

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD – HOUSE

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

112th Congress, 2nd Session

158 Cong Rec H 5433

Title:

PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK ACT

Section:

House

Document Date:

July 31, 2012

Congress-Session:

112-2

Reference Volume:

Vol. 158 No. 115 Pg. H5433

Speakers

Speaker:

Mr. SABLAN; Mr. LAMBORN; Mr. FARR

Full Text

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Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3641) to establish Pinnacles National Park in the State of California as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3641

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pinnacles National Park Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Pinnacles National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation 796 on January 16, 1908, for the purposes of protecting its rock formations, and expanded by Presidential Proclamation 1660 of May 7, 1923; Presidential Proclamation 1704 of July 2, 1924; Presidential Proclamation 1948 of April 13, 1931; Presidential Proclamation 2050 of July 11, 1933; Presidential Proclamation 2528 of December 5, 1941; [Public Law 94-567](#); and Presidential Proclamation 7266 of January 11, 2000.

(2) While the extraordinary geology of Pinnacles National Monument has attracted and enthralled visitors for well over a century, the expanded Monument now serves a critical role in protecting other important natural and cultural resources and ecological processes. This expanded role merits recognition through legislation.

(3) Pinnacles National Monument provides the best remaining refuge for floral and fauna species representative of the central California coast and Pacific coast range, including 32 species holding special Federal or State status, not only because of its multiple ecological niches but also because of its long-term protected status with 14,500 acres of Congressionally designated wilderness.

(4) Pinnacles National Monument encompasses a unique blend of California heritage from prehistoric and historic Native Americans to the arrival of the Spanish, followed by 18th and 19th century settlers, including miners, cowboys, vaqueros, ranchers, farmers, and homesteaders.

(5) Pinnacles National Monument is the only National Park System site within the ancestral home range of the California Condor. The reintroduction of the condor to its traditional range in California is important to the survival of the species, and as a result, the scientific community with centers at the Los Angeles Zoo and San Diego Zoo in California and Buenos Aires Zoo in Argentina looks to Pinnacles National Monument as a leader in California Condor recovery, and as an international partner for condor recovery in South America.

(6) The preservation, enhancement, economic and tourism potential and management of the central California coast and Pacific coast range's important natural and cultural resources requires cooperation and partnerships among local property owners, Federal, State, and local government entities and the private sector.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK.

(a) Establishment and Purpose.-There is hereby established Pinnacles National Park in the State of California for the purposes of-

(1) preserving and interpreting for the benefit of future generations the chaparral, grasslands, blue oak woodlands, and majestic valley oak savanna ecosystems of the area, the area's geomorphology, riparian watersheds, unique flora and fauna, and the ancestral and cultural history of native Americans, settlers and explorers; and

(2) interpreting the recovery program for the California Condor and the international significance of the program.

(b) Boundaries.-The boundaries of Pinnacles National Park are as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed: Pinnacles National Park Designation Change", numbered 114/111,724, and dated December 2011. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) Abolishment of Current Pinnacles National Monument.-

(1) In general.-In light of the establishment of Pinnacles National Park, Pinnacles National Monument is hereby abolished and the lands and interests therein are incorporated within and made part of Pinnacles National Park. Any funds available for purposes of the monument shall be available for purposes of the park.

(2) References.-Any references in law (other than in this Act), regulation, document, record, map or other paper of the United States to Pinnacles National Monument shall be considered a reference to Pinnacles National Park.

(d) Administration.-The Secretary of the Interior shall administer Pinnacles National Park in accordance with this Act and laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the National Park Service Organic Act ([16 U.S.C. 1](#), 2-4).

SEC. 4. REDESIGNATION OF PINNACLES WILDERNESS AS HAIN WILDERNESS.

