



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Staff: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov),
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Date: Monday, September 14, 2026
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 9 Bills

The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing on nine bills: H.R. 1031 (Rep. Tenney), “*Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park Establishment Act*”; H.R. 2323 (Rep. Pfluger), “*Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act*”; H.R. 7495 (Rep. Fitzgerald), To authorize the establishment of memorials to the Wisconsin infantry officers and enlisted men who fought in the Battle of Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run, and for other purposes.; H.R. 8276 (Rep. Schmidt), “*Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark Act*”; H.R. 9104 (Del. Holmes Norton), “*Rock Creek National Park Act of 2026*”; H.R. 9148 (Rep. Hill), “*Scipio Jones House Assessment Act*”; H.R. 9999 (Rep. Pettersen), “*Mountain Pine Beetle Coordination Act*”; S.1051 (Sen. Lankford), “*Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Establishment Act*”; and S. 1377 (Sen. Hoeven), “*Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses Protection Act*”.

The hearing will take place on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.**, in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Jackson Johnston (Jackson.Johnston@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- Representative Tenney’s bill, H.R. 1031, establishes the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park, a meaningful commemoration of a historically significant site that showcases the dangers of anti-Semitism.
- Representative Pfluger’s H.R. 2323 expands the boundary of Big Bend National Park to allow approximately 6,100 acres along the park’s western boundary to be added through voluntary donation or exchange while expressly prohibiting condemnation.
- Representative Fitzgerald’s legislation, H.R. 7495, honors the service and sacrifice of fallen Wisconsin soldiers during the Civil War at some of our nation’s most hallowed battlefields in honor of America’s 250th birthday.

- Representative Schmidt’s legislation, H.R. 8276, recognizes the Quindaro Townsite’s important role in the Underground Railroad and African American education without adding to the federal estate.
- Representative Hill’s H.R. 9148 begins the process of establishing a site to commemorate a prominent Arkansas civil rights attorney while prohibiting federal land acquisition for such purpose.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

Panel II (Outside Experts):

- **The Hon. Terry Wilbur**, County Clerk, Oswego County, Oswego, NY [*H.R. 1031*]
- **Loren Riemer**, Executive Director and CEO, Big Bend Conservancy, Austin, TX [*H.R. 2323*]
- **Ms. Beverly Vaillancourt**, Owner and Educational Consultant, PowerUp Learning, La Valle, WI [*H.R. 7495*]
- **Mr. Deryl Wynn**, Chief Policy Analyst and Executive Advisor, Office of Mayor Christal E. Watson, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas [*H.R. 8276*]
- **Mr. Michael D. Pegues**, President, John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Tulsa, Oklahoma [*S. 1051*]
- **Ms. Sara Otte Coleman**, Director of Tourism and Marketing Division, North Dakota Department of Commerce, Bismarck, ND [*S. 1377*]
- **Mr. Matthew McCombs**, State Forester and Director, Colorado State Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO [*H.R. 9999*] [*Minority Witness*]
- **Mr. Edward Stierli**, Vice President of Government Affairs, National Parks Conservation Association, Washington, D.C. [*H.R. 1031 and H.R. 2323*] [*Minority Witness*]

III. BACKGROUND

H.R. 1031 (Rep. Tenney), “Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park Establishment Act”



Refugee families at Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter.
Source: Safe Haven Museum and Education Center, 1944.

Located in Oswego, New York, Fort Ontario served as the “only shelter in the United States for Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust” during World War II.¹ In August 1944, 982 refugees arrived at Fort Ontario after President Franklin Roosevelt established the War Refugee Board and authorized the temporary sheltering of

¹ “Fort Ontario,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/places/fort-ontario.htm>.

