Historic Preservation Fund

In 1976, Congress established the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) as the primary source of funding for federal preservation to support the preservation initiatives mandated by the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA).¹³ In accordance with the NHPA, the HPF provides grants to state and local governments and private entities for conserving cultural and historical assets and sites. HPF grants are typically awarded on a 60/40 percent federal to non-federal matching share basis to states and Tribes. State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) administer the National Historic Preservation Program and award individual sub-grants at the state and Tribal levels, respectively. Federal agencies also seek the views of the appropriate SHPO or THPO when identifying historic properties and assessing the effects of new projects on historic properties.

The HPF is funded by Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas revenues. Funds deposited in the HPF are available for expenditure only when appropriated by Congress through discretionary appropriations bills. Since 1980, the HPF has received \$150 million in OCS revenues annually to carry out the purposes of the NHPA.¹⁴ This authorization is set to expire at the end of the next fiscal year (FY) on September 30, 2023. Congress historically appropriates less than the full amount that is deposited into the HPF each year, and unappropriated amounts totaling over \$3.4 billion remain “credited” to the HPF.¹⁵ The following chart shows HPF appropriations over the past decade (FY 2013—FY 2022) in nominal dollars. All the amounts shown are actual appropriations, except for FY 2022, which shows the enacted appropriation. The President’s FY 2023 budget requests \$151.80 million in appropriations for the HPF.¹⁶

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

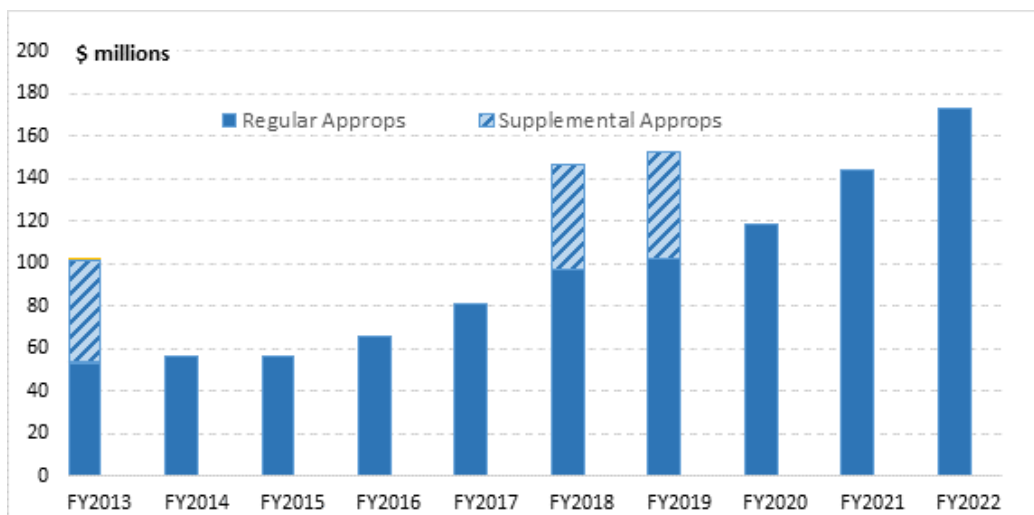
¹² American Discovery Trail Society, “American Discovery Trail Background,” <https://discoverytrail.org/about/adt-background/>

¹³ 54 U.S.C. 302101 et seq.; Congressional Research Service, “The Federal Role in Historic Preservation,” Mark K. DeSantis, Updated Apr. 7, 2020, R45800, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45800>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Information provided by NPS to Committee staff on April 22, 2022, at 10:17 a.m. *Note:* While there is \$3 billion “credited” to the Fund on paper, in reality these funds have already been spent to finance other government spending programs, thus leaving the country with a budget deficit. Therefore, similar to other conservation funds like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, any bills to make this funding mandatory would score, as no money actually exists in the HPF.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, “Budget Justifications and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2023,” Overview-4, <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy2023-nps-greenbook.pdf>.



Source: Congressional Research Service¹⁷

Current Status of the Offshore Oil and Gas Program

The Biden administration’s refusal to issue new offshore oil and gas leases jeopardizes long-term funding for conservation programs, including the HPF. During his first week in office, President Biden put a moratorium on oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters.¹⁸ The unlawful moratorium on new leasing was ended by an injunction in June 2022,¹⁹ but the Biden administration spent months delaying the leasing process despite the court ruling. The Department of the Interior (DOI) held one offshore lease sale in November 2021²⁰ but a district court vacated the lease sale in January 2022 in an unprecedented decision.²¹ The Biden administration chose not to appeal this case, declining to defend their own work.²² As a result, no new leases have been issued for this sale.

