

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3551

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, 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 Community
5 and Recreation Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “gate-
2 way community” means a community that serves as
3 an entry point or is adjacent to a recreation destina-
4 tion (including a recreation destination on Federal
5 land) at which there is consistently high, in the de-
6 termination of the Secretaries, seasonal or year-
7 round visitation.

8 (2) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
9 means—

10 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

11 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service.

13 **SEC. 3. VISITATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, using existing funds avail-
16 able to the Secretaries, the Secretaries, in partnership
17 with gateway communities, State and local outdoor recre-
18 ation and tourism agencies, local governments, Tribal gov-
19 ernments, data and technology companies, and other rel-
20 evant stakeholders, shall carry out a pilot program for the
21 purposes described in subsection (b).

22 (b) PURPOSES.—Under the pilot program carried out
23 under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall, with respect
24 to each Federal land management unit selected for partici-
25 pation in the pilot program under subsection (c), make

1 available to the public, either directly or through partner
 2 organizations—

3 (1) data on visitation, including data and re-
 4 sources publicly available from existing nongovern-
 5 mental platforms, at—

6 (A) the Federal land management unit;
 7 and

8 (B) to the extent available, recreation sites
 9 managed by any other Federal agency, a State
 10 agency, or a local agency located near the Fed-
 11 eral land management unit; and

12 (2) through different media platforms, informa-
 13 tion about lesser-known recreation sites (including
 14 recreation sites managed by any other Federal agen-
 15 cy, a State agency, or a local agency) located near
 16 the Federal land management unit, in an effort to
 17 disperse visitation among recreational sites.

18 (c) LOCATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall select
 20 Federal land management units to participate in the
 21 pilot program carried out under subsection (a) in ac-
 22 cordance with this subsection.

23 (2) FEEDBACK; SUPPORT OF GATEWAY COMMU-
 24 NITIES.—In selecting a Federal land management

unit to participate in the pilot program carried out under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall—

(A) solicit feedback from gateway communities; and

(B) select a Federal land management unit that is supported by the applicable gateway community.

(3) INITIAL NUMBERS OF FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall select for participation in the pilot program carried out under subsection (a)—

(i) 15 Federal land management units managed by the Department of the Interior; and

(ii) 5 Federal land management units managed by the Forest Service.

(B) EXPANSION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in addition to the Federal land management units selected for the pilot program under subparagraph (A), the Secretaries shall select for participation in the pilot program carried out under subsection (a) 80 additional Federal land management units managed by the Secretaries,

1 not fewer than 50 of which shall be Federal
2 land management units managed by the De-
3 partment of the Interior.

4 (d) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Secretaries may use
5 existing programs or products of the Secretaries to carry
6 out this section.

7 (e) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the
8 Secretaries—

9 (1) to monitor or record the movements of a
10 visitor to Federal land;

11 (2) to restrict, interfere with, or monitor a pri-
12 vate communication of a visitor to Federal land;

13 (3) to take possession of any documents, data,
14 or other personal effects of a visitor to Federal land;
15 or

16 (4) to collect—

17 (A) information from owners of land adja-
18 cent to Federal land; or

19 (B) information on non-Federal land.

20 **SEC. 4. GATEWAY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.**

21 Using existing funds available to the Secretaries, the
22 Secretaries shall—

23 (1) collaborate with State and local govern-
24 ments, Tribal governments, housing authorities, ap-

1 plicable trade associations, nonprofit organizations,
2 and other relevant stakeholders—

3 (A) to improve the understanding of the
4 economic impacts of visitation on gateway com-
5 munities; and

6 (B) to identify community needs in gate-
7 way communities, including housing shortages,
8 demands on existing municipal infrastructure,
9 and accommodation and management of sus-
10 tainable visitation; and

11 (2) in accordance with existing law, seek to ad-
12 dress community needs in gateway communities
13 identified under paragraph (1)(B) by—

14 (A) entering into cooperative agreements,
15 memoranda of understanding, or similar agree-
16 ments with gateway communities;

17 (B) offering leases, rights-of-way, or ease-
18 ments;

19 (C) entering into public-private partner-
20 ships; or

21 (D) providing financial assistance under
22 existing programs.

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