



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

**To:** Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members

**From:** Subcommittee on Federal Lands; Aniela Butler, Taylor Wiseman, Brandon Miller, and Lauren Limke – [Aniela@mail.house.gov](mailto:Aniela@mail.house.gov), [Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov), [Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov), and [Lauren.Limke@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lauren.Limke@mail.house.gov); x6-7736

**Date:** Thursday, July 20, 2023

**Subject:** Legislative Hearing on four bills

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The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing on four bills:

- Discussion draft of H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rep. Kiggans), “*Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act*”;
- H.R. 1786 (Rep. Levin), “*Get Rewarding Outdoor Work for our Veterans (GROW) Act*”;
- H.R. 1829 (Rep. Crane), To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; and
- H.R. 2468 (Rep. Owens), “*Mountain View Corridor Completion Act*”.

The hearing will take place on **Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.** in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Colen Morrow ([Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov](mailto:Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov)) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

## **I. KEY MESSAGES**

- All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in our nation’s defense. As we continue to celebrate the month of our nation’s founding and the freedoms we hold dear, Natural Resources Committee Republicans are committed to honoring our nation’s military members and veterans.
- America is blessed with awe-inspiring public lands that offer a multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities. The bills on today’s hearing offer thoughtful proposals to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for our nation’s heroes, provide spaces for relaxation and healing for military families, and identify outdoor-focused employment for veterans transitioning to civilian life.
- Despite the importance of our public lands to veterans, many of those lands are inaccessible to veterans, particularly wounded warriors. Rep. Kiggans’ “MVP Act” creates innovative adaptive trails and recreation opportunities to ensure wounded warriors can experience the full splendor of our national parks and public lands.

## II. WITNESSES

### Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

### Panel II (Administration Officials):

- **Ms. Jacqueline Emanuel**, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C. [*Discussion Draft of the MVP Act, H.R. 1829*]
- **Mr. Frank Lands**, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. [*Discussion Draft of the MVP Act, H.R. 1786, H.R. 2468*]

### Panel III (Outside Experts):

- **The Honorable Woody Cline**, Supervisor, Gila County, Arizona [*H.R. 1829*]
- **Ms. Lisa Wilson**, Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations, Utah Department of Transportation, Salt Lake City, Utah [*H.R. 2468*]
- **Mr. Marc Berejka**, Divisional Vice President, Community Advocacy & Impact, REI, Kent, Washington [*Discussion Draft of the MVP Act*]
- **Mr. Jeremy Villanueva**, Government Affairs Associate Director, Wounded Warrior Project, Washington, D.C. [*Discussion Draft of the MVP Act and H.R. 1786*] [*Minority Witness*]

## III. BACKGROUND

### [H.R. \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_ \(Rep. Kiggans, R-VA\), “Military and Veterans in Parks \(MVP\) Act”](#)



A group of veterans in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. The group hiked, camped, and completed trail restoration work.  
**Source:** The Mission Continues, 2018.

While we can never fully repay our veterans for their sacrifice and service to this country, we can continue to find ways to honor their bravery and improve their transition back to civilian life. Estimates suggest that 50 percent of post-9/11 veterans experience some combination of combat-related emotional, psychological or physical injuries and as many as 66 percent have diagnosable mental health issues.<sup>1</sup> In addition to physical wounds suffered, many veterans returning home from the battlefield are burdened by mental health issues. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) occurs in roughly

<sup>1</sup> Havlick, et al., “Therapeutic landscapes, outdoor programs for veterans, and public lands,” *Social Science & Medicine* 268 (2021) 113540.

6 percent of the general population, compared to 29 percent for veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF).<sup>2</sup> The disorder can have profound effects on veterans, impacting their mental well-being, relationships, and overall quality of life. Symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares, hypervigilance, and emotional numbing can make it challenging for veterans to reintegrate into civilian life. Numerous studies have shown that outdoor recreation, particularly on our public lands, can be very helpful and healing to veterans rehabilitation.<sup>3</sup> Engaging in outdoor activities like hiking, camping, and nature-based therapies can provide a therapeutic environment that promotes relaxation, reduces stress, and encourages social interaction.<sup>4</sup> The natural surroundings and physical activities help veterans develop coping mechanisms, improve their mood, and alleviate symptoms of PTSD, ultimately enhancing their recovery and overall well-being.<sup>5</sup> From trauma recovery and anxiety relief to reconnecting with loved ones, quality time outdoors is an important resource for active-duty service members and veterans transitioning back to civilian life. This is especially true for the 4.9 million veterans (27 percent of all veterans) that have a service-related disability.<sup>6</sup>

