

## Refer to Newsletter

This newsletter introduces the special resource study and includes:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Study Area
- Study Process
- How to Participate

## About the National Park Service



The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior and manages more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system. Administration of park units occurs in many ways, from traditional units that are federally managed to non-traditional units that rely on partnerships and may have little, if any, federal landownership.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Special Resource Study?

A special resource study evaluates the eligibility of an area to be designated as a national park or other special designation. The National Park Service collects information about the quality of resources in the study area. If the resources meet the eligibility criteria, the National Park Service evaluates the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management and analyzes the feasibility and appropriateness of different management options. The NPS director will submit the final study to Congress. Regardless of the outcome of the study, new units of the national park system can only be established by an Act of Congress or by presidential proclamation.

### How will the George W. Bush Childhood Home be evaluated?

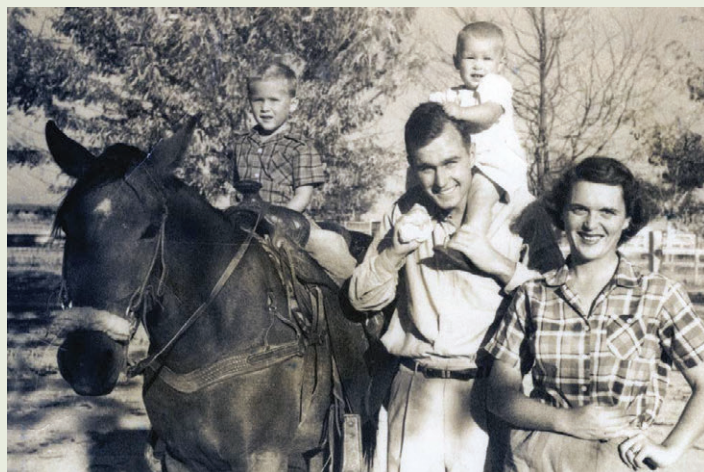
The 1998 National Parks Omnibus Management Act (54 *United States Code* 100507) established the process for identifying and authorizing studies of new national park system units. Under the law, a study area must meet all four of the following criteria to be recommended as an addition to the national park system:

- Contain nationally significant natural and/or cultural resources.
- Represent a natural or cultural resource that is not already adequately represented in the national park system or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by another land-managing entity.
- Must be (1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and visitor enjoyment, and (2) capable of efficient administration by the National Park Service at a reasonable cost; important feasibility factors include landownership, acquisition costs, life cycle maintenance costs, access, threats to the resource, and staff or development requirements.
- Require direct NPS management that is clearly superior to other management approaches.

The NPS study team will evaluate the George W. Bush Childhood Home according to the above criteria for national significance, suitability, feasibility, and need for NPS management. If at any point throughout the study process NPS staff determine the site does not meet one of the criteria, the study will terminate and a document with a negative finding will be prepared for Congress.

### What are some of the possible outcomes of the study?

Over the last 15 years, approximately one in four completed special resource studies have resulted in a positive finding whereby the study area meets all criteria required for inclusion in the national park system. Many studies conclude that the study resources do not meet all required criteria or find that existing management, technical or financial assistance, or local, state or private initiatives are preferable to the establishment of a new national park system unit. In the event that the special resource study results in a positive finding, Congress will decide whether to take action. Regardless of the outcome of the study, new units of the national park system can only be established by an Act of Congress or by presidential proclamation.



George H. W. and Barbara Bush with their children, George W. and Robin, have their photographs taken at the rodeo grounds in Midland, Texas, October 1950

Credit: George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum (photo by Vogue Pictures)