

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for the establishment of a digital National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for the establishment of a digital National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND
4 WATERS.—The term “Federal recreational lands and
5 waters” has the meaning given the term in section
6 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement
7 Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

8 (2) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term “gate-
9 way community” means a community that serves as
10 an entry point or is adjacent to a recreation destina-
11 tion on Federal recreational lands and waters or
12 non-Federal land at which there is consistently high,
13 in the determination of the Secretaries, seasonal or
14 year-round visitation.

15 (3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
16 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
17 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
18 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

19 (4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
20 means—

21 (A) the Secretary; and

22 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
23 through the Chief of the Forest Service.

24 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 3. GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.**

2 (a) ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND NEEDS IN GATE-
3 WAY COMMUNITIES.—Using existing funds available to
4 the Secretaries, the Secretaries—

5 (1) shall collaborate with State and local gov-
6 ernments, Indian Tribes, housing authorities, appli-
7 cable trade associations, nonprofit organizations,
8 and other relevant stakeholders to identify needs and
9 economic impacts in gateway communities, includ-
10 ing—

11 (A) housing shortages;

12 (B) demands on existing municipal infra-
13 structure;

14 (C) accommodation and management of
15 sustainable visitation; and

16 (D) the expansion and diversification of
17 visitor experiences by bolstering the visitation
18 at—

19 (i) underutilized locations on nearby
20 Federal recreational lands and waters that
21 are suitable for developing, expanding, or
22 enhancing recreation use, as identified by
23 the Secretaries; or

24 (ii) lesser-known recreation sites, as
25 identified under section 4(b)(1)(B), on

1 nearby land managed by a State agency or
2 a local agency; and

3 (2) may address a need identified under para-
4 graph (1) by—

5 (A) providing financial or technical assist-
6 ance to a gateway community under an existing
7 program;

8 (B) entering into a lease, right-of-way, or
9 easement, in accordance with applicable laws; or

10 (C) issuing an entity referred to in para-
11 graph (1) a special use permit (other than a
12 special recreation permit), in accordance with
13 applicable laws.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
15 BUSINESSES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
17 (acting through the Administrator of the Rural
18 Business-Cooperative Service), in coordination with
19 the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall
20 provide to businesses in gateway communities the
21 assistance described in paragraph (2) to establish,
22 operate, or expand infrastructure to accommodate
23 and manage sustainable visitation, including hotels,
24 campgrounds, and restaurants.

1 (2) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture
2 may provide assistance under paragraph (1) through
3 the use of existing, or the establishment of new, en-
4 trepreneur and vocational training programs, tech-
5 nical assistance programs, low-interest business loan
6 programs, and loan guarantee programs.

7 (c) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out this section, the
8 Secretaries may, in accordance with applicable laws, enter
9 into a public-private partnership, cooperative agreement,
10 memorandum of understanding, or similar agreement with
11 a gateway community or a business in a gateway commu-
12 nity.

13 **SEC. 4. IMPROVED RECREATION VISITATION DATA.**

14 (a) CONSISTENT VISITATION DATA.—

15 (1) ANNUAL VISITATION DATA.—The Secre-
16 taries shall establish a single visitation data report-
17 ing system to report accurate annual visitation data,
18 in a consistent manner, for—

19 (A) each unit of Federal recreational lands
20 and waters; and

21 (B) land held in trust for an Indian Tribe,
22 on request of the Indian Tribe.

23 (2) CATEGORIES OF USE.—Within the visitation
24 data reporting system established under paragraph
25 (1), the Secretaries shall—

1 (A) establish multiple categories of dif-
2 ferent recreation activities that are reported
3 consistently across agencies; and

4 (B) provide an estimate of the number of
5 visitors for each applicable category established
6 under subparagraph (A) for each unit of Fed-
7 eral recreational lands and waters.

8 (b) REAL-TIME DATA PILOT PROGRAM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
10 the date of enactment of this Act, using existing
11 funds available to the Secretaries, the Secretaries
12 shall carry out a pilot program, to be known as the
13 “Real-time Data Pilot Program” (referred to in this
14 section as the “Pilot Program”), to make available
15 to the public, for each unit of Federal recreational
16 lands and waters selected for participation in the
17 Pilot Program under paragraph (2)—

18 (A) real-time or predictive data on visita-
19 tion (including data and resources publicly
20 available from existing nongovernmental plat-
21 form) at—

22 (i) the unit of Federal recreational
23 lands and waters;

1 (ii) to the extent practicable, areas
2 within the unit of Federal recreational
3 lands and waters; and

4 (iii) to the extent practicable, recre-
5 ation sites managed by any other Federal
6 agency, a State agency, or a local agency
7 that are located near the unit of Federal
8 recreational lands and waters; and

9 (B) through multiple media platforms, in-
10 formation about lesser-known recreation sites
11 located near the unit of Federal recreational
12 lands and waters (including recreation sites
13 managed by any other Federal agency, a State
14 agency, or a local agency), in an effort to en-
15 courage visitation among recreational sites.