World War II refugees.² The site became known as the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter or “Safe Haven.”³ After the war, many refugees sought permission to remain in the U.S.⁴ President Harry Truman granted these refugees visas in 1946, and many ultimately became U.S. citizens.⁵ Fort Ontario joined the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and is currently managed by New York State Parks.⁶ In 2024, the National Park Service (NPS) completed a congressionally authorized Special Resource Study evaluating Fort Ontario for potential inclusion in the National Park System.⁷ NPS concluded that the roughly two-acre area containing historic buildings associated with the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter met the criteria for designation as a unit of the National Park System.⁸ These criteria include national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS management.⁹

H.R. 1031, introduced by Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24), would establish the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park (NHP) as a unit of the National Park System. This designation would only occur after the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) determines that sufficient land or interests in land have been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit. The bill authorizes the Secretary to acquire land within the proposed NHP boundary through donation, purchase, or exchange. H.R. 1031 also authorizes cooperative agreements with state, local, and private entities to provide interpretive and educational services and to identify, interpret, and restore historic and cultural resources.

H.R. 2323 (Rep. Pfluger), “Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act”

In 1935, Congress authorized the establishment of Big Bend National Park (Big Bend) in Texas to conserve “a representative area of the Chihuahuan Desert along the Rio Grande” River.¹⁰ Shortly after Texas transferred approximately 700,000 acres to the federal government in 1944, Big Bend was officially formed.¹¹ Today, the park encompasses more than 800,000 acres and contains significant biological, geological, paleontological, cultural, and recreational resources.¹² Within the park, Terlingua Creek “runs for 84.5 miles through the Chihuahuan Desert before reaching its confluence with the Rio Grande,” with nearly 35 miles flowing as a perennial stream.¹³ The creek is an important water source and supports riparian habitat in the otherwise semi-arid region.¹⁴ Efforts to expand Big Bend’s boundary along Terlingua Creek began following several years of discussions with the owners of Fulcher Ranch, who expressed a desire

² *Id.*

³ “Safe Haven,” New York Heritage Digital Collections, <https://nyheritage.org/collections/safe-haven>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ “National Park Service completes study evaluating Fort Ontario in New York for potential inclusion in National Park System,” National Park Service, August 2, 2024, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/national-park-service-completes-study-evaluating-fort-ontario-in-new-york-for-potential-inclusion-in-national-park-system.htm>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ “Fort Ontario Special Resource Study,” National Park Service, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=89569>.

¹⁰ “Big Bend National Park Fact Sheet,” National Park Service, January 1, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/statistics.htm>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Andrea Lopez, et al., “Riparian Woodland and Grassland Restoration to Increase Resilience to Drought,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2018, <https://www.fws.gov/project/restoration-increase-drought-resilience-0>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

for their property to become part of Big Bend.¹⁵ Fulcher Ranch includes more than four miles of frontage along Terlingua Creek and contains important riparian habitat and early pioneer heritage resources, while adjacent private lands contain similar natural and cultural resources.¹⁶ Private landowners within the proposed expansion also supported the boundary adjustment.¹⁷ H.R. 2323, led by Representative August Pluger (R-TX-11), authorizes the Secretary to acquire approximately 6,100 acres of land or interests in land by donation or exchange, facilitating the addition of lands along Terlingua Creek into Big Bend. The bill only allows for this acquisition from willing sellers and prohibits the use of eminent domain or condemnation.

H.R. 7495 (Rep. Fitzgerald), To authorize the establishment of memorials to the Wisconsin infantry officers and enlisted men who fought in the Battle of Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run, and for other purposes.

The Battle of Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run were two pivotal conflicts fought in 1862 during the Civil War that are conserved as part of the Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland and Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, respectively.¹⁸ During the Second Battle of Bull Run, officers and enlisted men in the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin Infantry Regiments fought valiantly for the Union against the Confederate Army.¹⁹ After the battle, 515 soldiers from these regiments “were killed, wounded, or remained missing.”²⁰ The following month, these same regiments were joined by the Third and Fifth Wisconsin Infantry Regiments to fight in the Battle of Antietam.²¹ Considered “the deadliest one-day battle in American military history,” Antietam inflicted great losses on these Wisconsin regiments, with more than “500 [soldiers] killed, wounded, or missing after the battle.”²² To recognize the service and sacrifice of these brave men, H.R. 7495, sponsored by Representative Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI-05), directs the Secretary to establish a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Wisconsin Infantry Regiments that fought during the Battle of Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run. The legislation further prohibits federal funds from being used for the design, acquisition, or installation of the memorials. By honoring a pivotal piece of America’s history, this legislation advances the goals of President Trump’s Executive Order (E.O.) 14189, “Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday.”²³

¹⁵ “FAQs for Land Owners, Terlingua Creek Project,” National Park Service, June 26, 2020, <https://www.bigbendconservancy.org/projects>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Letter from Wesley and Karen Journeay, et al., to Chairman Bruce Westerman and Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva, “Inholding Landowner Support for H.R. 1544 – The Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act,” September 4, 2024., on file with the Committee.

