

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3200

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for the establishment of a digital National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2023

Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for the establishment of a digital National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Gateway Community
3 and Recreation Enhancement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND**
7 **WATERS.**—The term “Federal recreational lands and
8 waters” has the meaning given the term in section
9 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement
10 Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

11 (2) **GATEWAY COMMUNITY.**—The term “gate-
12 way community” means a community that serves as
13 an entry point or is adjacent to a recreation destina-
14 tion on Federal recreational lands and waters or
15 non-Federal land at which there is consistently high,
16 in the determination of the Secretaries, seasonal or
17 year-round visitation.

18 (3) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe”
19 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
20 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
21 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

22 (4) **SECRETARIES.**—The term “Secretaries”
23 means—

24 (A) the Secretary; and

25 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
26 through the Chief of the Forest Service.

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 **SEC. 3. GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.**

4 (a) ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND NEEDS IN GATE-
5 WAY COMMUNITIES.—Using existing funds available to
6 the Secretaries, the Secretaries—

7 (1) shall collaborate with State and local gov-
8 ernments, Indian Tribes, housing authorities, appli-
9 cable trade associations, nonprofit organizations,
10 and other relevant stakeholders to identify needs and
11 economic impacts in gateway communities, includ-
12 ing—

13 (A) housing shortages;

14 (B) demands on existing municipal infra-
15 structure;

16 (C) accommodation and management of
17 sustainable visitation; and

18 (D) the expansion and diversification of
19 visitor experiences by bolstering the visitation
20 at—

21 (i) underutilized locations on nearby
22 Federal recreational lands and waters that
23 are suitable for developing, expanding, or
24 enhancing recreation use, as identified by
25 the Secretaries; or

1 (ii) lesser-known recreation sites, as
2 identified under section 5(b)(1)(B), on
3 nearby land managed by a State agency or
4 a local agency;

5 (2) may address a need identified under para-
6 graph (1) by—

7 (A) providing financial or technical assist-
8 ance to a gateway community under an existing
9 program;

10 (B) entering into a lease, right-of-way, or
11 easement, in accordance with applicable laws; or

12 (C) issuing an entity referred to in para-
13 graph (1) a special use permit (other than a
14 special recreation permit), in accordance with
15 applicable laws.

16 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
17 BUSINESSES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
19 (acting through the Administrator of the Rural
20 Business-Cooperative Service), in coordination with
21 the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall
22 provide to businesses in gateway communities the
23 assistance described in paragraph (2) to establish,
24 operate, or expand infrastructure to accommodate

1 and manage sustainable visitation, including hotels,
2 campgrounds, and restaurants.

3 (2) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture
4 may provide assistance under paragraph (1) through
5 the use of existing, or the establishment of new, en-
6 trepreneur and vocational training programs, tech-
7 nical assistance programs, low-interest business loan
8 programs, and loan guarantee programs.

9 (c) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out this section, the
10 Secretaries may, in accordance with applicable laws, enter
11 into a public-private partnership, cooperative agreement,
12 memorandum of understanding, or similar agreement with
13 a gateway community or a business in a gateway commu-
14 nity.

15 **SEC. 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS BEFORE REDUCTION OF ACCESS**
16 **TO NATIONAL PARKS.**

17 Before taking any action that will reduce access to
18 a National Park (not including actions to reduce access
19 due to incident specific events that present a risk to health
20 and safety such as a weather event or vehicle accident),
21 the Superintendent of the affected National Park shall—

- 22 (1) conduct public meetings;
23 (2) consult local stakeholders; and

1 (3) provide an opportunity for submission of
2 public comments for a period of not less than 60
3 days.

4 **SEC. 5. IMPROVED RECREATION VISITATION DATA.**

5 (a) CONSISTENT VISITATION DATA.—

6 (1) ANNUAL VISITATION DATA.—The Secre-
7 taries shall establish a single visitation data report-
8 ing system to report accurate annual visitation data,
9 in a consistent manner, for—

10 (A) each unit of Federal recreational lands
11 and waters; and

12 (B) land held in trust for an Indian Tribe,
13 on request of the Indian Tribe.

14 (2) CATEGORIES OF USE.—Within the visitation
15 data reporting system established under paragraph
16 (1), the Secretaries shall—

17 (A) establish multiple categories of dif-
18 ferent recreation activities that are reported
19 consistently across agencies; and

20 (B) provide an estimate of the number of
21 visitors for each applicable category established
22 under subparagraph (A) for each unit of Fed-
23 eral recreational lands and waters.

