

The Outdoor Recreation Act

Section-By-Section

TITLE I—INCREASING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Section 101. Permit Relief.

Section 101 removes permit requirements on outfitters and guides serving fewer than 40 clients at picnic areas where permits are not required for the general public. This section also directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Interior to conduct a study on the impediments related to permitting that hinder youth groups' ability to access and recreate on Federal land.

Section 102. Planning and Managing for Recreation.

Section 102 requires the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to inventory and assess recreation resources when developing or revising land management plans. The inventory shall identify and list recreation resources by type and level of use and include trends in use. The agency concerned must assess visitorship, maintenance and expense needs, benefits, and impacts to resources. Also, Agencies must consider future recreation needs; assess the suitability for expanding or enhancing recreation resources; identify underutilized locations; and select high-value recreation resources at which to encourage recreation.

Section 103. Forest Service Climbing Guidance.

Section 103 finds that recreational climbing is generally a legitimate and appropriate use of wilderness areas on National Forest System land. This section directs the Forest Service to issue guidance on the application of the Wilderness Act to recreational climbing in wilderness.

Section 104. Target Shooting Ranges.

Section 104 requires the Forest Service and BLM to ensure that each National Forest and BLM district has at least one designated shooting range. Agencies are to cooperate with non-federal stakeholders and partners, and ensure that any shooting range constructed under this section will not impact any nearby non-Federal shooting ranges.

TITLE II—IMPROVING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Section 201. Broadband Internet Connectivity at Recreation Sites.

Section 201 directs the Forest Service and BLM to publish a list of high priority Federal recreation sites that lack broadband internet and estimate the cost to equip those sites with broadband. It also directs agencies to partner with the Rural Utilities Service to construct broadband internet infrastructure at recreation sites.

Section 202. Federal Land and Aquatic Resource Activities Assistance.

Section 202 improves coordination between Federal land management agencies and non-Federal partners and establishes a competitive grant program within the Bureau of Reclamation to help non-Federal partners to conduct inspections and decontamination of watercraft in reservoirs administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI).

Section 203. Improved Visitation Data.

Section 203 directs the Forest Service and certain agencies within DOI to work with private sector partners to establish a single visitation data management and modeling system for public recreation to provide accurate, real-time visitation data. This section also requires the Secretaries to make such data available on an easy-to-use public interface and to ensure user privacy.

Section 204. Travel Management.

Section 204 directs the Forest Service and BLM to prioritize finalizing their road and trail maps for each BLM district and National Forest System unit.

**TITLE III—INVESTING IN RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE
AND RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Section 301. Gateway Communities.

Section 301 directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, to provide financial and technical assistance to gateway communities adjacent to recreation destinations to establish, operate, or expand infrastructure to accommodate and manage visitation.

Section 302. Forest Service Conservation Finance Partnerships.

Section 302 establishes a pilot program to authorize financial partnerships on National Forests for recreation projects. It allows the Secretary to enter into a project agreement with a partner where the partner agrees to pay for all or part of the project, using an innovative funding model where payments are paid when specified recreation-related outcomes are met. Project agreements cannot be longer than 20 years or exceed \$10,000,000.

Section 303. Availability of Federal Land Infrastructure During Shoulder Seasons.

Section 303 directs DOI and the Forest Service to better understand visitor trends, the effect of seasonal closures of Federal land on adjacent businesses and local tax revenue, and opportunities to extend the period of time Federal land is open to the public during shoulder seasons to increase associated revenues for businesses and local governments.

Section 304. Public-Private Partnerships to Modernize Campgrounds on Federal Land.

Section 304 directs DOI and the Forest Service to establish a pilot program for public-private partnership agreements to modernize campgrounds on Forest Service and BLM land. Agreements are not to exceed 30 years and must include certain capital expenditure and maintenance requirements. At least one agreement would be required for each region of the National Forest System and for five States in which the BLM administers land.