

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 1014

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources

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## AN ACT

To require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway 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 impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, 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 “Gateway Communities  
5 Cooperation Act”.

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

11        (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

12                (1) Many communities that abut or are near  
13 Federal lands, including units of the National Park  
14 System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge Sys-  
15 tem, units of the National Forest System, and lands  
16 administered by the Bureau of Land Management,  
17 are vitally impacted by the management and public  
18 use of these Federal lands.

19                (2) Some of these communities, commonly  
20 known as gateway communities, fulfill an integral  
21 part in the mission of the Federal lands by providing  
22 necessary services, such as schools, roads, search  
23 and rescue, emergency service, medical support,  
24 logistical support, living quarters, and drinking  
25 water and sanitary systems for visitors to the Fed-

1 eral lands and employees of Federal land manage-  
2 ment agencies.

3 (3) Provision of these vital services by gateway  
4 communities is an essential ingredient for a mean-  
5 ingful and enjoyable experience by visitors to the  
6 Federal lands because Federal land management  
7 agencies are unable to provide, or are prevented  
8 from providing, these services.

9 (4) Many gateway communities serve as an  
10 entry point for persons who visit the Federal lands  
11 and are ideal for establishment of visitor services, in-  
12 cluding lodging, food service, fuel, auto repairs,  
13 emergency services, and visitor information.

14 (5) Development in some gateway communities  
15 may impact the management and protection of these  
16 Federal lands.

17 (6) The planning and management decisions of  
18 Federal land managers can have unintended con-  
19 sequences for gateway communities and the Federal  
20 lands when the decisions are not adequately commu-  
21 nicated to, or coordinated with, the elected officials  
22 and residents of gateway communities.

23 (7) Experts in land management planning are  
24 available to Federal land managers, but persons with  
25 technical planning skills are often not readily avail-

1 able to gateway communities, particularly small  
2 gateway communities.

3 (8) Gateway communities are often affected by  
4 the policies and actions of several Federal land man-  
5 agement agencies and the communities and the  
6 agencies would benefit from greater interagency co-  
7 ordination of those policies and actions.

8 (9) Persuading gateway communities to make  
9 decisions and undertake actions in their communities  
10 that would also be in the best interest of the Federal  
11 lands is most likely to occur when such decision-  
12 making and actions are built upon a foundation of  
13 cooperation and coordination.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to re-  
15 quire Federal land managers to communicate, coordinate,  
16 and cooperate with gateway communities in order to—

17 (1) improve the relationships among Federal  
18 land managers, elected officials, and residents of  
19 gateway communities;

20 (2) enhance the facilities and services in gate-  
21 way communities available to visitors to Federal  
22 lands when compatible with the management of  
23 these lands, including the availability of historical  
24 and cultural resources; and

1           (3) result in better local land use planning in  
2 gateway communities and decisions by the relevant  
3 Secretary.

4           (c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this section,  
5 the following definitions apply:

6           (1) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “gate-  
7 way community” means a county, city, town, village,  
8 or other subdivision of a State, a federally recog-  
9 nized Indian tribe, or Alaska Native village, that—

10                   (A) is incorporated or recognized in a  
11 county or regional land use plan or within tribal  
12 jurisdictional boundaries; and

13                   (B) the relevant Secretary (or the head of  
14 the tourism office for the State) determines is  
15 significantly affected economically, socially, or  
16 environmentally by planning and management  
17 decisions regarding Federal lands administered  
18 by the relevant Secretary.

19           (2) RELEVANT SECRETARY.—The term “rel-  
20 evant Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior  
21 or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

22           (d) PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PLANNING AND  
23 LAND USE.—

24           (1) PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING.—At the ear-  
25 liest possible time, the relevant Secretary shall solicit

1 the involvement of elected and appointed officials of  
2 governments of gateway communities in the develop-  
3 ment of land use plans, programs, land use regula-  
4 tions, land use decisions, transportation plans, gen-  
5 eral management plans, and any other plans, deci-  
6 sions, projects, or policies for Federal lands under  
7 the jurisdiction of these Federal agencies that are  
8 likely to have a significant impact on these gateway  
9 communities.

10 (2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—To facilitate  
11 such involvement, the relevant Secretary shall pro-  
12 vide the appropriate officials, at the earliest possible  
13 time but not later than the scoping process, with the  
14 following:

15 (A) A summary, in nontechnical language,  
16 of the assumptions, purposes, goals, and objec-  
17 tives of the a plan, decision, project, or policy.

18 (B) A description of any anticipated sig-  
19 nificant impact of the plan, decision, project, or  
20 policy on gateway communities.

21 (C) Information regarding the technical as-  
22 sistance and training available to the gateway  
23 community.

24 (3) TRAINING SESSIONS.—At the request of a  
25 gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall

1 offer training sessions for elected and appointed offi-  
2 cials of gateway communities at which such officials  
3 can obtain a better understanding of—

4 (A) the agency planning processes; and

5 (B) the methods by which they can partici-  
6 pate most meaningfully in the development of  
7 the agency plans, decisions, and policies re-  
8 ferred to in paragraph (1).

9 (4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of  
10 a gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall  
11 make available personnel, on a temporary basis, to  
12 assist gateway communities in development of mutu-  
13 ally compatible land use or management plans.

14 (5) COORDINATION OF LAND USE.—The rel-  
15 evant Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-  
16 ments with gateway communities to coordinate the  
17 management of—

18 (A) the land use inventory, planning, and  
19 management activities for the Federal lands ad-  
20 ministered by the relevant Secretary; and

21 (B) the land use planning and manage-  
22 ment activities of other Federal agencies, agen-  
23 cies of the State in which the Federal lands are  
24 located, and local and tribal governments in the  
25 vicinity of the Federal lands.

1           (6) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDI-  
2           NATION.—To the extent practicable, when the plans  
3           and activities of 2 or more Federal agencies are an-  
4           ticipated to have a significant impact on a gateway  
5           community, the Federal agencies involved shall con-  
6           solidate and coordinate their plans and planning  
7           processes to facilitate the participation of affected  
8           gateway communities in the planning processes.

9           (7) TREATMENT AS COOPERATING AGENCIES.—  
10          To the earliest extent practicable, but not later than  
11          the scoping process, when a proposed action is deter-  
12          mined to require an environmental impact state-  
13          ment, the relevant Secretary shall allow any affected  
14          gateway communities the opportunity to be recog-  
15          nized as cooperating agencies under the National  
16          Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321  
17          et seq.).

18          (e) GRANTS TO SMALL GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—

19               (1) IN GENERAL.—The relevant Secretary may  
20               make grants to any gateway community with a pop-  
21               ulation of 10,000 or less to carry out the purposes  
22               of this section.

23               (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
24               GRANTMAKING.—There are hereby authorized to be



1       appropriated \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year for  
2       grants under this subsection.

3       (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4       are hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out this  
5       Act (other than for grants under subsection (e)),  
6       \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

Passed the House of Representatives July 19, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*