24 (b) REAL-TIME DATA PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, using existing
3 funds available to the Secretaries, the Secretaries
4 shall carry out a pilot program, to be known as the
5 “Real-time Data Pilot Program” (referred to in this
6 section as the “Pilot Program”), to make available
7 to the public, for each unit of Federal recreational
8 lands and waters selected for participation in the
9 Pilot Program under paragraph (2)—

10 (A) real-time or predictive data on visita-
11 tion (including data and resources publicly
12 available from existing nongovernmental plat-
13 form) at—

14 (i) the unit of Federal recreational
15 lands and waters;

16 (ii) to the extent practicable, areas
17 within the unit of Federal recreational
18 lands and waters; and

19 (iii) to the extent practicable, recre-
20 ation sites managed by any other Federal
21 agency, a State agency, or a local agency
22 that are located near the unit of Federal
23 recreational lands and waters; and

24 (B) through multiple media platforms, in-
25 formation about lesser-known recreation sites

1 located near the unit of Federal recreational
2 lands and waters (including recreation sites
3 managed by any other Federal agency, a State
4 agency, or a local agency), in an effort to en-
5 courage visitation among recreational sites.

6 (2) LOCATIONS.—

7 (A) INITIAL NUMBER OF UNITS.—On es-
8 tablishment of the Pilot Program, the Secre-
9 taries shall select for participation in the Pilot
10 Program—

11 (i) 15 units of Federal recreational
12 lands and waters managed by the Sec-
13 retary; and

14 (ii) 5 units of Federal recreational
15 lands and waters managed by the Sec-
16 retary of Agriculture (acting through the
17 Chief of the Forest Service).

18 (B) EXPANSION.—Not later than 5 years
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retaries shall expand the Pilot Program by se-
21 lecting 80 additional units of Federal rec-
22 reational lands and waters managed by the Sec-
23 retaries for participation in the Pilot Program,
24 not fewer than 50 of which shall be units man-
25 aged by the Secretary.

1 (C) FEEDBACK; SUPPORT OF GATEWAY
2 COMMUNITIES.—The Secretaries shall—

3 (i) solicit feedback regarding partici-
4 pation in the Pilot Program from commu-
5 nities adjacent to units of Federal rec-
6 reational lands and waters and the public;
7 and

8 (ii) in carrying out subparagraphs (A)
9 and (B), select a unit of Federal recreation
10 lands and waters to participate in the Pilot
11 Program only if the community adjacent to
12 the unit of Federal recreational lands and
13 waters is supportive of the participation of
14 the unit of Federal recreational lands and
15 waters in the Pilot Program.

16 (3) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The
17 Secretaries may disseminate the information de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1) directly or through an enti-
19 ty or organization referred to in subsection (c).

20 (c) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-
21 VIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the
22 Secretary concerned may—

23 (1) coordinate and partner with—

24 (A) communities adjacent to units of Fed-
25 eral recreational lands and waters;

1 (B) State and local outdoor recreation and
2 tourism offices;

3 (C) local governments;

4 (D) Indian Tribes;

5 (E) trade associations;

6 (F) local outdoor recreation marketing or-
7 ganizations;

8 (G) permitted facilitated recreation pro-
9 viders; or

10 (H) other relevant stakeholders; and

11 (2) coordinate or enter into agreements, as ap-
12 propriate, with private sector and nonprofit part-
13 ners, including—

14 (A) technology companies;

15 (B) geospatial data companies;

16 (C) experts in data science, analytics, and
17 operations research; or

18 (D) data companies.

19 (d) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Secretaries may use
20 existing programs or products of the Secretaries to carry
21 out this section.

22 (e) PRIVACY CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section pro-
23 vides authority to the Secretaries—

1 (1) to monitor or record the movements of a
2 visitor to a unit of Federal recreational lands and
3 waters;

4 (2) to restrict, interfere with, or monitor a pri-
5 vate communication of a visitor to a unit of Federal
6 recreational lands and waters; or

7 (3) to collect—

8 (A) information from owners of land adja-
9 cent to a unit of Federal recreational lands and
10 waters; or

11 (B) information on non-Federal land.

12 (f) REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2024, and
13 annually thereafter, the Secretaries shall publish on a
14 website of the Secretaries a report that describes the an-
15 nual visitation of each unit of Federal recreational lands
16 and waters, including, to the maximum extent practicable,
17 visitation categorized by recreational activity.

18 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL VERSION OF AMER-**
19 **ICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS**
20 **AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS**
21 **PASSES.**

22 Section 805(a) of the Federal Lands Recreation En-
23 hancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)) is amended by adding
24 at the end the following:

1 “(10) DIGITAL RECREATION PASSES.—By not
2 later than January 1, 2024, the Secretaries shall—

3 “(A) establish a digital version of the Na-
4 tional Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
5 Pass that is able to be stored on a mobile de-
6 vice; and

7 “(B) on the completion of a sale of a Na-
8 tional Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
9 Pass carried out under paragraph (6)(A), make
10 available to the passholder the digital version of
11 the National Parks and Federal Recreational
12 Lands Pass established under subparagraph
13 (A).”.

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