

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5493

To improve the ability of local communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior and to respond to the local impacts of the heavy public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on 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 improve the ability of local communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior and to respond to the local impacts of the heavy public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies.

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 Communities
3 Cooperation Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL**
5 **LAND MANAGERS AND GATEWAY COMMU-**
6 **NITIES TO SUPPORT COMPATIBLE LAND**
7 **MANAGEMENT OF BOTH FEDERAL AND ADJA-**
8 **CENT LANDS.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Communities that are adjacent to or near
11 significant parcels of the Federal lands, such as
12 units of the National Park System, units of the Na-
13 tional Wildlife Refuge System, units of the National
14 Forest System, and lands administered by the Bu-
15 reau of Land Management, are often affected by the
16 management and public use of these Federal lands.

17 (2) These nearby communities, commonly
18 known as gateway communities, have social and eco-
19 nomic links to these Federal lands and can also af-
20 fect the activities occurring on these Federal lands.

21 (3) Gateway communities often serve as a start-
22 ing point for persons who visit these Federal lands
23 and are an ideal place for establishment of visitor
24 services, including lodging, food service, fuel, and
25 auto repairs.

1 (4) Development in these gateway communities
2 can benefit or adversely affect the management and
3 protection of these Federal lands, depending on the
4 extent to which advance planning for the local devel-
5 opment is coordinated between the communities and
6 Federal land managers.

7 (5) The management decisions of Federal land
8 managers can have unintended consequences for
9 gateway communities, when the decisions are not
10 adequately communicated to, or coordinated with,
11 the elected officials and residents of gateway com-
12 munities.

13 (6) Experts in land management planning are
14 available to Federal land managers, but persons with
15 technical planning skills are often not readily avail-
16 able to gateway communities, particularly small
17 gateway communities.

18 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the Federal Govern-
19 ment that Federal land managers should make every ef-
20 fort to support, and communicate, coordinate, and cooper-
21 ate with, gateway communities in order to—

22 (1) improve the relationship between Federal
23 land managers and elected officials and residents of
24 gateway communities;

(2) enhance the facilities and services in gateway communities that, while compatible with the management of Federal lands, are available to visitors to Federal lands; and

(3) result in better land use decisions.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND MANAGER.—The term “Federal land manager” means the superintendent of a unit of the National Park System, the manager of a national wildlife refuge, the resource area manager of a Bureau of Land Management area, or the supervisor of a unit of the National Forest System.

(2) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “gateway community” means a community that—

(A) is located adjacent to or near Federal lands administered by a Federal land manager;

(B) provides identifiable visitor services to persons using these Federal lands;

(C) has identifiable social and economic links to these Federal lands; and

(D) contains lands, the use of which could either benefit or adversely affect lands, waters, or other resources of these Federal lands.

(3) CERTIFIED GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “certified gateway community” means a gate-

1 way community that voluntarily requests the tech-
2 nical assistance of a Federal land manager on mat-
3 ters of land use coordination and planning for, and
4 the appropriate siting of development in, the gate-
5 way community.

6 (d) PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL PLANNING.—When-
7 ever a Federal land manager undertakes land manage-
8 ment planning regarding Federal lands administered by
9 the Federal land manager, the Federal land manager
10 shall—

11 (1) seek the active involvement of elected offi-
12 cials, businesses, civic organizations, and other inter-
13 ested persons in neighboring gateway communities
14 in the planning process; and

15 (2) provide these persons with a meaningful op-
16 portunity to participate in the development and im-
17 plementation of the resulting land management deci-
18 sions.

19 (e) COORDINATION OF LAND USE.—A Federal land
20 manager may enter into a cooperative agreement with the
21 local government of a certified gateway community for the
22 purpose of mutual coordination of land management and
23 development plans. At a minimum, such an agreement
24 shall provide for the involvement of persons referred to
25 in subsection (d)(1) in the Federal planning process and

1 for the Federal land manager to be involved in land man-
2 agement planning conducted by the certified gateway com-
3 munity.

4 (f) GRANTS TO ASSIST CERTIFIED GATEWAY COM-
5 MUNITIES.—Using funds appropriated or otherwise made
6 available to a Federal land manager to carry out this sec-
7 tion, the Federal land manager may make grants to a cer-
8 tified gateway community—

9 (1) to enable persons referred to in subsection
10 (d)(1) to participate in the Federal land use plan-
11 ning process;

12 (2) to enable the local government of a certified
13 gateway community to obtain professional land use
14 planning assistance;

15 (3) to address public infrastructure impacts
16 that are identified through this process as a likely
17 result of the Federal land management decisions and
18 for which sufficient funds are not otherwise avail-
19 able; and

20 (4) to address other aspects of local economic
21 development that may affect land use decisions, in-
22 cluding programs to educate visitors to the Federal
23 lands about these lands or about the gateway com-
24 munity.

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