

Public Law 103-144
103d Congress

An Act

Nov. 17, 1993
[S. 836]

To amend the National Trails System Act to provide for a study of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (The Royal Road of the Interior Lands), and for other purposes.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Study Act of 1993.
16 USC 1241 note.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Study Act of 1993".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the primary route for nearly 300 years that was used by clergy, colonists, soldiers, Indians, officials, and trade caravans between Mexico and New Mexico;

(2) from the Spanish colonial period (1598-1821), through the Mexican national period (1821-1848), and through part of the United States Territorial period (1840-1912), El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro extended 1,800 miles from Mexico City through Chihuahua City, El Paso del Norte, and on to Santa Fe in northern New Mexico;

(3) the road was the first to be developed by Europeans in what is now the United States and for a time was one of the longest roads in North America; and

(4) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, until the arrival of the railroad in the 1880's, witnessed and stimulated great multi-cultural exchanges and the evolution of nations, peoples, and cultures.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF TRAIL.

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

"(36)(A) El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the approximately 1,800 mile route extending from Mexico City, Mexico, across the international border at El Paso, Texas, to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"(B) The study shall—

"(i) examine changing routes within the general corridor;

"(ii) examine major connecting branch routes; and

"(iii) give due consideration to alternative name designations.

“(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 route along the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.”

Approved November 17, 1993.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 836:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-326 (Comm. on Natural Resources).
SENATE REPORTS: No. 103-93 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):
July 21, considered and passed Senate.
Nov. 8, considered and passed House.