Worryingly, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) at DOI has not scheduled the three remaining sales under the current 5-year plan for offshore leasing and is rapidly running out of time to do so.²³ Despite Congressional requests for information, DOI has not been able to provide any information about when BOEM will publish the next 5-year plan, creating uncertainty for American businesses, offshore oil and gas development, energy security, and conservation programs.²⁴

¹⁷ Congressional Research Service, Chart provided to the Committee on Natural Resources, Laura Comay, Specialist in Natural Resources Policy, Apr. 19, 2022.

¹⁸ E.O. 14008

¹⁹ Joshua Partlow and Juliet Eilperin, “Louisiana judge blocks Biden administration’s oil and gas leasing pause,” Washington Post, June 15, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/06/15/louisiana-judge-blocks-biden-administrations-oil-gas-leasing-pause/>.

²⁰ Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Final Notice of Sale, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 257, <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/leasing/Final-NOS-257.pdf>.

²¹ Friends of the Earth, *et al.* vs. Debra Haaland, *et al.*, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Memorandum Opinion, filed January 27, 2022, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/eenews/f/eenews/?id=0000017e-a065-db8b-ab7f-f2ff5ec00000>.

²² Rachel Frazin, “Biden administration won’t appeal invalidation of offshore oil leases,” The Hill, Mar. 1, 2022.

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/596334-biden-administration-declines-to-appeal-invalidation-of-offshore>.

²³ Department of the Interior. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. 2017-2022 Lease Sale Schedule. <https://www.boem.gov/2017-2022-lease-sale-schedule>.

²⁴ Letter to Secretary Haaland and Director Lefton. Mar. 9, 2022. https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/22-03-09_westerman_rodgers_newhouse_to_haaland_doi_lefton_boem_re_offshore_leasing_program.pdf.

H.R. 6589 – Summary and Concerns

H.R. 6589 would permanently reauthorize the HPF, double the amount of OCS revenue deposited into the HPF to \$300 million annually, and make the Fund mandatory (no longer subject to appropriations). The bill also stipulates that if OCS revenue is insufficient to deposit the full \$300 million into the HPF, then funding would be drawn from the General Treasury. This proposal is yet another example of reckless spending from House Democrats. With inflation increasing to 8.5 percent over the past 12 months –the highest since 1981— and our national debt surpassing \$30 trillion, now is not the time to create \$300 million in new mandatory spending.²⁵ This is also a continuation of the reckless spending first proposed during the ill-fated “Build Back Better” boondoggle, when Committee Democrats provided \$75 million in additional mandatory funding for historic preservation.²⁶ Further, the bill represents Democratic hypocrisy for trying to reauthorize this fund while simultaneously supporting Biden’s ban on American energy. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x6-9722) and Ashley Nichols (x6-3044)**

H.R. 6805 (Adams)

Cemeteries and burial sites are sacred ground and special places for the remembrance of loved ones passed. Unfortunately, many African-American cemeteries and burial grounds from both pre- and post-Civil War are in a state of disrepair, inaccessible, or completely unmarked. Moreover, there is not an official national record or database for African-American cemeteries and burial ground locations and the locations of many sites are unknown. As a result, burial grounds and cemeteries are frequently discovered when construction projects inadvertently disturb human remains, slowing or halting completion of those projects and causing heartache in local communities.²⁷

H.R. 6805 would establish the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program administered by NPS. The bill would authorize NPS to coordinate and facilitate Federal activities and non-Federal activities to identify, interpret, research, preserve, and record unmarked, previously abandoned, underserved, and other African-American burial grounds. The legislation also requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop a grant program for the preservation of African-American burial grounds. Eligible grantees would include Federal agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, historic preservation groups, and non-profit organizations. The legislation authorizes \$3 million annually for FY 2023 through FY 2027. Notably, the bill includes property rights protections barring the Secretary of the Interior from providing project grants without the consent of the property owner and clarifying that the Secretary is not authorized to affect management or use of property without the consent of the owner. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x6-9722)**

²⁵ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Consumer Price Index,” Apr. 12, 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>; US Debt Clock.org, <https://www.usdebtclock.org/>.