Public lands play a critical role in ensuring affordable access to outdoor recreation opportunities for military service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families. Under the Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act, veterans and Gold Star Families recently received lifetime America the Beautiful Passes to access all national parks and public lands free of charge.<sup>7</sup> Importantly, “military veterans often describe distinctive connections between their service to the country and the public lands they later return to visit.”<sup>8</sup> Federal land managers can also play an intentional role in creating therapeutic opportunities for veterans by “maintaining appropriate trails and recreation facilities, and allowing [outdoor programs for veterans (OPVs)] to bring groups onto public lands.”<sup>9</sup> Many non-profit organizations organize veterans events that take



Source: Vail Veterans, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, PTSD: National Center for PTSD, February 3, 2023, [https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/common/common\\_veterans.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/common/common_veterans.asp).

<sup>3</sup> National Environmental Education Foundation, “Five Studies That Show How Spending Time In Nature Helps Veterans”, Sarah Hubbart, November 1, 2022, <https://www.neefusa.org/story/health-and-environment/five-studies-show-how-spending-time-nature-helps-veterans>. Forge Health, Hiking Can Help Veterans Heal and Find Peace, n.d., <https://forgehealth.com/hiking-can-help-veterans-heal-and-find-peace/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Employment Situation of Veterans-2022”, March 21, 2023, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Section 641, P.L. 117-81.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

place on public lands, although these events are usually planned on an ad-hoc basis. Despite the importance of our public lands to veterans and military service members, federal land managers often lack a cohesive national strategy that prioritizes outdoor programs for veterans. According to one study, “even as public land agencies begin to appreciate ways they can shape therapeutic landscapes, it will require a degree of intentionality to support [outdoor programs for veterans (OPVs)] and promote opportunities for people to gather, seek therapeutic experiences, or heal



An example of an adaptive trail in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. **Source:** Quinn Brett, 2022.

across physical and managerial landscapes.”<sup>10</sup>

Along with lacking a cohesive strategy for recreation, many national parks and public lands are not accessible to wounded warriors and to those with disabilities broadly. These access barriers affect a significant portion of the population, as approximately 1 in 4 Americans has a disability, with roughly half of that population having a disability that affects their mobility.<sup>11</sup> These accessibility issues are particularly pronounced in backcountry and wilderness areas that can be the most effective for veterans’ recovery. Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) reaffirms the ability to use wheelchairs in designated wilderness areas, federal land managers are not required to provide accommodations to access these areas and the term wheelchair is defined to devices “suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area,” excluding 21<sup>st</sup> Century adaptive devices used to access more rugged terrain.<sup>12</sup> Even if a trail or recreation opportunity is accessible, it can take “an insurmountable amount of work to find information on a park’s website” about which parts of the park are, or are not, accessible.<sup>13</sup> While guidelines under the

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<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Greenberg, Alissa, “Adapting national parks for wheelchair hiking,” NOVA, April 12, 2022, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/disability-hiking-national-parks-accessibility/>.

<sup>12</sup> USFS, “Law, Regulation and Policy for Wheelchair/Mobility Device Use,” [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd528866.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd528866.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Grothjan, Sarah, “Our National Parks: How Accessible Are They?,” REI, September 21, 2022, <https://www.rei.com/blog/stewardship/national-parks-accessibility>.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1969 (ABA) require outdoor recreation spaces such as campgrounds and trails to display accessibility information, this usually only applies to newly constructed trails.<sup>14</sup> Existing trails often lack sufficient information about accessibility features such as width, surface, slope, and obstacles. In many cases, trails have never been graded for their accessibility.<sup>15</sup> Creating new adaptive trails and recreation opportunities, as well as providing easily accessible and centralized information about these opportunities, can help wounded warriors and people with disabilities explore and enjoy more of our public lands.

The Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act seeks to improve access and opportunities for military service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families to enjoy outdoor recreation on federal lands. The bill directs the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and National Park Service (NPS) to each develop adaptive trails in each of the regions they manage specifically for individuals with physical disabilities, including wounded warriors, to access and enjoy outdoor activities. Additionally, the agencies are required to create new adaptive recreation opportunities such as adaptive campgrounds, hunting and fishing opportunities, and activities like kayaking or skiing. Information about these new adaptive trails and opportunities must be posted on publicly available websites in a centralized location by each of the federal land management agencies.

The bill also develops a national strategy to increase recreation visits to federal lands by veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and Gold Star Families. The bill helps increase these recreation visits by promoting partnerships with various organizations to host more veterans' recreation events on public lands and assisting in the planning and execution processes of those events. The MVP Act also streamlines the permitting process for veterans' groups focused on outdoor recreation by waiving fees and permits for certain activities and common-use areas such as picnic areas. Finally, the bill encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to prioritize hiring veterans in recreation-focused positions and expands existing programs to recruit and train veterans as volunteers on public lands.

### **H.R. 1786 (Rep. Levin, D-CA), “GROW Act”**

One of the challenges facing veterans transitioning to civilian life can be finding good jobs that match their skillsets and enable them to adequately provide for their families. Finding a job after military service impacts nearly 200,000 veterans every year, and only one in four veterans have a job lined up after leaving the Armed Forces.<sup>16</sup> Finding solutions to address this problem has been a consistent priority for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Warrior Training Advancement Course (WARTAC) is one example of a program the VA utilizes to help train future veterans for federal employment opportunities with the Veterans Benefits Administration

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<sup>14</sup> A Rule by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, “Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas, September 26, 2013, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2013/09/26/2013-22876/architectural-barriers-act-accessibility-guidelines-outdoor-developed-areas>.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* “Our trails haven’t been measured probably since the beginning of time.”

<sup>16</sup> CBS News, “Veterans struggle to find work after military: “We still want to give the best of ourselves”, Norah O’Donnell, February 23, 2022, Olivia Rinaldi, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/veterans-jobs-american-corporate-partners/>.

(VBA).<sup>17</sup> WARTAC provides education and training for veterans while they are still on active duty.<sup>18</sup> Due to the success of this program, the VA is now actively looking to expand its use.<sup>19</sup> While there are employment opportunities at the VBA, other federal agencies could also expand their hiring of veterans, particularly DOI. As of fiscal year 2020, only 17.4 percent of DOI employees are veterans, compared with 30.7 percent across all executive branch agencies.<sup>20</sup>

H.R. 1786, the “Get Rewarding Outdoor Work for our Veterans (GROW) Act,” seeks to increase the hiring of veterans by creating a pilot program directing DOI to work with the Department of Labor (DOL) and VA to employ veterans in DOI positions related to conservation and resource management activities. This is a bipartisan bill being co-led by Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA) that



Veterans employed by Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP).  
Source: GCNP, 2021.

builds upon the WARTAC program to reduce unemployment amongst veterans. This legislation has the potential to provide quality employment opportunities for veterans, while also improving land management efforts and helping to address the significant maintenance backlog that continues to burden federal lands. Additionally, the GROW Act requires the VA to submit a report to Congress examining the WARTAC program and detail best practices and recommendations for federal agencies to implement these practices.

### **H.R. 1829 (Rep. Crane, R-AZ), To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.**

Gila County, Arizona is home to over 500,000 veterans.<sup>21</sup> Nearly 60 percent of the land in Gila County is managed by the federal government.<sup>22</sup> Like many other western communities, this large federal footprint requires thoughtful coordination and collaboration with federal land

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, “Outreach, Transition and Economic Development”, <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/WARTAC.asp>.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

