Preserving History on Public Lands

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves a network of 423 parks and sites that protect spectacular historic, cultural, and natural resources while telling the stories of remarkable people and events in our nation’s history. The National Trust for Historic Preservation supports the inclusion of diverse places within the National Park System in order to save historic places for the benefit of current and future generations.

We ask for your support of these historic preservation bills!

For additional information, contact Pam Bowman, Senior Director of Public Lands Policy, pbowman@savingplaces.org.
Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act (H.R. 3600)

Historic Route 66 stretches approximately 2,400 miles from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA, passing through eight states and more than 300 rural and urban communities. This vital transportation corridor between the Midwest and southern California has endured as a symbol of freedom and mobility while epitomizing a new optimism that pervaded the nation’s economic recovery following World War II. Numerous buildings along Route 66 are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and it was designated a National Scenic Byway in four states. Route 66 is internationally recognized as representing America’s love of the automobile and open road. As a Dustbowl migration route, a World War II strategic military route, and a vacation travel route, it has been celebrated in music, literature, television, movies, and popular lore.

To date, petition signatures in support of a National Historic Trail designation for Route 66 number over 71,000 from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, with over 80 organizations, businesses, and local governments from the 8 states bisected by Route 66 also pledging support for the designation.

This legislation would designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail following a 1995 NPS Special Resource Study determining Route 66 met the eligibility requirements, endorsement by the NPS, and during the 115th Congress, bipartisan and bicameral support along with a unanimous House floor vote.

Great Bend of the Gila Conservation Act (H.R. 8719)

The Great Bend of the Gila Conservation Act (H.R. 8719) would establish the 330,000-acre Great Bend of the Gila National Conservation Area, as well as the Paolo Verde National Conservation Area, nearly 60,000 areas of new wilderness, and provisions that would enhance the role of tribal governments in the land management process.

The unique and sacred Great Bend of the Gila landscape is one of the most significant cultural sites in the Southwest where at least 13 federally recognized tribes maintain cultural connections and traces of human presence date back to 3,000 BC. The Great Bend of the Gila landscape includes summit trails, geoglyphs marking ceremonial sites, multiple historic trails, rock art panels, and other archaeological sites.

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