

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9183

To facilitate the creation of designated shooting ranges on National Forest System land and public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management for the public to use for recreational target shooting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 14, 2022

Mr. MOORE of Utah introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 facilitate the creation of designated shooting ranges on National Forest System land and public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management for the public to use for recreational target shooting, 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 “Range Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TARGET SHOOTING RANGES.**

2 (a) DEFINITION OF DESIGNATED SHOOTING
3 RANGE.—In this section, the term “designated shooting
4 range” means a developed and managed area on Federal
5 land that is designed and operated specifically for the pur-
6 poseful discharge of legal firearms, firearms training,
7 archery, or other associated activities.

8 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF DESIGNATED SHOOTING
9 RANGE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall iden-
11 tify a suitable location for, and construct, designated
12 shooting ranges on National Forest System land and
13 public land administered by the Bureau of Land
14 Management for the public to use for recreational
15 target shooting.

16 (2) MINIMUM NUMBER OF RANGES.—To the
17 maximum extent practicable—

18 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture shall en-
19 sure that each National Forest has not fewer
20 than 1 designated shooting range; and

21 (B) the Secretary shall ensure each Bu-
22 reau of Land Management district has not
23 fewer than 1 designated shooting range.

24 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—A designated shooting
25 range under paragraph (1)—

1 (A)(i) shall be able to accommodate rifles,
2 pistols, and shotguns; and

3 (ii) may accommodate archery;

4 (B) shall include—

5 (i) significantly modified landscapes,
6 including berms, buffer distances, or other
7 public safety designs or features;

8 (ii) a designated firing line; and

9 (iii) benches; and

10 (C) may include—

11 (i) shade structures;

12 (ii) trash containers;

13 (iii) restrooms; and

14 (iv) any other features that the Sec-
15 retary concerned determines to be nec-
16 essary.

17 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) EXISTING USE.—The Secretaries, in co-
19 operation with the entities described in subsection
20 (d), shall—

21 (A) consider the proximity of areas fre-
22 quently used by recreational shooters when
23 identifying a suitable location for a designated
24 shooting range; and

1 (B) ensure a designated shooting range
2 would not impact a non-Federal target shooting
3 range, including a target shooting range located
4 on private land.

5 (2) CLOSURES.—Except in emergency situa-
6 tions, the Secretary concerned shall seek to ensure
7 that a designated shooting range, or an equivalent
8 shooting range adjacent to a National Forest or Bu-
9 reau of Land Management district, is available to
10 the public prior to closing Federal land to rec-
11 reational shooting.

12 (d) COOPERATION.—In carrying out this section, the
13 Secretaries shall cooperate, as applicable, with—

14 (1) local and Tribal governments;

15 (2) nonprofit organizations;

16 (3) State fish and wildlife agencies;

17 (4) shooting clubs;

18 (5) Federal advisory councils relating to hunt-
19 ing and shooting sports;

20 (6) nongovernmental organizations that, as of
21 the date of enactment of this Act, are signatories to
22 the memorandum of understanding entitled “Federal
23 Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports
24 Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding” and

1 signed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of
2 Land Management on August 17, 2006;

3 (7) individuals or entities with authorized leases
4 or permits in an area under consideration for a des-
5 ignated shooting range; and

6 (8) the public.

7 (e) RESTRICTIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The management of a des-
9 ignated shooting range shall be subject to such con-
10 ditions as the Secretary concerned determines are
11 necessary for the safe, responsible use of—

12 (A) the designated shooting range; and

13 (B) the adjacent resources.

14 (2) FEES.—The Secretary concerned may not
15 require a user to pay a fee to use a designated
16 shooting range established under this section.

17 (f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter,
19 the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Energy
20 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
21 on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a
22 report describing the progress made with respect to the
23 implementation of this section.

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