²⁶ COMMITTEE PRINT (Providing for reconciliation pursuant to S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022).

²⁷ Associated Press and NBC Washington Staff, “Evidence Shows U. Richmond Was Built Over Slave Burial Site,” Jan. 22, 2020, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/evidence-shows-u-richmond-was-built-over-slave-burial-site/2202692/>.

Nicholson, Zoe, USA Today, “Clemson University seeks to tell the stories of the people buried in 604 unmarked graves,” Jan. 5, 2021,

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2021/01/05/clemson-professor-tell-stories-behind-604-unmarked-graves-campus/4138322001/>.

McGreevy, Nora, Smithsonian Magazine, “Lost African American Cemetery Found Under Florida Parking Lot,” June 17, 2020, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/lost-african-american-cemetery-re-discovered-under-florida-parking-lot-180975109/>.

H.R. 7002 (Wagner)

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an aggressive and wide-ranging attack on Ukraine. Since then, the civilized world has come together to stand with Ukraine against Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion. To show solidarity with the people of Ukraine, countries throughout the world have illuminated monuments and buildings in blue and yellow, the colors of Ukraine's flag. International landmarks illuminated in blue and yellow include the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Niagara Falls, the Sydney Opera House, the Empire State Building, the Seattle Space Needle, the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate, and many others.²⁸ As a symbolic gesture to demonstrate the United States' support for Ukraine and its people, H.R. 7002 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to illuminate Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri in blue and yellow.



Gateway Arch illuminated pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch²⁹

Precedent exists for illuminating federally owned structures for special events and commemorations. In 2004, Congress enacted legislation requiring the Secretary of the Interior to illuminate Gateway Arch with pink lights in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month each October.³⁰ In 2019, the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, in partnership with DOI, celebrated the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 by projecting a full-sized, 363-foot Saturn V rocket

²⁸ Folmar, Chloe, The Hill, "Kennedy Center lights up in blue and yellow to show support for Ukraine," Mar. 3, 2022,

<https://thehill.com/blogs/in-the-know/596833-kennedy-center-lights-up-in-blue-and-yellow-to-show-support-for-ukraine/>.

Spiteri, Ray, Niagara Falls Review, "Niagara Falls 'happy to continue to support our Ukrainian friends' during Russian invasion," Mar. 2, 2022, <https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news/council/2022/03/01/niagara-falls-happy-to-continue-to-support-our-ukrainian-friends-during-russian-invasion.html>.

USA Today, "Landmarks light up for Ukraine," Mar. 15, 2022, <https://www.usatoday.com/picture-gallery/news/world/2022/02/26/landmarks-light-up-for-ukraine/6950918001/>.

²⁹ O'Neil, Tim, St. Louis Post Dispatch, "The Arch became St. Louis' gathering place, even before it was finished," Oct. 11, 2015,

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/the-arch-became-st-louis-gathering-place-even-before-it-was-finished/article_e3653a12-0d4a-59fc-9307-da0354dbdc5d.html.

³⁰ Public Law 108-348, Oct. 20, 2004.

onto the east face of the Washington Monument as well as a 17-minute show about the first moon landing.³¹ Additionally, the White House was previously lit up in red, white, and blue to honor Olympians and Paralympians and separately for Independence Day; pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month; green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day; rainbow colors following the Supreme Court's decision regarding same-sex marriage; and blue to honor police officers and separately to recognize World Autism Awareness Day.³²

H.R. 7075 (Spartz)

As another symbolic gesture to demonstrate the United States' support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's senseless and unwarranted aggression, H.R. 7075 bestows the name "Ukrainian Independence Park" to an unnamed, prominent location in Washington, D.C. currently owned by NPS and with special significance to Ukrainian-Americans. This park already contains a Congressionally authorized statue of Taras Shevchenko, a notable Ukrainian poet and fighter for Ukrainian independence, who spent many years imprisoned for his pro-Ukrainian independence activities in tsarist Russia.³³ The park and Shevchenko Memorial have served as a rallying point for the Ukrainian-American community for several years. An inscription on the Memorial reads in part:

"Dedicated to the Liberation, Freedom and Independence of all Captive Nations
This monument of Taras Shevchenko, 19th century Ukrainian poet and fighter for the independence of Ukraine and the freedom of all mankind, who under foreign Russian imperialist tyranny and colonial rule appealed for "the new and righteous law of Washington," was unveiled on June 27, 1964."³⁴

A similar statue of Taras Shevchenko can be found in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and throughout other parts of Ukraine. As Russia has undertaken their vicious assault, they've targeted Ukrainian cultural sites and recently Russian troops shot holes in the head of a Taras Shevchenko bust located in Borodyanka in the Kyiv region.³⁵

³¹ Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, "National Air and Space Museum Recreates Launch of Apollo 11 on Washington Monument with Historic Mapping Projection Program," July 9, 2019, <https://airandspace.si.edu/newsroom/press-releases/go-moon-announcement>.