Subsection (i) of the first section of [Public Law 94-567](#) ([90 Stat. 2693](#); [16 U.S.C. 1132](#) note) is amended by striking "Pinnacles Wilderness" and inserting "Hain Wilderness". Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Pinnacles Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Hain Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Lamborn) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. Sablan) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

General Leave

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

[H.R. 4631](#) renames Pinnacles National Monument as Pinnacles National Park. Pinnacles was originally designated in 1908 by President Roosevelt under the authority of the Antiquities Act. However, under this legislation, it is not anticipated that management would change dramatically as the area is already considered a unit of the National Park Service.

The Natural Resources Committee made important changes to H.R. 3641, allowing us to bring this to the floor today. For example, the committee removed a nearly 3,000-acre wilderness expansion and struck unnecessary land acquisition authority. With these changes, the goal of elevating recognition of the area as a national park is achieved without limiting access.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, President Theodore Roosevelt designated Pinnacles National Monument in California under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1908.

H.R. 3641 would redesignate the monument as Pinnacles National Park. While the name change will not significantly alter management of the area, it will raise the profile of this beautiful resource and hopefully attract even more visitors.

Representative Farr is to be commended for his tenacity in moving this legislation forward. He has had to make some very difficult concessions to achieve passage of his bill today, and it is our hope that we can continue working on this to achieve his full vision for Pinnacles National Park.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. Farr).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3641, known as the Pinnacles National Park Act. As the sponsor of this bipartisan legislation, I would also like to express my thanks to my friend, Congressman Denham from California, for his original cosponsorship of H.R. 3641.

The Pinnacles National Park Act will elevate America's 11th national monument, the Pinnacles National Monument, to a national park. Only Congress can designate a national park. This is the right thing to do because there are not a lot of examples of tectonic plate movement in our National Park System. This legislation would also rename the current Pinnacles Wilderness after Schuyler Hain, who first came to the area in 1886 and was largely responsible for getting the attention of Theodore Roosevelt, who first designated the monument in 1908.

The first designation was to protect the beautiful rock formations and talus caves, notable for its tunnels. It has since been expanded several times by executive order and by congressional mandate to its present size of over 26,000 acres. It is larger than several existing national parks.

Pinnacles is a culturally significant area for several Native American tribes. It served as the backdrop for John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" and "East of Eden."

Anyone who has visited this place knows it's special. From exploring caves to viewing springtime wildflowers to hiking through spire-like rock formations, visitors and families can participate in activities that leave lasting memories. It is truly worthy of national park status.

The Pinnacles, themselves, are half of the skeletal remains of the Neenach Volcano, which erupted 23 million years ago, and are located at the junction of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates. The San Andreas Fault is just 4 miles to the east, and Miner's Gulch and Pinnacles Faults run directly through the Pinnacles system.

The Pinnacles system is home to 149 species of birds, 49 mammals, 22 reptiles, 6 amphibians, 68 butterflies, 36 dragonflies and damselflies, and nearly 400 different kinds of bees-I didn't even know there were that many-and many thousands of other invertebrates.

One project I'm particularly proud about is the reintroduction of the endangered California condor, the largest flying land bird in North America. Since 2003, the Park Service has been a part of the California Condor Recovery Program to reestablish California condors at Pinnacles National Monument.

This cooperative endeavor between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventana Wildlife Society, Pinnacles Partnership, and others, in collaboration with the California Condor Recovery Team, has done a tremendous job on recovery efforts and public education. Many visitors come to this region to get an opportunity to see the condor in the wild.

This legislation has broad support from our counties of San Benito and Monterey, as well as the chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, and from the respective counties who are enthusiastically supportive of this legislation. There is no opposition to the bill. The Pinnacles is uniquely located in coastal California to attract thousands of visitors each year who provide a viable and vital economic engine for San Benito County. Tourism is the primary focus for many of the business owners on the central coast. Increasing the number of tourists would promote a healthy impact for those not only in the retail sector, but also dining, lodging and sightseeing opportunities.

