



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 12, 2010

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary

FROM: *for* Director *Paul N. West*

CC: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

SUBJECT: River Raisin National Battlefield Park

I. INTRODUCTION

On March 30, 2009, President Obama approved H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, as Public Law 111-11. Section 7003 of the Act authorized establishment of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe County and Wayne County, Michigan. The Act includes specific provisions relating to establishment of this unit of the National Park System:

- a. If Monroe County or Wayne County, or other willing landowners in either county offer to donate to the United States lands relating to the Battles of River Raisin on January 18 - 22, 1813, or the aftermath of the battles, the Secretary of the Interior shall accept the donated land.
- b. On the acquisition of land that is of sufficient acreage to permit efficient administration, the Secretary shall designate the acquired land as a unit of the National Park System to be known as the River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

II. BACKGROUND

The County of Monroe, the City of Monroe, and the Monroe County Port Authority will donate land including one improvement and the personal property therein to the Federal Government that the National Park Service (NPS) deems sufficient for the efficient management of the authorized National Battlefield Park. Transfer of the deeds for the property will take place on October 12, 2010.

Rep. John Dingell (D-MI-15) sponsored this legislation and has scheduled a dedication ceremony of the park for October 22, 2010, to which you and Vice President Biden have been invited. The event was scheduled prior to the staff recognizing that an affirmative action was needed on your part to formally establish the park. Action to establish the park is requested prior to the dedication ceremony.

III. POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES

Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and 15th District Representative John Dingell strongly support the establishment of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. The National Park Service found the battle to be of national significance in the course of completing a Special Resource Study (SRS); however, the legislation providing for the establishment of the park was passed and signed into law prior to NPS completing the SRS, rendering it moot.

IV. DECISION OPTIONS

Section 7003 of Public Law 111-11 provides no alternative to establishment of the area as a unit of the National Park System once sufficient acreage for efficient management of the site has been acquired. However, the Secretary does have the discretion of determining if the National Park Service is correct in its judgment that sufficient lands have been identified for efficient management of the site.

V. RECOMMENDATION

The lands donated comprise the core of the actual battlefield and include a structure that serves as the River Raisin Battlefield visitor center as well as exhibits that will be on loan to the National Park Service. As such, it is my determination that sufficient lands have been acquired for efficient management of the site and I recommend that you formally establish the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in Monroe County and Wayne County, Michigan as a unit of the National Park System. I recommend this action be taken prior to the dedication ceremony scheduled for October 22, 2010.

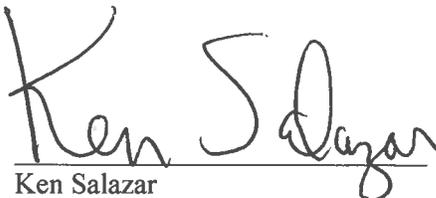
A proposed Federal Register Notice announcing this decision is attached to this document.

VI. SECRETARY'S DECISION

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

COMMENTS:


Ken Salazar