

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide for certain improvements to the Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for certain improvements to the Denali National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska, 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 “Denali National Park
5 Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. KANTISHNA HILLS MICROHYDRO PROJECT; LAND**
7 **EXCHANGE.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) APPURTENANCE.—The term “appur-

10 tenance” includes—

- 1 (A) transmission lines;
- 2 (B) distribution lines;
- 3 (C) signs;
- 4 (D) buried communication lines;
- 5 (E) necessary access routes for microhydro
- 6 project construction, operation, and mainte-
- 7 nance; and
- 8 (F) electric cables.

9 (2) KANTISHNA HILLS AREA.—The term
10 “Kantishna Hills area” means the area of the Park
11 located within 2 miles of Moose Creek, as depicted
12 on the map.

13 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
14 titled “Kantishna Hills Micro-Hydro Area”, num-
15 bered 184/80,276, and dated August 27, 2010.

16 (4) MICROHYDRO PROJECT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “microhydro
18 project” means a hydroelectric power gener-
19 ating facility with a maximum power generation
20 capability of 100 kilowatts.

21 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “microhydro
22 project” includes—

- 23 (i) intake pipelines, including the in-
- 24 take pipeline located on Eureka Creek, ap-

1 proximately ½ mile upstream from the
2 Park Road, as depicted on the map;

3 (ii) each system appurtenance of the
4 microhydro projects; and

5 (iii) any distribution or transmission
6 lines required to serve the Kantishna Hills
7 area.

8 (5) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Denali
9 National Park and Preserve.

10 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of the Interior.

12 (b) PERMITS FOR MICROHYDRO PROJECTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue
14 permits for microhydro projects in the Kantishna
15 Hills area.

16 (2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Each permit
17 under paragraph (1) shall be—

18 (A) issued in accordance with such terms
19 and conditions as are generally applicable to
20 rights-of-way within units of the National Park
21 System; and

22 (B) subject to such other terms and condi-
23 tions as the Secretary determines to be nec-
24 essary.

1 (3) COMPLETION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANAL-
2 YSIS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on
3 which an applicant submits an application for the
4 issuance of a permit under this subsection, the Sec-
5 retary shall complete any analysis required by the
6 National Environment Policy Act of 1969 (42
7 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) of any proposed or existing
8 microhydro projects located in the Kantishna Hills
9 area.

10 (c) LAND EXCHANGE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of consoli-
12 dating ownership of Park and Doyon Tourism, Inc.
13 lands, including those lands affected solely by the
14 Doyon Tourism microhydro project, and subject to
15 paragraph (4), the Secretary may exchange Park
16 land near or adjacent to land owned by Doyon Tour-
17 ism, Inc., located at the mouth of Eureka Creek in
18 sec. 13, T.16 S., R. 18 W., Fairbanks Meridian, for
19 approximately 18 acres of land owned by Doyon
20 Tourism, Inc., within the Galena patented mining
21 claim.

22 (2) MAP AVAILABILITY.—The map shall be on
23 file and available for public inspection in the appro-
24 priate offices of the National Park Service.

1 (3) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to com-
2 plete the exchange under this subsection by not later
3 than February 1, 2015.

4 (4) APPLICABLE LAWS; TERMS AND CONDI-
5 TIONS.—The exchange under this subsection shall be
6 subject to—

7 (A) the laws (including regulations) and
8 policies applicable to exchanges of land adminis-
9 tered by the National Park Service, including
10 the laws and policies concerning land apprais-
11 als, equalization of values, and environmental
12 compliance; and

13 (B) such terms and conditions as the Sec-
14 retary determines to be necessary.

15 (5) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—If the tracts
16 proposed for exchange under this subsection are de-
17 termined not to be equal in value, an equalization of
18 values may be achieved by adjusting the quantity of
19 acres described in paragraph (1).

20 (6) ADMINISTRATION.—The land acquired by
21 the Secretary pursuant to the exchange under this
22 subsection shall be administered as part of the Park.

23 **SEC. 3. DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE NATURAL**
24 **GAS PIPELINE.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPURTENANCE.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “appur-

3 tenance” includes cathodic protection or test

4 stations, valves, signage, and buried commu-

5 nication and electric cables relating to the oper-

6 ation of high-pressure natural gas transmission.

7 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “appur-

8 tenance” does not include compressor stations.

9 (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Denali

10 National Park and Preserve in the State of Alaska.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means

12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (b) PERMIT.—The Secretary may issue right-of-way

14 permits for—

15 (1) a high-pressure natural gas transmission

16 pipeline (including appurtenances) in nonwilderness

17 areas within the boundary of Denali National Park

18 within, along, or near the approximately 7-mile seg-

19 ment of the George Parks Highway that runs

20 through the Park; and

21 (2) any distribution and transmission pipelines

22 and appurtenances that the Secretary determines to

23 be necessary to provide natural gas supply to the

24 Park.

1 (c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A permit authorized
2 under subsection (b)—

3 (1) may be issued only—

4 (A) if the permit is consistent with the
5 laws (including regulations) generally applicable
6 to utility rights-of-way within units of the Na-
7 tional Park System;

8 (B) in accordance with section 1106(a) of
9 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conserva-
10 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 3166(a)); and

11 (C) if, following an appropriate analysis
12 prepared in compliance with the National Envi-
13 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
14 et seq.), the route of the right-of-way is the
15 route through the Park with the least adverse
16 environmental effects for the Park; and

17 (2) shall be subject to such terms and condi-
18 tions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

19 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF THE WALTER HARPER**
20 **TALKEETNA RANGER STATION.**

21 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Talkeetna Ranger Station
22 located on B Street in Talkeetna, Alaska, approximately
23 100 miles south of the entrance to Denali National Park,
24 shall be known and designated as the “Walter Harper
25 Talkeetna Ranger Station”.

1 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
2 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
3 States to the Talkeetna Ranger Station referred to in sub-
4 section (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Wal-
5 ter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station”.