



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 13 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman:

We are hereby transmitting the enclosed *Battle of Camden and Historic Camden Special Resource Study* pursuant to § 7211 of Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The legislation directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site of the Battle of Camden, fought in South Carolina on August 16, 1780, and the site of Historic Camden as a unit or units of the national park system. The study was undertaken by the National Park Service (NPS).

Section 100507 of Title 54, United States Code, establishes the criteria to be considered in the study of an area for potential inclusion in the national park system. A study area must possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources and represent one of the most important examples of a particular resource type in the country, must be suitable and feasible for addition to the system, and must be appropriate for direct NPS management. If all of the criteria are not met, the outcome is a negative finding.

The study area in Kershaw County, South Carolina, consists of the 1,300-acre site of the Battle of Camden, also known as Camden Battlefield, and the 107-acre site of Historic Camden, an NPS affiliated area. Camden Battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961, and both sites were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. These notable sites help interpret the history and significance of the American Revolution in the South and contribute to regional efforts to explain the role of North Carolina and South Carolina in bringing about the American victory in the war.

The NPS study team evaluated the national significance of the study sites against applicable National Historic Landmark (NHL) criteria. Camden Battlefield was found to be nationally significant through the NHL designation process. Historic Camden was determined to be nationally significant through its designation as an NPS affiliated area.

To be considered a suitable addition to the national park system, an area must represent a natural or cultural resource type that is not adequately represented in the national park system or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by another entity. Other



considerations include the rarity of the resource and its interpretive and educational potential. The study team concluded that the sites are suitable for inclusion in the national park system.

To be considered a feasible addition to the national park system, an area must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment, and must be capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost. The costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation of these sites present numerous challenges. Based on a number of factors, including comparisons to budget and staffing for other thematically related NPS sites in North Carolina and South Carolina, it was determined that the addition of these sites to the national park system is not feasible.

As a result of the negative feasibility findings, the need for direct NPS management criterion was not evaluated in detail. No management alternatives were prepared, but Camden Battlefield is considered eligible for designation as an affiliated area associated with Historic Camden. Both sites are also part of the potential Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area and could play important roles in enabling visitors to understand the scope and consequences of the Revolution in the South as the nation prepares to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution.

In light of stakeholder interest in the future of the sites, the NPS plans to make this study report available to the public one week after its transmittal to your office. This will be done through posting an electronic version of the report on the NPS Park Planning website.

An identical letter is being sent to the Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate; the Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives; and the Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Michael Bean  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
The Honorable Tim Scott





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OCT 13 2015

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Ranking Member,  
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Michael Bean  
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Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure

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OCT 13 2015

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Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

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