

Please note: This text is from the fourth edition of *Federal Historic Preservation Laws*, published in 2006 by the National Center for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. This edition contains 24 Federal laws and portions of laws that pertain to the preservation of the Nation's cultural heritage.

The citations in this book are no longer current. We have retained this online edition for its historic value, and for the plain-language context that it provides about these laws.

For up-to-date citations and links to the current text of Federal historic preservation laws, please consult our webpage about **Federal Historic Preservation Laws, Regulations, and Orders:**
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/laws.htm>.

For information about **Title 54 of the United States Code**, please visit:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/laws-intro.htm>.

National Park Service Organic Act, Section 8

(A) those areas that have the greatest potential to meet the established criteria of national significance, suitability, and feasibility;

(B) themes, sites, and resources not already adequately represented in the National Park System; and

(C) public petition and Congressional resolutions.

(3) No study of the potential of an area for inclusion in the National Park System may be initiated after the date of enactment of this subsection, except as provided by specific authorization of an Act of Congress.

(4) Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of the National Park Service to conduct preliminary resource assessments, gather data on potential study areas, provide technical and planning assistance, prepare or process nominations for administrative designations, update previous studies, or complete reconnaissance surveys of individual areas requiring a total expenditure of less than \$25,000.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to or to affect or alter the study of any river segment for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system or to apply or to affect or alter the study of any trail for potential addition to the national trails system.

16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c),
Report on areas for
potential addition

(c)(1) The Secretary shall complete the study for each area for potential inclusion in the National Park System within 3 complete fiscal years following the date on which funds are first made available for such purposes. Each study under this section shall be prepared with appropriate opportunity for public involvement, including at least one public meeting in the vicinity of the area under study, after reasonable efforts to notify potentially affected land-owners and State and local governments.

(2) In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consider whether the area under study—

(A) possesses nationally significant natural or cultural resources and represents one of the most important examples of a particular resource type in the country; and

(B) is a suitable and feasible addition to the system.

National Park Service Organic Act, Section 8

(3) Each study—

(A) shall consider the following factors with regard to the area being studied—

(i) the rarity and integrity of the resources;

(ii) the threats to those resources;

(iii) similar resources are already protected in the National Park System or in other public or private ownership;

(iv) the public use potential;

(v) the interpretive and educational potential;

(vi) costs associated with acquisition, development and operation;

(vii) the socioeconomic impacts of any designation;

(viii) the level of local and general public support;

and

(ix) whether the area is of appropriate configuration to ensure long-term resource protection and visitor use;

(B) shall consider whether direct National Park Service management or alternative protection by other public agencies or the private sector is appropriate for the area;

(C) shall identify what alternative or combination of alternatives would in the professional judgment of the Director of the National Park Service be most effective and efficient in protecting significant resources and providing for public enjoyment; and

(D) may include any other information which the Secretary deems to be relevant.

(4) Each study shall be completed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.].

(5) The letter transmitting each completed study to Congress shall contain a recommendation regarding the Secretary's preferred management option for the area.

National Park Service Organic Act, Section 8

16 U.S.C. 1a-5(d),
New area study office

(d) The Secretary shall designate a single office to be assigned to prepare all new area studies and to implement other functions of this section.

16 U.S.C. 1a-5(e),
List of areas

(e) At the beginning of each calendar year, along with the annual budget submission, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a list of areas which have been previously studied which contain primarily historical resources, and a list of areas which have been previously studied which contain primarily natural resources, in numerical order of priority for addition to the National Park System. In developing the lists, the Secretary should consider threats to resource values, cost escalation factors, and other factors listed in subsection (c) of this section. The Secretary should only include on the lists areas for which the supporting data is current and accurate.

(16.U.S.C. 1a-5(f), Authorization of appropriations, omitted)