¹⁸ “Steil cosponsors bill for new Civil War memorials to honor Wisconsinites,” Ripon Advance News Service, February 23, 2026, <https://riponadvance.com/stories/steil-cosponsors-bill-for-new-civil-war-memorials-to-honor-wisconsinites/>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² “Rep. Fitzgerald Introduces Legislation to Authorize Wisconsin Memorials at National Battlefields,” The Office of Representative Scott Fitzgerald, February 11, 2026, <https://fitzgerald.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-fitzgerald-introduces-legislation-authorize-wisconsin-memorials-national>.

²³ Executive Order 14189, “Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday,” Federal Register, January 29, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/03/2025-02231/celebrating-americas-250th-birthday>.

H.R. 8276 (Rep. Schmidt), “Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark Act”

Established in 1857, the Quindaro Townsite represented a crucial free-state port of entry during the Kansas Territory’s fight over slavery.²⁴ Situated strategically along the Missouri River across from pro-slavery Missouri, the town became an ideal crossing point for slaves escaping via the Underground Railroad.²⁵ The town later became the site of the Quindaro Freedman’s School and its successor institution, Western University, the earliest school for African Americans west of the Mississippi River.²⁶ The Quindaro Townsite joined the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom in 2004.²⁷ Today, the townsite’s ruins serve as a reminder of the town’s unique role in the fight against slavery and the education of newly freed African Americans.

H.R. 8276, introduced by Representative Derek Schmidt (R-KS-02), designates the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas, as a National Historic Landmark. This designation would allow the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with local stakeholders working to conserve the historic landscape and provide the public with educational resources about the Underground Railroad. This bill would not add the Quindaro Townsite to the federal estate, nor would it affect the management of the site by Kansas City or the State of Kansas.

H.R. 9104 (Del. Holmes Norton), “Rock Creek National Park Act of 2026”

In 1980, Congress created Rock Creek Park, “making it the third national park to be designated by the federal government” and the first established in an urban area.²⁸ The 1,754-acre park conserves the natural landscape of Rock Creek Valley, including thousands of years of human history spanning from the Piscataway Indians and remnants of the Civil War to the modern day.²⁹ Under President Trump’s leadership, significant investments and improvements are planned for, or have been made to, Rock Creek Park, including refurbishing the fountains at Meridian Hill Park and improving the statues of Joan of Arc and the Dante Memorial.³⁰ H.R. 9104 redesignates Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., as “Rock Creek National Park.” Similar legislation has been introduced in each of the previous four Congresses. By elevating the status of this crown jewel in D.C., this legislation advances the goals of President Trump’s E.O. 14252, “Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful.”³¹

²⁴ “The Story of Quindaro & the Underground Railroad in KCK,” KC Yesterday, https://kcyesterday.com/articles/quindaro-kansas-city?srltid=AfmBOorD4_g7f3RFmwYR68np0dtWfGgxVM000IzVNF4ScHsf4UVttO9V.

²⁵ “Explore Network to Freedom Listings,” National Park Service, September 1, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/ntf-listings.htm>.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ “Rock Creek,” National Park Service, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/rocr/index.htm>.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ “Trump’s Washington Makeover Reaches Meridian Hill Park,” Newsmax Wires, September 7, 2026, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/trumps-washington-makeover-reaches-meridian-004300390.html>.

³¹ Executive Order 14252, “Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful,” The White House, March 27, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05837/making-the-district-of-columbia-safe-and-beautiful>.

