

Public Law 103-145
103d Congress

An Act

Nov. 17, 1993
[S. 983]

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the El Camino Real Para Los Texas for potential addition to the National Trails System, and for other purposes.

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

El Camino Real
Para Los Texas
Study Act of
1993.
16 USC 1241
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "El Camino Real Para Los Texas Study Act of 1993".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds—

(1) El Camino Real Para Los Texas was the Spanish road established to connect a series of missions and posts extending from Monclova, Mexico to the mission and later Presidio Nuestra de Pilar de los Adaes which served as the Spanish capital of the province of Texas from 1722 to 1772;

(2) El Camino Real, over time, comprised an approximately 1,000-mile corridor of changing routes from Saltillo through Monclova and Guerrero, Mexico; San Antonio and Nacogdoches, Texas and then easterly to the vicinity of Los Adaes in present day Louisiana; and constituted the only major overland route from the Rio Grande to the Red River Valley during the Spanish Colonial Period;

(3) the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth century rivalries among the European colonial powers of Spain, France, and England and after their independence, Mexico and the United States, for dominion over lands fronting the Gulf of Mexico were played out along the evolving travel routes across this immense area; and, as well, the future of several American Indian nations were tied to these larger forces and events;

(4) El Camino Real and the subsequent San Antonio Road witnessed a competition that helped determine the United States southern and western boundaries; and

(5) the San Antonio Road, like El Camino Real, was a series of routes established over the same corridor but was not necessarily the same as El Camino Real; and that from the 1830's, waves of American immigrants, many using the Natchez Trace, travelled west to Texas via the San Antonio Road, as did Native Americans attempting to relocate away from the pressures of European settlement.

SEC. 3. STUDY OF TRAIL.

Section 5(c) of the National Trail System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph at the end thereof:

“(36)(A) El Camino Real Para Los Texas, the approximate series of routes from Saltillo, Monclova, and Guerrero, Mexico across Texas through San Antonio and Nacogdoches, to the vicinity of Los Adaes, Louisiana, together with the evolving routes later known as the San Antonio Road.

“(B) The study shall—

“(i) examine the changing roads within the historic corridor;

“(ii) examine the major connecting branch routes;

“(iii) determine the individual or combined suitability and feasibility of routes for potential national historic trail designation;

“(iv) consider the preservation heritage plan developed by the Texas Department of Transportation entitled ‘A Texas Legacy: The Old San Antonio Road and the Caminos Reales’, dated January, 1991; and

“(v) make recommendations concerning the suitability and feasibility of establishing an international historical park where the trail crosses the United States-Mexico border at Maverick County, Texas, and Guerrero, Mexico.

“(C) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to work in cooperation with the government of Mexico (including, but not limited to providing technical assistance) to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing an international historic trail along the El Camino Real Para Los Texas.

“(D) The study shall be undertaken in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Texas Department of Transportation.

“(E) The study shall consider alternative name designations for the trail.

“(F) The study shall be completed no later than two years after the date funds are made available for the study.”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved November 17, 1993.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 983:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-327 (Comm. on Natural Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 103-95 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):

July 21, considered and passed Senate.

Nov. 8, considered and passed House.