

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6342
OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Military and Veterans
3 in Parks Act” or the “MVP Act”.

4 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ACCESSIBLE TRAIL.**—The term “accessible
7 trail” means a trail that meets the requirements for
8 a trail under the Architectural Barriers Act accessi-
9 bility guidelines.

10 (2) **ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT ACCESSI-**
11 **BILITY GUIDELINES.**—The term “Architectural Bar-
12 riers Act accessibility guidelines” means the accessi-
13 bility guidelines set forth in appendices C and D to
14 part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations
15 (or successor regulations).

16 (3) **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “as-
17 sistive technology” means any item, piece of equip-
18 ment, or product system, whether acquired commer-

1 cially, modified, or customized, that is used to in-
2 crease, maintain, or improve functional capabilities
3 of individuals with disabilities, particularly with par-
4 ticipating in outdoor recreation activities.

5 (4) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—
6 The term “Federal land management agency” has
7 the meaning given the term in section 802 of the
8 Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16
9 U.S.C. 6801).

10 (5) FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND
11 WATERS.—The term “Federal recreational lands and
12 waters” has the meaning given the term in section
13 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement
14 Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

15 (6) GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER.—The term
16 “Gold Star Family member” means an individual
17 described in section 3.3 of Department of Defense
18 Instruction 1348.36.

19 (7) OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTED FEATURE.—The
20 term “outdoor constructed feature” has the meaning
21 given such term in appendix C to part 1191 of title
22 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regu-
23 lations).

24 (8) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
25 means each of—

1 (A) the Secretary; and

2 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

3 (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of the Interior.

5 (10) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
6 “Secretary concerned” means—

7 (A) the Secretary, with respect to land
8 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; or

9 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
10 spect to land managed by the Forest Service.

11 (11) VETERANS ORGANIZATION.—The term
12 “veterans organization” means a service provider
13 with outdoor recreation experience that serves mem-
14 bers of the Armed Forces, veterans, or Gold Star
15 Family members.

16 **TITLE I—ACCESS FOR PEOPLE** 17 **WITH DISABILITIES**

18 **SEC. 101. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION INVENTORY.**

19 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 5 years after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
21 shall—

22 (1) carry out a comprehensive assessment of
23 outdoor recreation facilities on Federal recreational
24 lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the re-
25 spective Secretary concerned to determine the acces-

1 sibility of such outdoor recreation facilities, con-
2 sistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
3 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Re-
4 habilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), including—

5 (A) camp shelters, camping facilities, and
6 camping units;

7 (B) boat launch ramps;

8 (C) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery
9 ranges or locations;

10 (D) outdoor constructed features;

11 (E) picnic facilities and picnic units; and

12 (F) any other outdoor recreation facilities,
13 as determined by the Secretary concerned; and

14 (2) make information about such opportunities
15 available (including through the use of prominently
16 displayed links) on public websites of—

17 (A) each of the Federal land management
18 agencies; and

19 (B) each relevant unit and subunit of the
20 Federal land management agencies.

21 (b) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—As
22 part of the comprehensive assessment required under sub-
23 section (a)(1), to the extent practicable, the Secretary con-
24 cerned may rely on assessments completed or data gath-
25 ered prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (c) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Not later than 7 years
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 concerned shall identify opportunities to create, update, or
4 replace signage and other publicly available information,
5 including web page information, related to accessibility
6 and consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
7 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabili-
8 tation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at outdoor recreation facilities
9 covered by the assessment required under subsection
10 (a)(1).

11 **SEC. 102. TRAIL INVENTORY.**

12 (a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 7 years after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
14 shall—

15 (1) conduct a comprehensive assessment of
16 high-priority trails, in accordance with subsection
17 (b), on Federal recreational lands and waters under
18 the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary con-
19 cerned, including measuring each trail's—

- 20 (A) average and minimum tread width;
21 (B) average and maximum running slope;
22 (C) average and maximum cross slope;
23 (D) tread type; and
24 (E) length; and

1 (2) make information about such high-priority
2 trails available (including through the use of promi-
3 nently displayed links) on public websites of—

4 (A) each of the Federal land management
5 agencies; and

6 (B) each relevant unit and subunit of the
7 Federal land management agencies.

8 (b) SELECTION.—The Secretary concerned shall se-
9 lect high-priority trails to be assessed under subsection
10 (a)(1)—

11 (1) in consultation with stakeholders, including
12 veterans organizations and organizations with exper-
13 tise or experience providing outdoor recreation op-
14 portunities to individuals with disabilities;

15 (2) in a geographically equitable manner; and

16 (3) in no fewer than 15 units or subunits man-
17 aged by the Secretary concerned.