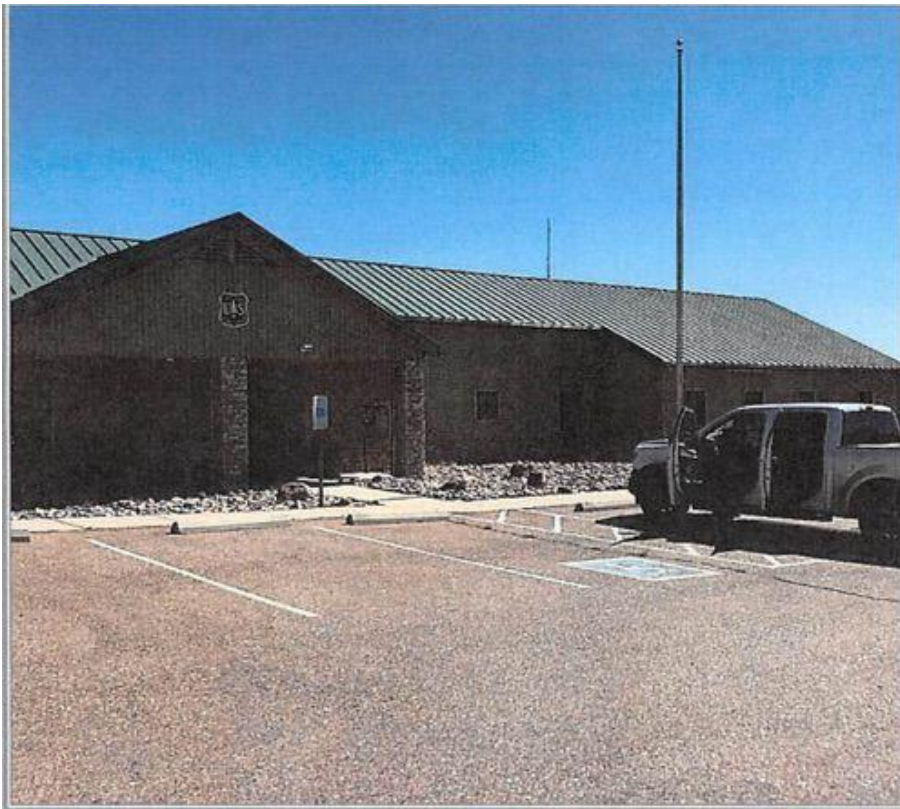
<sup>19</sup> Military.com, “VA Training Program Gives Transitioning Service Members a Shot at Job Working on Vets’ Benefits”, Patricia Kime, April 27, 2023, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/04/27/want-job-va-training-program-gives-transitioning-troops-shot-federal-employment.html>.

<sup>20</sup> United States Office of Personnel Management, “Employment of Veterans in the Federal Executive Branch”, FY 2020, <https://www.fedshirevets.gov/hiring-officials/veteran-employment-data/employment-of-veterans-in-the-federal-executive-branch-fy2020.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> Arizona Department of Veterans Services, “Arizona Veterans’ Service Advisory Commission” July 14, 2022, [https://dvs.az.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022-07-14-AVSAC%20Strategic%20Policy%20Objectives%20-%20APPROVED\\_1.pdf](https://dvs.az.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022-07-14-AVSAC%20Strategic%20Policy%20Objectives%20-%20APPROVED_1.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> University of Arizona, “Gila County, AZ”, <https://economics.arizona.edu/file/1813/download?token=pVx9esFm>.

managers. For several years, Gila County has sought to proactively improve veterans care in their community by creating a veteran’s retreat center that promotes outdoor recreation and nature-based therapy. Gila County, in coordination with Congressmen Gosar (R-AZ) and Crane (R-AZ), worked with USFS to identify a suitable property for this proposed veteran’s center. The property they selected includes roughly 232 acres of pristine Tonto National Forest land and buildings known as the Pleasant Valley Ranger Administrative Site (Administrative Site).<sup>23</sup> After moving the location of its ranger district to Payson, Arizona, USFS was planning on tearing down the Administrative Site before beginning conversations with Gila County about the potential of using the location to support veterans.<sup>24</sup> In 2021, Gila County signed a 20-year special use permit with USFS to begin turning the Administrative Site into a veterans retreat center and start some needed maintenance.<sup>25</sup> However, Gila County is still pursuing a long-term solution and wished to have full ownership of the Administrative Site transferred to the County.<sup>26</sup>



Pleasant Valley Ranger Administrative Site. **Source:** Gila County, no date.

