

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2345

To establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2025

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JACK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ocmulgee Mounds Na-
5 tional Park and Preserve Establishment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term “Advisory
2 Council” means the Ocmulgee Mounds National
3 Park and Preserve Advisory Council established
4 under section 5(a).

5 (2) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
6 titled “Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Pre-
7 serve Proposed Boundary”, numbered 363/193026,
8 and dated September 2024.

9 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
12 of Georgia.

13 (5) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
14 Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

15 **SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION OF OCMULGEE MOUNDS NA-**
16 **TIONAL PARK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF**
17 **OCMULGEE MOUNDS NATIONAL PRESERVE.**

18 (a) REDESIGNATION OF OCMULGEE MOUNDS NA-
19 TIONAL PARK; LAND ACQUISITION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Ocmulgee Mounds Na-
21 tional Historical Park designated by section
22 2102(b)(1)(A) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conserva-
23 tion, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C.
24 410yyy–3(b)(1)(A)) shall be known and designated
25 as the “Ocmulgee Mounds National Park”.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the “Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park” shall be considered to be a reference to the “Ocmulgee Mounds National Park”.

(3) LAND ACQUISITION FOR OCMULGEE MOUNDS NATIONAL PARK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire land or any interest in land within the area depicted as “National Park Area” on the Map for inclusion in the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Any land or interest in land acquired under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) incorporated into the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park; and

(ii) administered by the Secretary in accordance with section 4.

(C) PROHIBITION ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.—Nothing in this paragraph authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire land or an interest in land.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OCMULGEE MOUNDS NA-
2 TIONAL PRESERVE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date on
4 which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Reg-
5 ister a notice that the Secretary has determined that
6 sufficient land within the area depicted as “National
7 Preserve Area” on the Map has been acquired under
8 paragraph (2) to constitute a manageable unit, there
9 is established the Ocmulgee Mounds National Pre-
10 serve in the State as a unit of the National Park
11 System.

12 (2) LAND ACQUISITION FOR OCMULGEE
13 MOUNDS NATIONAL PRESERVE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ac-
15 quire land or any interest in land within the
16 area depicted as “National Preserve Area” on
17 the Map for inclusion in the Ocmulgee Mounds
18 National Preserve by purchase from a willing
19 seller, donation, or exchange.

20 (B) ADMINISTRATION.—Any land or inter-
21 est in land acquired under subparagraph (A)
22 shall be—

23 (i) incorporated into the Ocmulgee
24 Mounds National Preserve; and

1 (ii) administered by the Secretary in
2 accordance with section 4.

3 (C) PROHIBITION ON USE OF EMINENT
4 DOMAIN.—Nothing in this paragraph authorizes
5 the use of eminent domain to acquire land or
6 an interest in land.

7 (3) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the
8 Ocmulgee Mounds National Preserve shall reflect
9 the land and interests in land acquired for the
10 Ocmulgee Mounds National Preserve under para-
11 graph (2)(A).

12 (c) MAP.—

13 (1) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary may make
14 technical corrections to the Map.

15 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The Map shall be on file
16 and available for public inspection in the appropriate
17 offices of the National Park Service.

18 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF OCMULGEE MOUNDS NA-**
19 **TIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Ocmulgee Mounds National
21 Park and the Ocmulgee Mounds National Preserve shall—

22 (1) be administered as a single unit of the Na-
23 tional Park System in accordance with—

24 (A) this section;

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States Code; and

(C) any management plan developed under subsection (b); and

(2) collectively be known and designated as the “Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve”.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall develop a general management plan for the preservation and use of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) CULTURAL RESOURCES AND LANDSCAPES.—The general management plan developed under paragraph (1) shall provide for—

(A) the interpretation and preservation of cultural resources of the Ocmulgee Mounds Na-

1 tional Park and Preserve, including burial
2 grounds and other sites that are sacred to the
3 Tribe; and

4 (B) an inventory of important cultural
5 landscapes, including flora, that should be pre-
6 served, managed, developed, and maintained be-
7 cause of the cultural, natural, and public use
8 significance of the cultural landscapes, includ-
9 ing to the Tribe.

10 (c) HUNTING AND FISHING.—

11 (1) HUNTING.—The Secretary shall allow hunt-
12 ing on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
13 within the boundaries of the Ocmulgee Mounds Na-
14 tional Preserve in accordance with applicable Fed-
15 eral and State laws.

16 (2) FISHING.—The Secretary shall allow fishing
17 on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
18 within the boundaries of the Ocmulgee Mounds Na-
19 tional Park and Preserve in accordance with applica-
20 ble Federal and State laws.

21 (3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may designate
22 zones in which, and establish periods during which,
23 no hunting, fishing, or both, shall be allowed for rea-
24 sons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife
25 management, or emergencies.

1 (4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall en-
2 sure any regulations prescribing such restrictions
3 under this subsection shall be put into effect only
4 after consultation with the State.