18 (c) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—As
19 part of the assessment required under subsection (a)(1),
20 the Secretary concerned may, to the extent practicable,
21 rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to
22 the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (d) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 years after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 concerned shall identify opportunities to replace
2 signage and other publicly available information, in-
3 cluding web page information, related to such high-
4 priority trails and consistent with the Architectural
5 Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and
6 section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C.
7 794) at high-priority trails covered by the assess-
8 ment required under subsection (a)(1).

9 (2) TREAD OBSTACLES.—As part of the assess-
10 ment required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary
11 may, to the extent practicable, include photographs
12 or descriptions of tread obstacles and barriers.

13 (e) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATION.—In
14 publishing information about each trail under this sub-
15 section, the Secretary concerned shall make public infor-
16 mation about trails that do not meet the Architectural
17 Barriers Act accessibility guidelines but could otherwise
18 provide outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals
19 with disabilities through the use of certain assistive tech-
20 nology.

21 **SEC. 103. TRAIL PILOT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
24 shall carry out a pilot program to enter into partnerships
25 with eligible entities to—

1 (1) measure high-priority trails as part of the
2 assessment required under section 102;

3 (2) develop accessible trails under section 104;
4 and

5 (3) make minor modifications to existing trails
6 to enhance recreational experiences for individuals
7 with disabilities using assistive technology—

8 (A) in compliance with all applicable land
9 use and management plans of the Federal rec-
10 reational lands and waters on which the acces-
11 sible trail is located; and

12 (B) in consultation with stakeholders, in-
13 cluding veterans organizations and organiza-
14 tions with expertise or experience providing out-
15 door recreation opportunities to individuals with
16 disabilities.

17 (b) LOCATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
19 shall select no fewer than 5 units or subunits under
20 the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned
21 to carry out the pilot program established under
22 subsection (a).

23 (2) SPECIAL RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THE
24 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—In selecting the
25 locations of the pilot program, the Secretary shall

1 ensure that the pilot program is carried out in at
2 least one unit managed by the—

3 (A) National Park Service;

4 (B) Bureau of Land Management; and

5 (C) United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
6 ice.

7 (c) SUNSET.—The pilot program established under
8 this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 7 years
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 104. ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
13 shall select a location or locations to develop at least 3
14 new accessible trails—

15 (1) on National Forest System lands in each re-
16 gion of the Forest Service;

17 (2) on land managed by the National Park
18 Service in each region of the National Park Service;

19 (3) on land managed by the Bureau of Land
20 Management in each region of the Bureau of Land
21 Management; and

22 (4) on land managed by the United States Fish
23 and Wildlife Service in each region of the United
24 States Fish and Wildlife Service.

1 (b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible
2 trail under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned—

3 (1) may—

4 (A) create a new accessible trail;

5 (B) modify an existing trail into an acces-
6 sible trail; or

7 (C) create an accessible trail from a com-
8 bination of new and existing trails; and

9 (2) shall—

10 (A) consult with stakeholders with respect
11 to the feasibility and resources necessary for
12 completing the accessible trail;

13 (B) ensure the accessible trail complies
14 with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42
15 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Re-
16 habilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794); and

17 (C) to the extent practicable, ensure that
18 outdoor constructed features supporting the ac-
19 cessible trail, including trail bridges, parking
20 spaces, and restroom facilities, meet the re-
21 quirements of the Architectural Barriers Act of
22 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504
23 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

24 (c) COMPLETION.—Not later than 7 years after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,

1 in coordination with stakeholders described under sub-
2 section (b)(2), shall complete each accessible trail devel-
3 oped under subsection (a).

4 (d) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATE-
5 RIALS.—For each accessible trail developed under sub-
6 section (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

7 (1) publish and distribute maps and install
8 signage, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act
9 of 1968 accessibility guidelines and section 508 of
10 the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

11 (2) coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any
12 non-Federal resources necessary for the develop-
13 ment, stewardship, completion, or promotion of the
14 accessible trail.

