

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS**

Regarding

**H.R. 3670, Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation (SOAR) Act,
H.R. 3687, Environmental Justice in Recreation Permitting Act,
H.R. 3686, Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development (SHRED) Act
H.R. 3113, Modernizing Access to Our Public Lands (MAPLand) Act
June 8, 2021**

**Question for the Record from Rep. Blake Moore for Ms. Jennifer Eberlien, Associate
Deputy Chief at the U.S. Forest Service**

1. Given that the MAPLand Act seeks to make it easier for more people to access our lands, can you speak to how it will advance the administration's equitable access goals?

Answer:

We agree on the importance of providing equitable access for more people to fully enjoy our nation's public lands, especially for communities with disproportionately less access to nature. We have demonstrated this commitment through robust technologies we currently use to help visitors locate and safely access public lands. For example, our online interactive visitor map includes 193 million acres of National Forest System land and maps 371,000 miles of roads, 158,000 trail miles, and more than 24,000 recreation sites as well as access points, and safety and other useful information. The public can also access Forest Service geospatial data through web map services and data downloads on various platforms. Forest Service georeferenced products can be used in third party applications. The Forest Service investment in online access to visitor information supports the USDA effort to enhance access to National Forest System lands by providing more data digitally for online use by the public. Making federal lands data, like maps, access points, and opportunities accessible through user-friendly data products and services makes it easier for the American public to navigate our federal lands and find the recreation experience right for them.