16 (2) LOCATIONS.—

17 (A) INITIAL NUMBER OF UNITS.—On es-
18 tablishment of the Pilot Program, the Secre-
19 taries shall select for participation in the Pilot
20 Program—

21 (i) 15 units of Federal recreational
22 lands and waters managed by the Sec-
23 retary; and

24 (ii) 5 units of Federal recreational
25 lands and waters managed by the Sec-

1 retary of Agriculture (acting through the
2 Chief of the Forest Service).

3 (B) EXPANSION.—Not later than 5 years
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retaries shall expand the Pilot Program by se-
6 lecting 80 additional units of Federal rec-
7 reational lands and waters managed by the Sec-
8 retaries for participation in the Pilot Program,
9 not fewer than 50 of which shall be units man-
10 aged by the Secretary.

11 (C) FEEDBACK; SUPPORT OF GATEWAY
12 COMMUNITIES.—The Secretaries shall—

13 (i) solicit feedback regarding partici-
14 pation in the Pilot Program from commu-
15 nities adjacent to units of Federal rec-
16 reational lands and waters and the public;
17 and

18 (ii) in carrying out subparagraphs (A)
19 and (B), select a unit of Federal recreation
20 lands and waters to participate in the Pilot
21 Program only if the community adjacent to
22 the unit of Federal recreational lands and
23 waters is supportive of the participation of
24 the unit of Federal recreational lands and
25 waters in the Pilot Program.

1 (3) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The
2 Secretaries may disseminate the information de-
3 scribed in paragraph (1) directly or through an enti-
4 ty or organization referred to in subsection (c).

5 (c) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-
6 VIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the
7 Secretary concerned may—

8 (1) coordinate and partner with—

9 (A) communities adjacent to units of Fed-
10 eral recreational lands and waters;

11 (B) State and local outdoor recreation and
12 tourism offices;

13 (C) local governments;

14 (D) Indian Tribes;

15 (E) trade associations;

16 (F) local outdoor recreation marketing or-
17 ganizations;

18 (G) permitted facilitated recreation pro-
19 viders; or

20 (H) other relevant stakeholders; and

21 (2) coordinate or enter into agreements, as ap-
22 propriate, with private sector and nonprofit part-
23 ners, including—

24 (A) technology companies;

25 (B) geospatial data companies;

1 (C) experts in data science, analytics, and
2 operations research; or

3 (D) data companies.

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

7 (e) PRIVACY CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section pro-
8 vides authority to the Secretaries—

9 (1) to monitor or record the movements of a
10 visitor to a unit of Federal recreational lands and
11 waters;

12 (2) to restrict, interfere with, or monitor a pri-
13 vate communication of a visitor to a unit of Federal
14 recreational lands and waters; or

15 (3) to collect—

16 (A) information from owners of land adja-
17 cent to a unit of Federal recreational lands and
18 waters; or

19 (B) information on non-Federal land.

20 (f) REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2024, and
21 annually thereafter, the Secretaries shall publish on a
22 website of the Secretaries a report that describes the an-
23 nual visitation of each unit of Federal recreational lands
24 and waters, including, to the maximum extent practicable,
25 visitation categorized by recreational activity.

1 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL VERSION OF AMER-**
2 **ICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS**
3 **AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS**
4 **PASSES.**

5 Section 805(a) of the Federal Lands Recreation En-
6 hancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

8 “(10) DIGITAL RECREATION PASSES.—By not
9 later than January 1, 2024, the Secretaries shall—

10 “(A) establish a digital version of the Na-
11 tional Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
12 Pass that is able to be stored on a mobile de-
13 vice; and

14 “(B) on the completion of a sale of a Na-
15 tional Parks and Federal Recreational Lands
16 Pass carried out under paragraph (6)(A), make
17 available to the passholder the digital version of
18 the National Parks and Federal Recreational
19 Lands Pass established under subparagraph
20 (A).”.