

Calendar No. 306118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 2018****[Report No. 118–154]**

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

JANUARY 9, 2024

Reported by Mr. MANCHIN, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Connect Our Parks
 5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE AND CEL-**
 7 **LULAR SERVICE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN-**
 8 **NING IN NATIONAL PARKS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 11 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 12 gress” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
 14 Resources of the Senate;

15 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 16 and Transportation of the Senate;

17 (C) the Committee on Natural Resources
 18 of the House of Representatives; and

19 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
 20 merce of the House of Representatives.

21 (2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—

22 The term “broadband internet access service” has
 23 the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title
 24 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor reg-
 25 ulation).

1 ~~(3)~~ CELLULAR SERVICE.—The term “cellular
2 service” has the meaning given the term in section
3 ~~22.99~~ of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
4 successor regulation).

5 ~~(4)~~ NATIONAL PARK.—The term “National
6 Park” means a unit of the National Park System
7 that is designated as a National Park.

8 ~~(5)~~ SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the National Park Service.

11 ~~(b)~~ ASSESSMENT.—

12 ~~(1)~~ IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary shall complete an assessment of National
15 Parks to identify—

16 ~~(A)~~ 1 or more locations in each National
17 Park in which there is the greatest need for
18 broadband internet access service, based on the
19 considerations described in paragraph ~~(2)~~(A);
20 and

21 ~~(B)~~ 1 or more areas in each National Park
22 in which there is the greatest need for cellular
23 service, based on the considerations described in
24 paragraph ~~(2)~~(B).

25 ~~(2)~~ CONSIDERATIONS.—

1 (A) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERV-
2 ICE.—For purposes of identifying locations in
3 National Parks under paragraph (1)(A), the
4 Secretary shall consider, with respect to each
5 National Park, the availability of broadband
6 internet access service in—

7 (i) housing;

8 (ii) administrative facilities and re-
9 lated structures;

10 (iii) campgrounds; and

11 (iv) any other location within the Na-
12 tional Park in which broadband internet
13 access service is determined to be nec-
14 essary by the superintendent of the Na-
15 tional Park.

16 (B) CELLULAR SERVICE.—For purposes of
17 identifying areas in National Parks under para-
18 graph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, with
19 respect to each National Park, the availability
20 of cellular service in any area within the Na-
21 tional Park that would increase—

22 (i) the access of the public to emer-
23 gency services; or

24 (ii) the communications capabilities of
25 National Park Service employees.

1 (3) REPORT.—On completion of the assessment
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to
3 the appropriate committees of Congress, and make
4 available on the website of the Department of the
5 Interior, a report describing the results of the as-
6 sessment.

7 (c) PLAN.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 shall develop a plan, based on the results of the as-
11 sessment completed under subsection (b) and subject
12 to paragraph (4)—

13 (A) to install broadband internet access
14 service infrastructure in certain locations in Na-
15 tional Parks; and

16 (B) to install cellular service equipment
17 and infrastructure in certain areas of National
18 Parks.

19 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan
20 under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

21 (A) shall consult with local stakeholders
22 that the superintendent of the applicable Na-
23 tional Park determines to be necessary; and

1 ~~(B)~~ may consult with the superintendents
 2 of any of the National Parks regarding plan de-
 3 velopment methodologies.

4 ~~(3)~~ REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed
 5 under paragraph ~~(1)~~ shall—

6 ~~(A)~~ provide for—

7 ~~(i)~~ minimal viewshed impacts;

8 ~~(ii)~~ minimal disruptions to the land;

9 and

10 ~~(iii)~~ minimal disruptions to wildlife;

11 ~~(B)~~ provide for the use of public-private
 12 partnerships—

13 ~~(i)~~ to install broadband internet ac-
 14 cess service or cellular service equipment;

15 and

16 ~~(ii)~~ to provide broadband internet ac-
 17 cess service or cellular service;

18 ~~(C)~~ be technology neutral; and

19 ~~(D)~~ in the case of broadband internet ac-
 20 cess service, provide for broadband internet ac-
 21 cess service of at least—

22 ~~(i)~~ a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
 23 mission capacity; and

24 ~~(ii)~~ a 20-Mbps upstream transmission
 25 capacity.

1 (4) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph
 2 (1), a plan developed under that paragraph shall not
 3 be required to address broadband internet access
 4 service or cellular service in any National Park with
 5 respect to which the superintendent of the National
 6 Park determines that there is adequate access to
 7 broadband internet access service or cellular service,
 8 as applicable.

