

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6917

To amend the Wilderness Act to allow recreation organizations to cross wilderness areas on established trails, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Wilderness Act to allow recreation organizations to cross wilderness areas on established trails, 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 That section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
4 1133(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(8) USE BY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS.—A
6 recreation organization is an organization of hikers or
7 horseback riders whose purposes include one or more of
8 the following: (i) to promote the development and preser-
9 vation of trails throughout Federal lands; (ii) to promote
10 and encourage education of the public about the fragile

1 nature of mountain and forest ecology and the necessity
2 for its protection and preservation; or (iii) to gather and
3 disseminate information regarding the use and enjoyment
4 of wilderness areas and other Federal land—and whose
5 leadership has by reputation and practice over a period
6 of at least ten (10) years demonstrated compliance and
7 consistency with one or more of said purposes. Members
8 of a recreation organization acting as an organized unit
9 and regardless of their number shall have the right to
10 cross wilderness areas on established trails without restric-
11 tion as part of a journey along a connecting system of
12 trails across public, private or wilderness area lands, pro-
13 vided such right shall be exercised within one day and
14 shall continue during the process thereof without unrea-
15 sonable delay. The exercise of such right shall neither be
16 deemed inconsistent with the purposes of a wilderness area
17 nor to affect any wilderness area’s opportunities for soli-
18 tude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The
19 agency administering any wilderness area may limit the
20 exercise of such right within any specific wilderness area
21 to not more than ten (10) wilderness crossings annually
22 and may establish fair procedures to implement this provi-
23 sion, provided the right of a recreation organization hereby
24 granted shall not be impaired during such process.”.

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