³² Morris, Kyle, Fox News, "White House glows in red, white, and blue ahead of Beijing Olympics," Feb. 3, 2022, <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/white-house-lights-in-red-white-and-blue-ahead-of-beijing-olympics>

Cullinane, Susannah, CNN, "White House glows pink for breast cancer," Oct. 2, 2017, <https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/02/politics/white-house-pink-breast-cancer/index.html>.

Kamisar, Ben, The Hill, "Trump to light White House blue to honor police," May 15, 2017, <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/333424-trump-to-light-wh-blue-to-honor-police/>.

³³ National Park Service. "Taras Shevchenko Memorial." Nov. 24, 2020. <https://www.nps.gov/places/000/taras-shevchenko-memorial.htm>

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ UNESCO. "Damaged cultural sites in Ukraine verified by UNESCO." Apr. 19, 2022. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/damaged-cultural-sites-ukraine-verified-unesco#:~:text=As%20of%201%20April%2C%20UNESCO,11%20monuments%20and%201%20library>.

Unfortunately, despite this location’s importance to Ukrainian-Americans, it is officially known as NPS Reservations 360 and 57D. Formally providing the park with a proper name will further symbolize the United States’ admiration and continuing support of Ukraine. The bill also authorizes the NPS to post signage in the park about the importance of Ukraine’s independence, freedom, and sovereignty, and the solidarity between the people of Ukraine and the United States. Precedent exists for providing formal names to small NPS parks in Washington, D.C. In 2019, through the *John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation Management, and Recreation Act*, Congress conferred the name “Robert Emmet Park” on a small triangular park near the Embassy of Ireland that contains a statue of the Irish hero, Robert Emmet.



A statue of famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko located in what is currently known as NPS Reservations 360 and 57D.

Source: LOC.

H.R. 7075 enjoys the support of 114 bipartisan cosponsors and is endorsed by several Ukrainian organizations including the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, the Ukrainian American Bar Association, the Ukrainian American Credit Union Association, the Ukrainian American Citizens Association, and the Ukrainian National Association. **Staff contact: Terry Camp (x6-9722)**

[H.R. 7218 \(Neguse\)](#)

NPS currently oversees 55 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) intended to commemorate, conserve, and promote important natural, scenic, historic, cultural, and recreational resources. H.R. 7218 would reauthorize three of these NHAs in Colorado: the Sangre de Cristo NHA, Cache la Poudre River NHA, and South Park NHA, for 15 years through September 30, 2036. Sangre de Cristo NHA consists of more than 3,000 square miles of south-central Colorado including the counties of Conejos, Costilla, and Alamosa.³⁶ The NHA is named for the range of jagged, 14,000-foot mountains that define the eastern edge of the San Luis Valley, one of the largest and highest alpine valleys in North America. The NHA is also home to Colorado’s oldest town, San Luis, established in 1851.³⁷ Cache la Poudre River NHA extends for 45 miles and includes the lands within flood plain of the Cache la Poudre River. The NHA starts in Larimer County at the eastern edge of the Roosevelt National Forest and ends in Weld County, at the confluence of the South Platte River just east of Greeley, Colorado. More than a half-million people living in the northern Colorado Front Range rely on the Cache la Poudre River.³⁸ South

³⁶ National Park Service, “Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area,” Feb. 24, 2015. <https://www.nps.gov/grsa/learn/news/sangre-de-cristo-nha.htm>

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ National Park Service, “Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area,” Apr. 6, 2021. <https://www.nps.gov/places/cache-la-poudre-river-national-heritage-area.htm>

Park NHA covers a roughly 1,800 square mile region in Park County, Colorado. The NHA is dedicated to preserving the spirit of the Western frontier and the region's agriculture, ranching, mining, and railroad heritage.³⁹ Each of these NHAs were originally authorized in 2009 to receive \$10 million, respectively, which expires on March 30, 2024. Bizarrely, Committee Democrats are holding a hearing on this bill now, despite the fact that these NHAs do not expire for another two years. For comparison, 35 NHAs have expired or are set to expire between 2020-2022 and Committee Democrats have not held a hearing on reauthorizing a single one. *Staff contact: Terry Camp (x6-9722)*

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & ANALYSIS

H.R. 4878

Sec. 2. National Trails System Act Amendments.