9 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

10 *This Act may be cited as the “Connect Our Parks Act”.*

11 **SEC. 2. BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE AND CEL-**
 12 **LULAR SERVICE ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING**
 13 **IN NATIONAL PARKS.**

14 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—*In this section:*

15 (1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—
 16 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
 17 *means—*

18 (A) *the Committee on Energy and Natural*
 19 *Resources of the Senate;*

20 (B) *the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
 21 *and Transportation of the Senate;*

22 (C) *the Committee on Natural Resources of*
 23 *the House of Representatives; and*

24 (D) *the Committee on Energy and Com-*
 25 *merce of the House of Representatives.*

1 (2) *BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.*—
2 *The term “broadband internet access service” has the*
3 *meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title 47,*
4 *Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regula-*
5 *tion).*

6 (3) *CELLULAR SERVICE.*—*The term “cellular*
7 *service” has the meaning given the term in section*
8 *22.99 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a*
9 *successor regulation).*

10 (4) *NATIONAL PARK.*—*The term “National Park”*
11 *means a unit of the National Park System.*

12 (5) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
13 *the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-*
14 *rector of the National Park Service.*

15 (b) *ASSESSMENT.*—

16 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
17 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
18 *complete an assessment of National Parks to iden-*
19 *tify—*

20 (A) *locations in National Parks in which*
21 *there is the greatest need for broadband internet*
22 *access service, based on the considerations de-*
23 *scribed in paragraph (2)(A); and*

24 (B) *areas in National Parks in which there*
25 *is the greatest need for cellular service, based on*

1 *the considerations described in paragraph*
2 *(2)(B).*

3 (2) *CONSIDERATIONS.—*

4 (A) *BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERV-*
5 *ICE.—For purposes of identifying locations in*
6 *National Parks under paragraph (1)(A), the Sec-*
7 *retary shall consider, with respect to each Na-*
8 *tional Park, the availability of broadband inter-*
9 *net access service in—*

10 (i) *housing;*

11 (ii) *administrative facilities and re-*
12 *lated structures;*

13 (iii) *lodging;*

14 (iv) *developed campgrounds; and*

15 (v) *any other location within the Na-*
16 *tional Park in which broadband internet*
17 *access service is determined to be necessary*
18 *by the superintendent of the National Park.*

19 (B) *CELLULAR SERVICE.—For purposes of*
20 *identifying areas in National Parks under para-*
21 *graph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, with*
22 *respect to each National Park, the availability of*
23 *cellular service in any developed area within the*
24 *National Park that would increase—*

1 (i) *the access of the public to emer-*
2 *gency services and traveler information*
3 *technologies; or*

4 (ii) *the communications capabilities of*
5 *National Park Service employees.*

6 (3) *REPORT.—On completion of the assessment*
7 *under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to*
8 *the appropriate committees of Congress, and make*
9 *available on the website of the Department of the In-*
10 *terior, a report describing the results of the assess-*
11 *ment.*

12 (c) *PLAN.—*

13 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after*
14 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
15 *develop a plan, based on the results of the assessment*
16 *completed under subsection (b) and subject to para-*
17 *graph (4)—*

18 (A) *to install broadband internet access*
19 *service infrastructure in certain locations in Na-*
20 *tional Parks; and*

21 (B) *to install cellular service equipment and*
22 *infrastructure in certain areas of National*
23 *Parks.*

1 (2) *CONSULTATION.*—*In developing the plan*
2 *under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult*
3 *with—*

4 (A) *affected Indian Tribes; and*

5 (B) *local stakeholders that the super-*
6 *intendent of the applicable National Park deter-*
7 *mines to be appropriate.*

8 (3) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*The plan developed under*
9 *paragraph (1) shall—*

10 (A) *provide for avoiding or minimizing im-*
11 *pacts to—*

12 (i) *National Park viewsheds;*

13 (ii) *cultural and natural resources;*

14 (iii) *the visitor experience;*

15 (iv) *other resources or values of the Na-*
16 *tional Park; and*

17 (v) *historic properties and the*
18 *viewsheds of historic properties;*

19 (B) *provide for infrastructure providing*
20 *broadband internet access service or cellular serv-*
21 *ice to be located in—*

22 (i) *previously disturbed or developed*
23 *areas; or*

24 (ii) *areas zoned for uses that would*
25 *support the infrastructure;*

1 (C) provide for the use of public-private
2 partnerships—

3 (i) to install broadband internet access
4 service or cellular service equipment; and

5 (ii) to provide broadband internet ac-
6 cess service or cellular service;

7 (D) be technology neutral; and

8 (E) in the case of broadband internet access
9 service, provide for broadband internet access
10 service of at least—

11 (i) a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
12 mission capacity; and

13 (ii) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission
14 capacity.

15 (4) *LIMITATION.*—Notwithstanding paragraph
16 (1), a plan developed under that paragraph shall not
17 be required to address broadband internet access serv-
18 ice or cellular service in any National Park with re-
19 spect to which the superintendent of the National
20 Park determines that there is adequate access to
21 broadband internet access service or cellular service,
22 as applicable.

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