15 (e) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In
16 developing each accessible trail under subsection (a), the
17 Secretary concerned shall ensure that the accessible
18 trail—

19 (1) minimizes conflict with—

20 (A) the uses in effect before the date of the
21 enactment of this Act with respect to any trail
22 that is part of that accessible trail;

23 (B) multiple-use areas where biking, hik-
24 ing, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle recre-
25 ation, or use by pack and saddle stock are ex-

1 isting uses on the date of the enactment of this
2 Act; or

3 (C) the purposes for which any trail is es-
4 tablished under the National Trails System Act
5 (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.); and

6 (2) complies with all applicable land use and
7 management plans of the Federal recreational lands
8 and waters on which the accessible trail is located.

9 (f) REPORTS.—

10 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders
13 and other interested organizations, shall prepare and
14 publish an interim report that lists the accessible
15 trails developed under this section during the pre-
16 vious 3 years.

17 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 7 years
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders
20 and other interested organizations, shall prepare and
21 publish a final report that lists the accessible trails
22 developed under this section.

23 **SEC. 105. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned

1 shall select a location to develop at least 2 new accessible
2 recreation opportunities—

3 (1) on National Forest System lands in each re-
4 gion of the Forest Service;

5 (2) on land managed by the National Park
6 Service in each region of the National Park Service;

7 (3) on land managed by the Bureau of Land
8 Management in each region of the Bureau of Land
9 Management; and

10 (4) on land managed by the United States Fish
11 and Wildlife Service in each region of the United
12 States Fish and Wildlife Service.

13 (b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible
14 recreation opportunity under subsection (a), the Secretary
15 concerned—

16 (1) may—

17 (A) create a new accessible recreation op-
18 portunity; or

19 (B) modify an existing recreation oppor-
20 tunity into an accessible recreation opportunity;
21 and

22 (2) shall—

23 (A) consult with stakeholders with respect
24 to the feasibility and resources necessary for

1 completing the accessible recreation oppor-
2 tunity;

3 (B) ensure the accessible recreation oppor-
4 tunity complies with the Architectural Barriers
5 Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and sec-
6 tion 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C.
7 794); and

8 (C) to the extent practicable, ensure that
9 outdoor constructed features supporting the ac-
10 cessible recreation opportunity, including trail
11 bridges, parking spaces and restroom facilities,
12 meet the requirements of the Architectural Bar-
13 riers Act of 1968 and section 504 of the Reha-
14 bilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

15 (c) ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.—
16 The accessible recreation opportunities developed under
17 subsection (a) may include improving accessibility or ac-
18 cess to—

19 (1) camp shelters, camping facilities, and camp-
20 ing units;

21 (2) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery
22 ranges or locations;

23 (3) snow activities, including skiing and
24 snowboarding;

- 1 (4) water activities, including kayaking, pad-
- 2 dling, canoeing, and boat launch ramps;
- 3 (5) rock climbing;
- 4 (6) biking;
- 5 (7) off-highway vehicle recreation;
- 6 (8) picnic facilities and picnic units;
- 7 (9) outdoor constructed features; and
- 8 (10) any other new or existing recreation oppor-
- 9 tunities identified in consultation with stakeholders
- 10 under subsection (b)(2) and consistent with the ap-
- 11 plicable land management plan.

12 (d) COMPLETION.—Not later than 7 years after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,
14 in coordination with stakeholders consulted with under
15 subsection (b)(2), shall complete each accessible recreation
16 opportunity developed under subsection (a).

17 (e) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATE-
18 RIALS.—For each accessible recreation opportunity devel-
19 oped under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

20 (1) publish and distribute maps and install
21 signage, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act
22 accessibility guidelines and section 508 of the Reha-
23 bilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

24 (2) coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any
25 non-Federal resources necessary for the develop-

1 ment, stewardship, completion, or promotion of the
2 accessible trail.

3 (f) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In
4 developing each accessible recreation opportunity under
5 subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that
6 the accessible recreation opportunity—

7 (1) minimizes conflict with—

8 (A) the uses in effect before the date of the
9 enactment of this Act with respect to any Fed-
10 eral recreational lands and waters on which the
11 accessible recreation opportunity is located; or

12 (B) multiple-use areas in existence on the
13 date of the enactment of this Act; and

14 (2) complies with all applicable land use and
15 management plans of the Federal recreational lands
16 and waters on which the accessible recreational op-
17 portunity is located.

18 (g) REPORTS.—

19 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
21 retary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders
22 and other interested organizations, shall prepare and
23 publish an interim report that lists the accessible
24 recreation opportunities developed under this section
25 during the previous 3 years.

1 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 7 years
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders
4 and other interested organizations, shall prepare and
5 publish a final report that lists the accessible recre-
6 ation opportunities developed under this section.

