

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6127

[Report No. 118-]

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself and Mr. FULCHER) 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

DECEMBER --, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 1, 2023]

A BILL

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, 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 “Modernizing Access to*
5 *Our Public Waters Act” or the “MAPWaters Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTION.*—*The term*
9 *“Federal fishing restriction” means a defined area in*
10 *which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily*
11 *or permanently prohibited or restricted by a Federal*
12 *land or water management agency.*

13 (2) *FEDERAL LAND OR WATER MANAGEMENT*
14 *AGENCY.*—*The term “Federal land or water manage-*
15 *ment agency” means—*

16 (A) *the Bureau of Reclamation;*

17 (B) *the National Park Service;*

18 (C) *the Bureau of Land Management;*

19 (D) *the United States Fish and Wildlife*
20 *Service; and*

21 (E) *the Forest Service.*

22 (3) *FEDERAL WATERWAY.*—*The term “Federal*
23 *waterway” means any portion of a body of water*
24 *managed partially or wholly by 1 or more of the rel-*
25 *evant Secretaries.*

1 (4) *FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.*—*The*
2 *term “Federal waterway restriction” means a restric-*
3 *tion on the access or use of a Federal waterway ap-*
4 *plied under applicable law by 1 or more of the Secre-*
5 *taries.*

6 (5) *SECRETARIES.*—*The term “Secretaries”*
7 *means—*

8 (A) *the Secretary of Agriculture, acting*
9 *through the Chief of the Forest Service; and*

10 (B) *the Secretary of the Interior.*

11 (6) *STATE.*—*The term “State” means each of the*
12 *several States, the District of Columbia, and each ter-*
13 *ritory and possession of the United States.*

14 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

15 *Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment*
16 *of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Federal*
17 *Geographic Data Committee established by section 753(a)*
18 *of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C.*
19 *2802(a)), shall jointly develop and adopt interagency stand-*
20 *ards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among*
21 *applicable Federal databases with respect to the collection*
22 *and dissemination of geospatial data relating to public out-*
23 *door recreational access of Federal waterways and Federal*
24 *fishing restrictions.*

1 **SEC. 4. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION.**

2 (a) *FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.*—*Not later*
3 *than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each*
4 *of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall*
5 *digitize and make publicly available online, as applicable,*
6 *geographic information system data that includes, with re-*
7 *spect to Federal waterway restrictions—*

8 (1) *status information with respect to the condi-*
9 *tions under which Federal waterways are open or*
10 *closed to entry or watercraft, including watercraft in-*
11 *spection, decontamination requirements, low-elevation*
12 *aircraft, or diving;*

13 (2) *the dates on which Federal waterways are*
14 *seasonally closed to entry or watercraft;*

15 (3) *the areas of Federal waterways with restric-*
16 *tions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel*
17 *type;*

18 (4) *the areas of Federal waterways with anchor-*
19 *ing restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones, dan-*
20 *ger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;*

21 (5) *Federal waterway restrictions on the direc-*
22 *tion of travel, including upstream or downstream*
23 *travel; and*

24 (6) *the types of watercraft that are restricted on*
25 *each area of a Federal waterway, including the per-*
26 *missibility of—*

1 (A) canoes;

2 (B) rafts and driftboats;

3 (C) motorboats;

4 (D) personal watercraft;

5 (E) airboats;

6 (F) amphibious aircraft;

7 (G) hovercraft;

8 (H) oversnow vehicles and other motorized
9 vehicles on frozen bodies of water; and

10 (I) oceangoing ships.

11 (b) *FEDERAL WATERWAY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION IN-*
12 *FORMATION.*—Not later than 4 years after the date of enact-
13 ment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum
14 extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly avail-
15 able online, as applicable, geographic information system
16 data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway access
17 and navigation information—

18 (1)(A) the location of boat ramps, portages, and
19 fishing access sites under the authority of the Federal
20 land or water management agency; and

21 (B) the identification of the dates on which the
22 facilities and sites identified under subparagraph (A)
23 are open or closed, as applicable; and

24 (2) bathymetric information and depth charts, as
25 feasible.

1 (c) *FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.*—Not later than
2 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the
3 Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall
4 digitize and make publicly available online geographic in-
5 formation system data that describes, with respect to Fed-
6 eral fishing restrictions—

7 (1) *the location and geographic boundaries of*
8 *Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and com-*
9 *mercial fishing, including—*

10 (A) *full or partial closures;*

11 (B) *no-take zones; and*

12 (C) *Federal fishing restrictions within or*
13 *surrounding marine protected areas;*

14 (2) *Federal fishing restrictions enacted pursuant*
15 *to section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and*
16 *Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b)); and*

17 (3) *Federal requirements with respect to catch*
18 *and release.*

19 (d) *PUBLIC COMMENT.*—*The Secretaries shall develop*
20 *a process to allow members of the public to submit questions*
21 *or comments regarding the information described in sub-*
22 *sections (a) and (b).*

23 (e) *UPDATES.*—*The Secretaries, to the maximum ex-*
24 *tent practicable, shall update—*

1 (1) *the data described in subsections (a) and (b)*
2 *not less frequently than 2 times per year; and*

3 (2) *the data described in subsection (c) in real*
4 *time as changes go into effect.*

5 (f) *EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to irri-*
6 *gation canals and flowage easements.*

7 (g) *DISCLOSURE.—Any geographic information sys-*
8 *tem data made publicly available under this section shall*
9 *not disclose information regarding the nature, location,*
10 *character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or ar-*
11 *chaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.*

12 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.**

13 (a) *COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-*
14 *VIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Secre-*
15 *taries may—*

16 (1) *coordinate and partner with non-Federal*
17 *agencies and private sector and nonprofit partners,*
18 *including—*

19 (A) *State natural resource agencies;*

20 (B) *Tribal natural resource agencies;*

21 (C) *technology companies;*

22 (D) *geospatial data companies; and*

23 (E) *experts in data science, analytics, and*
24 *operations research; and*

1 (2) *enter into an agreement with a third party*
2 *to carry out any provision of this Act.*

3 (b) *UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.*—*The Sec-*
4 *retaries may work with the Director of the United States*
5 *Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize, stand-*
6 *ardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries to meet*
7 *the requirements of this Act.*

8 (c) *REQUIREMENT.*—*With respect to data developed*
9 *and distributed under this Act, the Secretaries shall include*
10 *a notice that any geospatial data are subject to applicable*
11 *Federal, State, and Tribal regulations.*

12 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

13 *Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of*
14 *this Act and annually thereafter through March 30, 2034,*
15 *the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes the*
16 *progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meeting*
17 *the requirements of this Act to—*

18 (1) *the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-*
19 *sources of the Senate;*

20 (2) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and*
21 *Forestry of the Senate;*

22 (3) *the Committee on Natural Resources of the*
23 *House of Representatives;*

24 (4) *the Committee on Energy and Commerce of*
25 *the House of Representatives; and*

1 (5) *the Committee on Agriculture of the House of*
2 *Representatives.*

3 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

4 *Nothing in this Act—*

5 (1) *modifies or alters the definition of the term*
6 *“navigable waters” under Federal law;*

7 (2) *affects the jurisdiction or authority of State*
8 *or Federal agencies to regulate navigable waters;*

9 (3) *modifies or alters the authority or jurisdic-*
10 *tion of Federal or State agencies to manage fisheries;*
11 *or*

12 (4) *authorizes the closing of or restriction of ac-*
13 *cess to waters open to hunting, fishing, or other forms*
14 *of outdoor recreation as of the date of the enactment*
15 *of this Act.*