The new national park designation would strengthen the region's economic and tourism potential. There is no national park in that whole region. Research shows that for every one dollar invested by the Federal Government into our national parks, it returns \$4 to the community in tourism dollars.

Situated slightly inland from the California coast, Pinnacles National Monument has not yet realized its full potential to reach locals and tourists. Many tourists travel, dine, and stay overnight in areas along the coast such as Monterey and Santa Cruz, where they are visiting to recreate, camp, view wildlife, and enjoy the great outdoors. However, many are not aware of the Pinnacles National Monument and, as a result, do not make short trip inland to see this treasure. By elevating its stature to a national park, I believe that more visitors will come through our restaurants and businesses and more visitors will stay overnight near the park.

I'd like to end with an inspiring quote from Ken Burns, who directed "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." In a letter of support, Mr. Burns wrote for this legislation, he stated:

A Pinnacles National Park would preserve a unique portion of our land: not only a critical record of geologic time, what John Muir would have called a "grand geological library" that helps Americans look back millions of years to understand the vast tectonic forces that shaped-and still shape-our continent, but also a rare habitat for condors, a wide array of flowers, and 400 species of bees. It would preserve a place that, over the centuries, Native Americans, early Spanish settlers, homesteaders from the

East, and Basque shepherders have considered home, offering an important series of perspectives on the larger sweep of American history.

With that bit of wisdom, I would urge my colleagues to support our bipartisan legislation. Again, I would like to thank Jeff Denham, a Congressman from the region, for supporting and cosponsoring H.R. 3641, the Pinnacles National Park Act.

I ask your support.

Florentine Films

Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, Statement for the Record in Support of [H.R. 3444](#), Pinnacles National Park Act

During the last ten years, as we researched, filmed, and created our documentary series for PBS, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, we grew to appreciate the amazing diversity of the special treasures that constitute our national parks, every American's incredible inheritance. And in studying the history of the evolution of the national park idea, we learned that many of today's national parks were at one time national monuments—from the Grand Canyon to Death Valley, from Petrified Forest to Biscayne, from Congaree to most of Alaska's national parks, and so many more.

In that spirit, grounded in the tradition of recognizing the special importance of a national monument by extending its designation to that of a national park, we wish to wholeheartedly endorse [H.R. 3444](#) and the creation of Pinnacles National Park.

A Pinnacles National Park would preserve a unique portion of our land: not only a critical record of geological time (what John Muir would have called a "grand geological library") that helps Americans look back millions of years to understand the vast tectonic forces that shaped—and still shape—our continent, but also a rare habitat for condors, a wide array of flowers, and 400 species of bees. It would preserve a place that, over the centuries, Native Americans, early Spanish settlers, homesteaders from the East, and Basque shepherders have considered home, offering an important series of perspectives on the larger sweep of American history.

We also understand from our investigation of national park history that, while changing an area's designation from "monument" to "park" does not necessarily change its crucial attributes, it nonetheless alters its place in the American imagination. The Grand Canyon was just as wide and deep when it was a national monument as it is now as a national park, but the change enhanced its status in the eyes of the public—and in doing so increased its lure to visitors from our nation and abroad. So, too, a Pinnacles National Park, simply by its new designation, would attract and demand greater attention to the remarkable treasures the monument has to offer.

In closing, we would like to quote John Muir once more, when he was writing about the proposal to make Mount Rainier National Forest into Mount Rainier National

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Park: "Happy will be the men who, having the power and the love and the benevolent forecast to [create a park], will do it. They will not be forgotten. The trees and their lovers will sing their praises, and generations yet unborn will rise up and call them blessed." Please give your support to creating Pinnacles National Park. Generations yet to come will thank you for it.

Ken Burns.

Dayton Duncan.

Mr. LAMBORN. I would like to inquire if the gentleman from the Northern Marianas has any other speakers?

Mr. SABLAN. No, we don't, Mr. Speaker.

At this time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Likewise, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Lamborn) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3641, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.