7 **SEC. 106. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**

8 In carrying out this title, the Secretary concerned
9 may enter into partnerships, contracts, or agreements with
10 other Federal, State, Tribal, local, or private entities, in-
11 cluding existing outfitting and guiding services, to make
12 assistive technology available on Federal recreational
13 lands and waters.

14 **SEC. 107. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

15 Nothing in the title shall be construed to create any
16 conflicting standards with the Architectural Barriers Act
17 of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the
18 Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

19 **TITLE II—MILITARY AND**
20 **VETERANS IN PARKS**

21 **SEC. 201. PROMOTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR**
22 **MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS AND VET-**
23 **ERANS.**

24 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary concerned, in coordination

1 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary
2 of Defense, shall develop educational and public awareness
3 materials to disseminate to members of the Armed Forces
4 and veterans, including through preseparation counseling
5 of the Transition Assistance Program under chapter 1142
6 of title 10, United States Code, on—

7 (1) opportunities for members of the Armed
8 Forces and veterans to access Federal recreational
9 lands and waters free of charge under section 805
10 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act
11 (16 U.S.C. 6804);

12 (2) the availability and location of accessible
13 trails, including new accessible trails developed and
14 completed under section 104;

15 (3) the availability and location of accessible
16 recreation opportunities, including new accessible
17 recreation opportunities developed and completed
18 under section 105;

19 (4) access to, and assistance with, assistive
20 technology;

21 (5) outdoor-related volunteer and wellness pro-
22 grams;

23 (6) the benefits of outdoor recreation for phys-
24 ical and mental health;

1 (7) resources to access guided outdoor trips and
2 other outdoor programs connected to the Depart-
3 ment of Defense, the Department of Veterans Af-
4 fairs, the Department of the Interior, or the Depart-
5 ment of Agriculture; and

6 (8) programs and jobs focused on continuing
7 national service such as Public Land Corps,
8 AmeriCorps, and conservation corps programs.

9 **SEC. 202. MILITARY VETERANS OUTDOOR RECREATION LI-**
10 **AISONS.**

11 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries and the
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall each establish within
14 their Departments the position of Military Veterans Out-
15 door Recreation Liaison.

16 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Military Veterans Outdoor Recre-
17 ation Liaison shall—

18 (1) coordinate the implementation of this title;

19 (2) implement recommendations identified by
20 the Task Force on Outdoor Recreation for Veterans
21 established under section 203 of the Veterans Com-
22 prehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treat-
23 ment Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–214), including
24 recommendations related to—

1 (A) identifying new opportunities to for-
2 malize coordination between the Department of
3 Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture,
4 Department of the Interior, and partner organi-
5 zations regarding the use of Federal rec-
6 reational lands and waters for facilitating
7 health and wellness for veterans;

8 (B) addressing identified barriers that
9 exist to providing veterans with opportunities to
10 augment the delivery of services for health and
11 wellness through the use of outdoor recreation
12 on Federal recreational lands and waters; and

13 (C) facilitating the use of Federal rec-
14 reational lands and waters for promoting
15 wellness and facilitating the delivery of health
16 care and therapeutic interventions for veterans;

17 (3) coordinate with Military Veterans Outdoor
18 Recreation Liaisons at other Federal agencies and
19 veterans organizations; and

20 (4) promote outdoor recreation experiences for
21 veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters
22 through new and innovative approaches.

1 **SEC. 203. PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE MILITARY AND VET-**
2 **ERAN RECREATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall
4 seek to enter into partnerships or agreements with State,
5 Tribal, local, or private entities with expertise in outdoor
6 recreation, volunteer, accessibility, and health and wellness
7 programs for members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

8 (b) PARTNERSHIPS.—As part of a partnership or
9 agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Sec-
10 retary concerned may host events on Federal recreational
11 lands and waters designed to promote outdoor recreation
12 among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

13 (c) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
14 Under a partnership or agreement entered into pursuant
15 to subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may provide fi-
16 nancial or technical assistance to the entity with which
17 the respective Secretary concerned has entered into the
18 partnership or agreement to assist with—

19 (1) the planning, development, and execution of
20 events, activities, or programs designed to promote
21 outdoor recreation for members of the Armed Forces
22 or veterans; or

23 (2) the acquisition of assistive technology to fa-
24 cilitate improved outdoor recreation opportunities for
25 members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

1 **SEC. 204. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MILITARY AND VET-**
2 **ERAN RECREATION.**