H.R. 9148 (Rep. Hill), “Scipio Jones House Assessment Act”

Scipio Africanus Jones was a prominent African American attorney and civil rights advocate in Arkansas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.³² Jones is best known for his defense of the “Elaine Twelve,” 12 African American men sentenced to death following the 1919 Elaine Massacre.³³ Through litigation that ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court, Jones helped secure the release of all 12 men.³⁴

The Scipio A. Jones House in Little Rock, Arkansas, where Jones lived with his wife, Lillie Jackson, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999 but has fallen into significant disrepair over the past two decades.³⁵ H.R. 9148, introduced by Representative French Hill (R-AR-02), directs the Secretary to conduct a special resource study of the Scipio A. Jones House. The study would evaluate the site’s national significance and the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a National Historic Landmark, an affiliated area of the National Park System, or as part of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. The study would also consider other alternatives for interpreting the site and identify associated costs. The bill prohibits the study from considering any option involving federal acquisition of land or property.



The Scipio Jones House, located in Little Rock, Arkansas, has fallen into significant disrepair. **Source:** Preserve Arkansas, 2022.

H.R. 9999 (Rep. Pettersen), “Mountain Pine Beetle Coordination Act”

Mountain pine beetles are the “main cause of insect-induced tree mortality in western North America” and one of the top threats to western forest health and resiliency.³⁶ From 2000 to 2015, the mountain pine beetle epidemic in the western Rocky Mountain region resulted in the mortality of half of all mature pine trees.³⁷ In states like Colorado, mountain pine beetles are still the “top forest health concern,” with aerial surveys showing a 148 percent increase in the number of acres killed by mountain pine beetles between 2024 and 2025.³⁸ Insect-infested forests

³² Steven Teske, “Scipio Africanus Jones,” Encyclopedia of Arkansas, April 22, 2026, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/scipio-africanus-jones-2427/>.

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Mark K. Christ, “Scipio A. Jones House,” Encyclopedia of Arkansas, August 1, 2023, <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/scipio-a-jones-house-14756/>.

³⁶ “Effects of the mountain pine beetle on forest hydrology and chemistry in the southern Rocky Mountains,” Ecosystems Land Change Science Program, U.S. Geological Survey, May 30, 2015, <https://www.usgs.gov/news/effects-mountain-pine-beetle-forest-hydrology-and-chemistry-southern-rocky-mountains>.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ “Report on the Health of Colorado’s Forests 2025,” Colorado State Forest Service, <https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/forest-health-report-2025/insects-and-diseases/>.

produce significantly higher fire risks, especially for homes in the wildland-urban interface due to shifting fire regimes and the intermix between public and private lands.³⁹



Pockets of brown, beetle-killed trees show the expansion of mountain pine beetles through forests of ponderosa pine in Jefferson County in September 2025.

Source: Dan West, Colorado State Forest Service.

These insect outbreaks are particularly pronounced in higher-elevation, mixed-conifer and spruce forests, which typically fall into Fire Regimes IV and V.⁴⁰ Unfortunately, tools designed specifically to combat mountain pine beetle epidemics, such as the insect and disease categorical exclusion, are prohibited in these Fire Regimes, an oversight that Chairman Bruce Westerman's (R-AR-04) bipartisan "Fix Our Forests Act" remedies.⁴¹ H.R. 9999 also offers a solution to

the mountain pine beetle epidemic by authorizing the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to enter into cooperative agreements with state and local governments supporting the detection, treatment, and mitigation of mountain pine beetle infestations within the National Forest System or on tribal and state lands. These cooperative agreements can cover monitoring and data sharing, joint project implementation, improved processing capacity for beetle-killed trees, and general hazardous fuels reduction activities.

S. 1051 (Sen. Lankford), "Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Establishment Act"

In the early 1920s, the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, also known as Black Wall Street, "was one of the most prosperous African American communities in the United States."⁴² A racially segregated neighborhood, Black Wall Street contained more than 108 African American-owned businesses, including "41 grocery and meat markets, 30 restaurants, 11 boarding and rooming houses, nine billiard halls and five hotels."⁴³ On May 31, 1921, a riot erupted when a white mob stormed Greenwood, resulting "in an explosion of devastating violence that left some 35-40 square blocks of Greenwood's residential area in smoking ruins,

³⁹ Chad Julian, "Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreaks and Changes to Wildfire Risk and Behavior in Ponderosa Pine Forests on the Colorado Front Range," Colorado State Forest Service, May 18, 2026, <https://csfs.colostate.edu/2026/05/18/mountain-pine-beetle-outbreaks-and-changes-to-wildfire-risk-and-behavior-in-ponderosa-pine-forests-on-the-colorado-front-range/>.

