

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6169

To require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2020

Mr. FULCHER (for himself and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, 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 “Modernizing Access
3 to Our Public Land Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) recreational fishing and hunting and other
7 forms of outdoor recreation are important and tradi-
8 tional activities in which millions of people in the
9 United States participate;

10 (2) a lack of information about publicly avail-
11 able outdoor recreation opportunities depresses par-
12 ticipation in those traditional activities;

13 (3) it is in the public interest to provide en-
14 hanced and expanded information about access to
15 Federal land for recreational opportunities;

16 (4) modern Global Positioning System tech-
17 nologies can provide detailed and real-time informa-
18 tion to the public about access to, and recreation op-
19 portunities on, Federal land;

20 (5) many of the access easement records held
21 by Federal land management agencies are held on
22 paper files and cannot be easily integrated into dig-
23 ital mapping systems; and

24 (6) Federal land management agencies
25 should—

1 (A) accelerate efforts to digitize rec-
2 reational access information into geospatial
3 files; and

4 (B) make that recreational access informa-
5 tion available to the public.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
9 means any land or water managed by a Federal land
10 management agency.

11 (2) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—
12 The term “Federal land management agency”
13 means—

14 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

15 (B) the National Park Service;

16 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

17 (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife
18 Service;

19 (E) the Forest Service; and

20 (F) the Corps of Engineers.

21 (3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
22 means—

23 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

24 (B) the Secretary of the Interior; and

1 (C) the Secretary of the Army, acting
2 through the Assistant Secretary of the Army
3 for Civil Works.

4 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

5 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly develop and adopt
7 interagency standards to ensure compatibility and inter-
8 operability among applicable Federal databases with re-
9 spect to the collection and dissemination of outdoor recre-
10 ation data relating to Federal land.

11 **SEC. 5. DATA CONSOLIDATION, DIGITIZATION, AND PUBLI-**
12 **CATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to
15 the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make
16 publicly available on the website of the Department of the
17 Interior, the Forest Service, and the Corps of Engineers,
18 as applicable, geographic information system mapping
19 data that includes, with respect to the Federal land ad-
20 ministered by the relevant Secretary—

21 (1) all Federal interests, including easements
22 and rights-of-way, in private land—

23 (A) to which the Federal Government does
24 not have a fee title interest; and

1 (B) that is used to provide recreational ac-
2 cess to the Federal land;

3 (2) status information with respect to whether
4 roads and trails on the Federal land are open or
5 closed;

6 (3) the dates on which roads and trails on the
7 Federal land are seasonally opened and closed;

8 (4) the types of vehicles that are allowed on
9 each segment of the roads and trails on the Federal
10 land, including the permissibility of—

11 (A) off-highway vehicles;

12 (B) motorcycles;

13 (C) bicycles; and

14 (D) passenger vehicles;

15 (5) the boundaries of areas where hunting or
16 recreational shooting is regulated or closed on the
17 Federal land; and

18 (6) the boundaries of any portion of a body of
19 water on the Federal land that—

20 (A) is closed to entry;

21 (B) is closed to watercraft; or

22 (C) has horsepower limitations for
23 watercraft.

24 (b) UPDATES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall bienni-
2 ally update the data described in subsection (a).

3 (2) PUBLIC EVALUATION OF ACCURACY.—The
4 Secretaries shall include on each website referred to
5 in subsection (a), as applicable, a point of contact to
6 allow members of the public to confirm or dispute
7 the accuracy of the information described in that
8 subsection.

9 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

10 Not later than October 1 of each year—

11 (1) each of the Secretary of the Interior and
12 the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the
13 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
14 Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of
15 the House of Representatives a report on the
16 progress made by the Secretary of the Interior and
17 the Secretary of Agriculture, respectively, toward
18 meeting the requirements of section 5; and

19 (2) the Secretary of the Army, acting through
20 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works,
21 shall submit to the Committee on Environment and
22 Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on
23 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
24 Representatives a report on the progress made by
25 the Secretary of the Army, acting through the As-

1 sistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, to-
2 ward meeting the requirements of section 5.

3 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated—

5 (1) to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out
6 this Act—

7 (A) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

8 (B) \$5,500,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2022 and 2023;

10 (2) to the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out
11 this Act—

12 (A) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

13 (B) \$5,500,000 for each of fiscal years
14 2022 and 2023; and

15 (3) to the Secretary of the Army to carry out
16 this Act—

17 (A) \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

18 (B) \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years
19 2022 and 2023.

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