3 (a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, acting joint-
5 ly, shall develop and make public a strategy to increase
6 visits to Federal recreational lands and waters by mem-
7 bers of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family
8 members.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A strategy developed under
10 subsection (a)—

11 (1) shall—

12 (A) establish objectives and quantifiable
13 targets for increasing visits to Federal rec-
14 reational lands and waters by members of the
15 Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family
16 members;

17 (B) include an opportunity for public no-
18 tice and comment;

19 (C) emphasize increased recreation oppor-
20 tunities on Federal recreational lands and
21 waters for members of the Armed Forces, vet-
22 erans, and Gold Star Family members; and

23 (D) provide the anticipated costs to achieve
24 the objectives and meet the targets established
25 under subparagraph (A); and

1 (2) shall not establish any preference between
2 similar recreation facilitated by noncommercial or
3 commercial entities.

4 (c) UPDATE TO STRATEGY.—Not later than 5 years
5 after the date of the publication of the strategy required
6 under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the
7 Secretaries, acting jointly, shall update the strategy and
8 make public the update.

9 **SEC. 205. RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMIT-**
10 **TEES.**

11 Section 804(d) of the Federal Lands Recreation En-
12 hancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6803(d)), is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “11” and
14 inserting “12”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (5)(D)(ii)—

16 (A) by striking “Three” and inserting
17 “Four”; and

18 (B) after subclause (III), by inserting the
19 following:

20 “(IV) Veterans organizations, as
21 such term is defined in section 201 of
22 the MVP Act.”; and

23 (3) in paragraph (8) by striking “Eight” and
24 inserting “Six”.

1 **SEC. 206. CAREER AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
2 **VETERANS.**

3 (a) VETERAN HIRING.—The Secretaries are strongly
4 encouraged to hire veterans in all positions related to the
5 management of Federal recreational lands and waters.

6 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in con-
8 sultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for
9 Veterans' Employment and Training and the Sec-
10 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a pilot
11 program under which veterans are employed by the
12 Federal Government in positions that relate to the
13 conservation and resource management activities of
14 the Department of the Interior.

15 (2) POSITIONS.—The Secretary shall—

16 (A) identify vacant positions in the De-
17 partment of the Interior that are appropriate to
18 fill using the pilot program; and

19 (B) to the extent practicable, fill such posi-
20 tions using the pilot program.

21 (3) APPLICATION OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—A
22 veteran employed under the pilot program shall be
23 treated as an employee as defined by section 2105
24 of title 5, United States Code.

25 (4) BRIEFINGS AND REPORT.—

1 (A) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60
2 days after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary
4 of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Train-
5 ing shall jointly provide to the appropriate con-
6 gressional committees a briefing on the pilot
7 program under this subsection, which shall in-
8 clude—

9 (i) a description of how the pilot pro-
10 gram will be carried out in a manner to re-
11 duce the unemployment of veterans; and

12 (ii) any recommendations for legisla-
13 tive actions to improve the pilot program.

14 (B) IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.—Not
15 later than 1 year after the date on which the
16 pilot program under subsection (a) commences,
17 the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of
18 Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training
19 shall jointly provide to the appropriate congres-
20 sional committees a briefing on the implementa-
21 tion of the pilot program.

22 (C) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30
23 days after the date on which the pilot program
24 under subsection (a) terminates under para-
25 graph (5), the Secretary and the Assistant Sec-

1 retary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and
2 Training shall jointly submit to the appropriate
3 congressional committees a report on the pilot
4 program that includes the following:

5 (i) The number of veterans who ap-
6 plied to participate in the pilot program.

7 (ii) The number of such veterans em-
8 ployed under the pilot program.

9 (iii) The number of veterans identified
10 in clause (ii) who transitioned to full-time
11 positions with the Federal Government
12 after participating in the pilot program.

13 (iv) Any other information the Sec-
14 retary and the Assistant Secretary of
15 Labor for Veterans’ Employment and
16 Training determine appropriate with re-
17 spect to measuring the effectiveness of the
18 pilot program.

19 (5) DURATION.—The authority to carry out the
20 pilot program under this subsection shall terminate
21 on the date that is 2 years after the date on which
22 the pilot program commences.

23 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
24 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
25 sional committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
2 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
3 Representatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
5 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
6 Senate.

7 (d) OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM ATTEND-
8 ANCE.—Each Secretary of a military department is en-
9 couraged to allow members of the Armed Forces on active
10 duty status to participate in programs related to environ-
11 mental stewardship or guided outdoor recreation.

