

News!

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...and House of
Congress assembled.
The Congress finds and declares-
(u) that the spirit and direction of the Nation are
founded upon and reflected in its historic past.

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SENDS SEVERAL BILLS TO HOUSE FLOOR

On Wednesday the House Natural Resources committee approved the following public lands bills:

- **H.R.1769** adds 22,000 acres to western Washington's Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- **H.R. 4003** directs the Interior Department to study sections of the Hudson River Valley in New York for inclusion in the National Park System
- **H.R.4192** designates the Stornetta Public Lands as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as part of the National Landscape Conservation System
- **H.R.4252** designates a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, CA

H.R. 4395 revises the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station

The committee chairman, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) postponed the mark-up of **H.R.1078**, a bill to establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in New York State and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Maryland, until additional reviews are completed.

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TOURISM PROMOTION ACT PASSES THE SENATE

After taking a long and sordid path, by a vote of 78 to 18 the Senate passed H.R.1299 The Tourism Promotion Act authorizes \$10 million in startup funds in FY2010, and would match as much as \$100 million a year in corporate contributions in subsequent years for a nonprofit entity designed to promote the United States as a destination for foreign tourists. The funds in the bill would come

from a \$10 fee assessed on users of the Visa Waiver Program which allows most Europeans to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without visas.

The bill was being championed by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senator John Ensign (R-NV). Both Senators touted the bill as incredibly important for the nation and Nevada where tourism is the leading industry.

The Senate originally passed the bill as a stand-alone bill (S.1023) on September 9, 2009. However, the House attached the measure to separate legislation regarding the Capitol Police. Taking this strategy prevented opponents from raising objections on the grounds that spending bills need to originate in the House.

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BILL WOULD PREVENT ADMIN FROM CREATING NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN UTAH

Senators Bennett and Hatch and Congressman Rob Bishop plan to introduce legislation that would prevent President Obama and all future administrations from designating monuments in the state, leaving the power to Congress. The legislators said that they want to prevent a repeat of the controversial designation of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996 by the Clinton Administration. The legislation is modeled on a 1950 law that prohibited the future establishment of national monuments in Wyoming except as authorized by Congress.

Secretary Salazar told Energy and Environment Daily "We have no secret agenda" and "We want to work with hunters and anglers, local governments, the governors and the Congress as we figure out how we're going to move forward with respect to using and protecting the great outdoors of America."

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2-5, 2010 – NCSHPO annual meeting and Advocacy Day, Washington D.C.