

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6994
OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Restoring Our Un-
3 opened Trails for Enjoyment and Safety Act” or the
4 “ROUTES Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. REOPENING OF COVERED RECREATION SITES
6 CLOSED DUE TO NATURAL DISASTERS.**

7 (a) REOPENING REQUIRED.—In the case of a covered
8 recreation site that is fully or partially closed due to per-
9 sonal injury or damage caused by a natural disaster, the
10 Secretary concerned shall—

11 (1) reopen such covered recreation site not later
12 than 3 years after the date on which such natural
13 disaster ends, as determined by the Secretary con-
14 cerned; and

15 (2) if the covered recreation site is not reopened
16 on or before the date described in paragraph (1), not
17 later than 30 days after such date and every 90 days
18 thereafter during which such site remains closed,

1 submit to Congress a report identifying the barriers
2 to reopening such site.

3 (b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR COVERED RECRE-
4 ATION SITE RESTORATION.—

5 (1) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—
6 Activities described in paragraph (2) are a category
7 of actions hereby designated as being categorically
8 excluded from the preparation of an environmental
9 assessment or an environmental impact statement
10 under section 102 of the National Environmental
11 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

12 (2) ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED FOR CATEGORICAL
13 EXCLUSION.—The activities designated under this
14 section for a categorical exclusion are activities car-
15 ried out by the Secretary concerned on Interior rec-
16 reational lands or National Forest System lands
17 where the primary purpose of such activity is, con-
18 sistent with the land use plan applicable to such
19 lands, to—

20 (A) repair and restore covered recreation
21 sites damaged by a natural disaster;

22 (B) remove or mitigate hazard trees for
23 the purpose of public safety, protection of prop-
24 erty, or improving access to a covered recre-
25 ation site;

1 (C) mitigate and reduce soil erosion im-
2 pacting a covered recreation site;

3 (D) restore drainage patterns to support a
4 covered recreation site; or

5 (E) any combination of the purposes speci-
6 fied in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

7 (3) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLU-
8 SION.—On and after the date of the enactment of
9 this Act, the Secretary concerned may use the cat-
10 egorical exclusion established under paragraph (1) in
11 accordance with this subsection.

12 (4) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—The
13 activities categorically excluded under paragraph (1)
14 shall be subject to the extraordinary circumstances
15 procedures established pursuant to section 1501.4 of
16 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
17 cessor regulation).

18 (c) EMERGENCY HAZARD TREE REMOVAL.—

19 (1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—With
20 respect to the removal or mitigation of hazard trees
21 located on a parcel of National Forest System land,
22 during the 3-year period after a natural disaster on
23 such parcel ends, as determined by the Secretary of
24 Agriculture, section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of
25 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the

1 enactment of this Act) shall have the force and ef-
2 fect of law with respect to such parcel.

3 (2) INTERIOR RECREATIONAL LANDS.—With re-
4 spect to the removal and mitigation of hazard trees
5 located on Interior recreational lands, during the 3-
6 year period after a natural disaster on such parcel
7 ends, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior,
8 section 46.150 of title 43, Code of Federal Regula-
9 tions (as in effect on the date of the enactment of
10 this Act) shall have the force and effect of law with
11 respect to such parcel.

12 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
14 submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the
15 website of the Department of the Interior and the Depart-
16 ment of Agriculture, a report that includes the number
17 of covered recreation sites—

18 (1) that have been reopened pursuant to sub-
19 section (a)(1); and

20 (2) that, as of the date of such report, are
21 closed due to damage caused by a natural disaster
22 and the date such natural disaster ended, as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary concerned.

24 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED RECREATION SITE.—The term
2 “covered recreation site” means—

3 (A) a campground or developed day-use
4 recreation site that—

5 (i) is operated by the Secretary con-
6 cerned; and

7 (ii) is located on Interior recreational
8 lands or National Forest System lands; or

9 (B) a road or trail that—

10 (i) is under the jurisdiction of the
11 Secretary concerned;

12 (ii) used to access or serve a camp-
13 ground or developed day-use recreation site
14 described in subparagraph (A); and

15 (iii) is located on Interior recreational
16 lands or National Forest System lands.

17 (2) HAZARD TREE.—The term “hazard tree”
18 means a standing tree that presents a visible hazard
19 to people or property due to conditions such as the
20 deterioration of, or damage to—

21 (A) the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs
22 of the tree; or

23 (B) the direction or lean of the tree.

24 (3) INTERIOR RECREATIONAL LANDS.—The
25 term “Interior recreational lands” means lands man-

1 aged by the National Park Service, the United
2 States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of
3 Land Management, or the Bureau of Reclamation.

4 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
5 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
6 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
7 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
8 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

9 (5) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term “natural
10 disaster” includes a wildfire, flood, hurricane, wind-
11 storm, erosion, and tornado.

12 (6) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
13 retary concerned” means—

14 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
15 spect to Interior recreational lands; or

16 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
17 spect to National Forest System lands.