⁴⁰ Letter from Matthew M. McCombs, State Forester and Director, Colorado Forest Service, to Chairman Bruce Westerman, February 2, 2026, on file with the Committee.

⁴¹ *Id.*; H.R. 471, 119th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/471?s=2&r=1>.

⁴² Kimberly Fain, "The Devastation of Black Wall Street," JSTOR Daily, July 5, 2017, <https://daily.jstor.org/the-devastation-of-black-wall-street/>.

⁴³ "Black Wall Street," Tulsa City-County Library, <https://www.tulsalibrary.org/black-wall-street>.

and nearly 9,000 African Americans homeless.”⁴⁴ This 18-hour riot would eventually become known as the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and resulted in the destruction of “virtually every structure” in Greenwood, property damage of \$1.5 million, 700 injuries, and the deaths of up to 300 people.⁴⁵

S. 1051, sponsored by Senator James Lankford (R-OK), would establish the Greenwood District as the “Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument” as a unit of the National Park System to commemorate the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. This designation would not become official until the Secretary certifies that enough land has been acquired within the proposed National Monument’s statutory boundaries to constitute a manageable unit. The legislation also establishes the “Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Advisory Commission” (Commission), comprised of 11 members with a connection to Black Wall Street, experience in historic protection, or recommended by the Mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma. This designation follows a 2005 reconnaissance survey conducted by NPS that found that the area covered by the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre was “nationally significant.”⁴⁶

S. 1377 (Sen. Hoeven), “Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses Protection Act”



Feral horses in TRNP. **Source:** Outdoor News, 2023.

Feral horses have been present on lands that now comprise Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) since before the park’s establishment in 1947.⁴⁷ Members of the present herd largely trace their origins to domesticated ranch horses that escaped or were released onto the open range.⁴⁸ When NPS began constructing a perimeter fence for TRNP in 1954, approximately 125 horses and mules were captured from an estimated 200 animals within the park, 99 percent of which

were branded.⁴⁹ NPS initially considered these animals “trespass livestock” and sought to remove them, but changed its policy in the 1970s and began maintaining a limited population as a historic demonstration herd representing the open-range ranching era associated with Theodore

⁴⁴ “Final 1921 Tulsa Race Riot Reconnaissance Survey,” National Park Service, November 2005, <https://www.npshistory.com/publications/srs/tulsa-race-riot-rs-2005.pdf>.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ “Horse Background and History,” Theodore Roosevelt National Park, National Park Service, February 9, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/nature/horse-history.htm>.

⁴⁸ Melissa Thompson, et al., “Population genomics provide insight into ancestral relationships and diversity of the feral horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park,” *Ecology and Evolution*, PubMed Central, National Library of Medicine, April 1, 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10985374/>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

Roosevelt.⁵⁰ Notably, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 applies only to horses on Bureau of Land Management or USFS lands, not horses within TRNP.⁵¹

Recent genomic research confirms that the isolated herd at TRNP has experienced inbreeding, and researchers have identified management options, including periodic introduction of outside animals, to increase genetic diversity.⁵² NPS has historically managed herd size through periodic removals and, more recently, fertility control and other management tools.⁵³ Decades of research have recommended various herd sizes within TRNP to maintain a genetically diverse herd, most recently suggesting a range of up to 140 horses.⁵⁴ In response, S. 1377, introduced by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND), requires NPS to maintain at least 150 horses in the South Unit of TRNP. Under the legislation, NPS must manage the herd at or above the statutory minimum while monitoring natural resource conditions and ensuring the herd does not threaten other park resources. The bill also requires annual monitoring and public reporting on the herd's population, structure, and health.

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION

H.R. 1031 (Rep. Tenney), “Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park Establishment Act”

Section 3. Establishment of Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter National Historical Park.