5 (5) PRIVATE LAND.—Nothing in this subsection
6 prohibits hunting, fishing, or trapping on private
7 land in accordance with applicable State and Federal
8 laws.

9 (6) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—Nothing in this
10 Act is intended to affect the jurisdiction or respon-
11 sibilities of the State with respect to fish and wild-
12 life.

13 (d) HIRING PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall es-
14 tablish policies to provide a preference for hiring members
15 of the Tribe for positions at the Ocmulgee Mounds Na-
16 tional Park and Preserve, consistent with the Indian pref-
17 erence policy established by the Secretary of the Interior
18 under section 12 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly
19 known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (48 Stat. 986,
20 chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5116).

21 (e) EFFECT ON ADMINISTRATION OF BOND SWAMP
22 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (2), nothing in this Act affects the continued
25 administration of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife

1 Refuge by the Director of the United States Fish
2 and Wildlife Service as a unit of the National Wild-
3 life Refuge System.

4 (2) CULTURAL INTERPRETATION ACTIVITIES.—

5 The Director of the National Park Service shall con-
6 sult with the Tribe to provide cultural programs and
7 related activities with respect to the Bond Swamp
8 National Wildlife Refuge with the consent of the Di-
9 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
10 ice.

11 (f) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—Nothing in this Act
12 prevents continued consultation with federally recognized
13 Indian Tribes pursuant to Executive Order 13175 (25
14 U.S.C. 5301 note; relating to consultation and coordina-
15 tion with Indian Tribal governments).

16 (g) MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act
17 precludes—

18 (1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over
19 the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve;

20 (2) the designation of new units of special use
21 airspace over the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park
22 and Preserve; or

23 (3) the use or establishment of military flight
24 training routes over the Ocmulgee Mounds National
25 Park and Preserve.

1 (h) SACRED AND CULTURAL SITES.—The Secretary
2 shall ensure the protection of sacred sites and cultural
3 sites within the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Pre-
4 serve and provide access to the sites by members of Indian
5 Tribes who have ancestral connections to the Ocmulgee
6 River Corridor, in accordance with Public Law 95–341
7 (commonly known as the “American Indian Religious
8 Freedom Act”) (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.) and Executive
9 Order 13007 (42 U.S.C. 1996 note; relating to Indian sa-
10 cred sites).

11 **SEC. 5. ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
13 an advisory council, to be known as the “Ocmulgee
14 Mounds National Park and Preserve Advisory Council”.

15 (b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—

16 (1) advise the Secretary with respect to the de-
17 velopment and implementation of the management
18 plan for the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and
19 Preserve; and

20 (2) not later than 3 years after the date of en-
21 actment of this Act, submit to the Secretary rec-
22 ommendations regarding how the Secretary would
23 consider and accommodate Tribal interests in the
24 management of the Ocmulgee Mounds National
25 Park and Preserve, including recommendations re-

1 garding how the Secretary and the Tribe may col-
2 laborate with respect to land management, species
3 management, and the interpretation of cultural re-
4 sources and resources of the Tribe at the Ocmulgee
5 Mounds National Park and Preserve.

6 (c) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Council shall consist of
7 7 members, to be appointed by the Secretary, as follows:

8 (1) 1 member, who shall be a representative of
9 the applicable National Park Service office.

10 (2) 1 member, who shall be a representative of
11 the applicable United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
12 ice office.

13 (3) 3 members, who shall be representatives of
14 the Tribe.

15 (4) 1 member, who shall be a representative of
16 the State Department of Natural Resources.

17 (5) 1 member, who shall be appointed after con-
18 sidering recommendations from the Middle Georgia
19 Regional Commission.

20 (d) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Advisory Council shall
21 be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code
22 (commonly referred to as the “Federal Advisory Com-
23 mittee Act”) (other than section 1013 of that title), and
24 other applicable laws.

1 (e) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council
2 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
3 ment.

4 (f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Ad-
5 visory Council (including not fewer than 1 member who
6 is a designated representative of the Tribe) shall con-
7 stitute a quorum.

8 (g) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—The Advisory
9 Council shall meet 2 times per year, or more often as the
10 Chairperson of the Advisory Council determines to be ap-
11 propriate.

12 (h) CHAIRPERSON.—The Advisory Council shall—

13 (1) elect a chairperson of the Advisory Council
14 from among the members of the Advisory Council;
15 and

16 (2) establish any rules and procedures for the
17 Advisory Council that the Advisory Council deter-
18 mines to be appropriate.

19 (i) NO COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory
20 Council shall serve without compensation.

21 **SEC. 6. LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST.**

22 All right, title, and interest of the United States in
23 and to the approximately 126 acres of land owned in fee
24 by the Tribe are hereby taken into trust for the benefit
25 of the Tribe. Such land—

1 (1) is part of Indian country (as defined in sec-
2 tion 1151 of title 18, United States Code) of the
3 Tribe; and

4 (2) shall be administered in accordance with the
5 laws and regulations generally applicable to property
6 held in trust by the United States for the benefit of
7 an Indian Tribe.

8 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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