- Amends the National Trails System Act to create a new class of trails, national discovery trails. National discovery trails are to be extended, continuous, interstate trails providing for outstanding outdoor recreation and travel and to connect representative examples of America's trails and communities. National discovery trails are also to provide for the conservation and enjoyment of significant natural, cultural, and historic resources associated with each trail and should be so located as to represent metropolitan, urban, rural, and back country regions of the United States.
- Designates the roughly 6,000-mile ADT as the first national discovery trail.
- Sets out criteria for the feasibility and desirability of new national discovery trail designations.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture, as appropriate, to administer national discovery trails in cooperation with at least one competent trail wide volunteer-based organization.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture, as applicable, to submit a comprehensive plan, within 3 years of enactment, for the protection, management, development, and use of any new national discovery trail.

H.R. 6589

Sec. 2. Amendments to Historic Preservation Fund Provisions

- Permanently reauthorizes the HPF and doubles deposits from OCS revenues into the HPF from \$150 million annually to \$300 million.
- Specifies that if OCS revenue is insufficient to deposit the full \$300 million into the HPF, deposits will be derived from amounts in the General Treasury.
- Provides mandatory appropriations of \$300 million annually derived from the HPF.
- Provides that the President shall submit to Congress detailed allocations of HPF funding.
- Provides for alternate allocations by Congress through discretionary appropriations bills.

³⁹ National Park Service, "South Park National Heritage Area," Oct. 9, 2020. <https://www.nps.gov/places/south-park-national-heritage-area.htm>

- Provides for allocation by the President if: 1) Congress has not enacted legislation establishing alternate allocations by the date of enactment of the full-year Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations for the applicable fiscal year; or 2) if Congress enacts legislation that makes alternate allocations that are less than the full amount appropriated.
- Requires the President to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the final allocation by program and project of HPF funding, including the status of obligations and expenditures.

[H.R. 6805](#)

Sec. 4. United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program.

- Establishes the African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program within NPS.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and members of the African American heritage community, to establish a grant program for the identification, preservation and restoration, interpretation, and research and documentation of African American burial grounds.
- Prohibits the Secretary from providing grants for burial grounds without the consent of the property owner.
- Authorizes \$3 million annually for FY 2023 through FY 2027 for the burial grounds grant program.
- Authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements, memoranda of understanding, and provide technical assistance to other federal agencies, States, units of local governments, Tribal governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, education institutions, and private entities to identify, interpret, research, preserve, and record unmarked, previously abandoned, underserved, and other African American burial grounds.
- Prohibits the Secretary from requiring or affecting the management or use of private property without the consent of the owner.

[H.R. 7002](#)

Sec. 2. Illumination of the Gateway Arch in Support of Ukraine.

- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to illuminate the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, in blue and yellow lights to show support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

[H.R. 7075](#)

Sec. 2. Designation of Ukrainian Independence Park.

- Designates a small NPS property in Washington, D.C., currently known as U.S. Reservations 57D and 360, as “Ukrainian Independence Park.”
- Authorizes NPS to post signage in the park about the importance of Ukraine’s independence, freedom, and sovereignty, and the solidarity between the people of Ukraine and the United States.

[H.R. 7218](#)

Sec. 2. Reauthorization of Certain National Heritage Areas in the State of Colorado.

- Reauthorizes three existing NHAs in Colorado including the Sangre de Cristo NHA, Cache La Poudre NHA, and South Park NHA for 15 years through September 30, 2036.

V. COST

None of the bills on this hearing received a formal Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis. However, CBO informally estimated that H.R. 6589 would increase direct spending outlays (and thus increase the debt) by \$1.9-\$2.7 billion over the 10-year budget window.⁴⁰

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Biden administration's position on these bills is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 4878](#)

[H.R. 6589](#)

[H.R. 6805](#)

[H.R. 7218](#)

⁴⁰ Information provided by CBO to Committee staff on April 21, 2022, at 2:41 p.m.