- Establishes the Fort Ontario Holocaust Refugee Shelter NHP as a unit of the National Park System, subject to a determination from the Secretary that a sufficient quantity of land has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit and the establishment of the NHP is published in the Federal Register.
- States that the purpose of the NHP is to conserve and interpret resources associated with the 982 World War II refugees housed at Fort Ontario from August 1944 until February 1946.
- Sets the boundaries of the NHP as depicted on the referenced map, which is required to be on file with NPS.
- Requires the Secretary to manage the NHP in accordance with laws applicable to the National Park System.
- Allows the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements to provide or facilitate interpretative and educational services within the NHP, providing for reasonable access to any non-federal land included in the cooperative agreement where educational services are provided.
- Authorizes the Secretary to acquire land and interests in land within the NHP boundary through donation, purchase, or exchange. Stipulates that land owned by a state or political subdivision of a state may be acquired only through donation.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*; Clayton, Marlow, et al., “Feral Horse Distribution, Habitat Use Population Dynamics in Theodore Roosevelt National Park,” University of Wyoming National Park Service Research Center Annual Report, Vol. 13, 1989, <https://journals.uwyo.edu/index.php/uwnpsrc/article/view/2813/2813>.

- Requires the Secretary, in consultation with the State of New York, to complete a general management plan within three fiscal years after funds are made available to carry out the section.

H.R. 2323 (Rep. Pfluger), “Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act”

Section 3. Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment.

- Authorizes the Secretary to acquire approximately 6,100 acres of land or interests in land by donation or exchange.
- Requires the map of the boundary adjustment to be available for public inspection in the appropriate NPS offices.
- Requires the Secretary, upon the acquisition of any land, to revise the boundary of Big Bend to include the acquired land and to administer it as part of the park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Prohibits the Secretary from using eminent domain or condemnation to carry out this legislation.

H.R. 7495 (Rep. Fitzgerald), To authorize the establishment of memorials to the Wisconsin infantry officers and enlisted men who fought in the Battle of Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run, and for other purposes.

Section 1. Establishment of Wisconsin Memorials at Antietam and Manassas.

- Authorizes the Secretary to establish a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin Infantry Regiments who fought in the Battle of Antietam and the Second, Sixth, and Seventh Infantry Regiments who fought in the Second Battle of Bull Run at Antietam National Battlefield and Manassas National Battlefield Park, respectively.
- Allows the Secretary to select personnel to establish the memorials.
- Allows the Secretary to determine the size, design, and inscriptions on the memorials.
- Prohibits federal funds from being used to design, acquire, or establish the memorials and allows the Secretary to suspend the authority of any person selected to establish a memorial due to misrepresentations in fundraising.
- Requires the Secretary to submit an annual report related to fundraising efforts for the memorials.
- Requires the Secretary to assume maintenance of the memorials and allows the Secretary to accept private donations via the National Park Foundation for any maintenance activities.

H.R. 8276 (Rep. Schmidt), “Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark Act”

Section 4. Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark.

- Designates the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas, as the “Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark.”
- Authorizes the Secretary, in consultation with the State of Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas, and affected subdivisions of the state, to enter into cooperative agreements with public or

private entities to protect historic resources and provide educational and interpretive facilities and programs for the public.

- Authorizes the Secretary to provide technical and financial assistance to entities that enter into cooperative agreements.
- Clarifies that the designation does not affect private property rights or the administration of the Quindaro Townsite by Kansas City or the State of Kansas.

H.R. 9104 (Del. Holmes Norton), “Rock Creek National Park Act of 2026”

Section 2. Redesignation of Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park.

- Redesignates Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., as “Rock Creek National Park.”
- Makes conforming amendments existing law.
- Specifies that any reference in federal law, maps, regulations, documents, papers, or other federal records to Rock Creek Park shall be deemed a reference to Rock Creek National Park.

H.R. 9148 (Rep. Hill), “Scipio Jones House Assessment Act”

Section 3. Scipio A. Jones House Special Resource Study.

- Directs the Secretary to conduct a special resource study of the Scipio A. Jones House in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Requires the study to evaluate the national significance of the site and the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a National Historic Landmark, an affiliated area of the National Park System, or including it as part of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.
- Requires the Secretary to consider other alternatives for interpreting the site, consult with interested stakeholders, and identify associated cost estimates.
- Prohibits the study from considering options involving federal acquisition of land, interests in land, or other property related to the study area.
- Requires the Secretary to submit, within three years after funds are first made available for the study, the study results, conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 9999 (Rep. Pettersen), “Mountain Pine Beetle Coordination Act”

Section 2. Cooperative Agreements to Address Mountain Pine Beetle Infestations.

- Authorizes the Chief of USFS to enter into cooperative agreements with states or political subdivisions of states to support the detection, treatment, and mitigation of mountain pine beetle infestations on federal, tribal, or state lands.
- Allows cooperative agreements to cover coordinated monitoring and data sharing, joint planning and implementation of projects, increased capacity for processing beetle-killed or beetle-infested trees, or reduction of hazardous fuels.
- Authorizes the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to provide technical assistance related to mountain pine beetle detection, spread dynamics, and mitigation strategies.

S. 1051 (Sen. Lankford), “Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Establishment Act”

Section 3. Establishment of Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument.

- Establishes the Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument as a unit of the National Park System, subject to a determination from the Secretary that a sufficient quantity of land has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit and the establishment of the National Monument is published in the Federal Register.
- Sets the boundaries of the National Monument as depicted on the referenced map, which is required to be on file with NPS.
- Authorizes the Secretary to acquire land within the boundaries of the National Monument by donation, purchase from a willing seller, or exchange.
- Allows the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements to provide or facilitate interpretative and educational services, administrative support, and technical assistance related to the National Monument, including for signage.
- Specifies that nothing in the legislation affects private property rights.

Section 4. Administration.

- Requires the Secretary to manage the National Monument in accordance with laws applicable to the National Park System.
- Requires the Secretary to prepare a management plan and consult with the Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Advisory Commission within three years of funds being appropriated for such purpose.

Section 5. Establishment of Historic Greenwood District—Black Wall Street National Monument Advisory Commission.

- Establishes the Commission
- Specifies that the Commission’s duties are to advise the Secretary on matters related to the development and management of the National Monument.
- Specifies the Commission will be composed of 11 members appointed by the Secretary, including seven descendants of individuals who lived or worked in the Greenwood District in 1921, three individuals with experience in historic protection, and one individual recommended by the Mayor of Tulsa.
- Stipulates conditions for term limits, vacancies, successor members, the selection of a Chair, bylaws, meetings, quorums, and compensation.
- Exempts the Commission from the Federal Advisory Committee Act.⁵⁵
- Terminates the Commission after 10 years.

⁵⁵ 5 U.S.C. 1013(b).

S. 1377 (Sen. Hoeven), “Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses Protection Act”

Section 2. Maintenance of Horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

- Amends the statute establishing TRNP to require the Secretary to maintain a genetically diverse herd of at least 150 horses in TRNP’s South Unit.
- Requires the Secretary, within 120 days of the bill’s enactment, to develop a cost-effective horse management plan that ensures no adverse impact on natural resources located within TRNP.
- Prohibits the removal of horses within the boundaries of TRNP, except as part of a plan to maintain a genetically diverse herd, in an emergency, or to protect public health and safety.
- Requires the Secretary to annually monitor and assess the herd’s population, structure, and health and make those findings available to the public.

V. COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that implementing the “Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses Protection Act” would “cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026-2031 period.”⁵⁶

In the 118th Congress, CBO estimated that the “Big Bend National Park Boundary Adjustment Act” would result in an insignificant increase in discretionary costs.⁵⁷

CBO has not yet released a formal cost estimate for any of the remaining bills.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Trump administration testified in support of the “Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses Protection Act.”⁵⁸ The Trump administration’s position on the remaining bills is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW

H.R. 9104

S. 1377

⁵⁶ “S. 1377 Cost Estimate,” Congressional Budget Office, February 17, 2026, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2026-02/s1377.pdf>.

⁵⁷ “S. 1059 Cost Estimate,” Congressional Budget Office, November 28, 2023, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-11/s1059.pdf>.

⁵⁸ Testimony can be found here: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-02/final-testimony-dec-9-senr-np-legislative-hearing-1.pdf>.