H.R. 1829 requires USFS to convey the Administrative Site and surrounding land to Gila County, Arizona. The site consists of 17 buildings including a 6,000-square foot administrative building, two residences, two barracks, an historic ranger house and barn, helipads, and a well and wastewater system.<sup>27</sup> Gila County wants to remodel many of the buildings in order to create the “ultimate experience for veterans and their families.”<sup>28</sup> The administrative building will become a main lodge and

additional renovations are planned to improve the Administrative Site’s family housing and

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<sup>23</sup> Gila County, “Pleasant Valley Veterans Camp,” [https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PV\\_Veterans\\_Camp\\_Background\\_Doc.pdf](https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PV_Veterans_Camp_Background_Doc.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> AZ Family, “223-acre retreat facility for Veterans opening in Gila County” Caset Torres, June 21, 2023, <https://www.azfamily.com/2023/06/21/223-acre-retreat-facility-veterans-opening-gila-county/>.

<sup>25</sup> Gila County, “Pleasant Valley Veterans Camp” [https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PV\\_Veterans\\_Camp\\_Background\\_Doc.pdf](https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PV_Veterans_Camp_Background_Doc.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

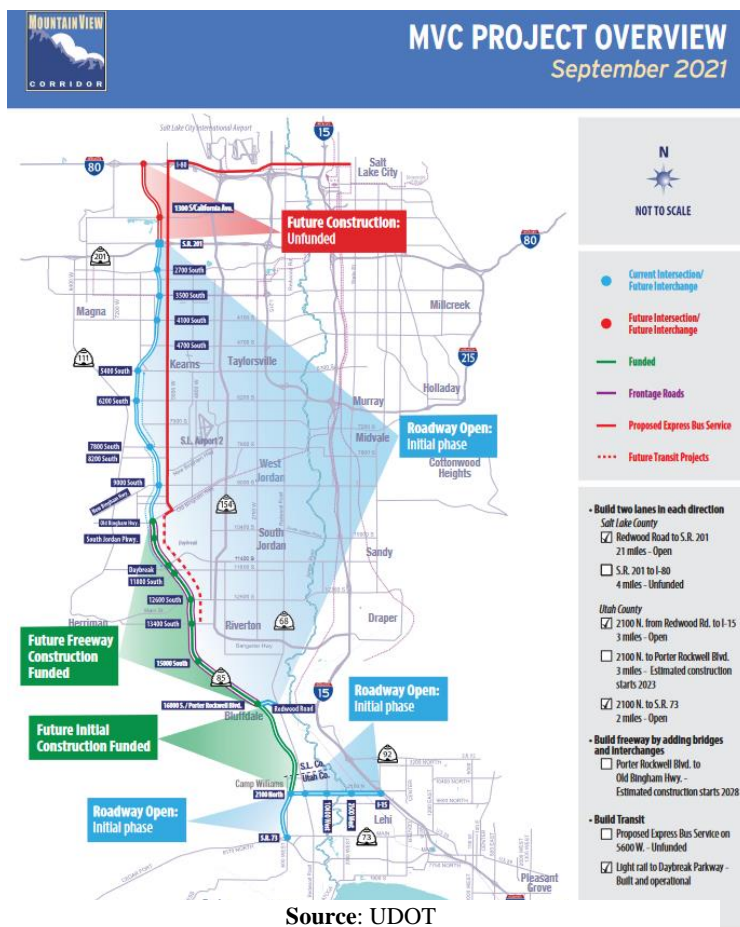
<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

recreation opportunities.<sup>29</sup> H.R. 1829 includes a reversionary clause that will return the site to the USFS if it ceases to be used to serve veterans. Senators Kelly (D-AZ) and Sinema (I-AZ) have introduced companion legislation in the Senate.<sup>30</sup>

**H.R. 2468 (Rep. Owens, R-UT), “Mountain View Corridor Completion Act”**

The Mountain View Corridor (MVC) is a major road improvement project in the State of Utah designed to help meet the transportation challenges facing growing communities in Salt Lake County and Utah County.<sup>31</sup> Since 2003, both the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and Utah Transit Authority (UTA) have been involved in designing and constructing this project, which includes “freeway, transit-way, and trails” and will feature a new 35-mile four-lane highway.<sup>32</sup> The MVC is expected to alleviate growing traffic congestion driven by significant residential growth in the area and help improve road safety.<sup>33</sup>



A portion of the MVC is slated to go through Camp Williams, a National Guard training site located 26 miles south of Salt Lake City operated by the Utah National Guard.<sup>34</sup> Significant portions of the MVC have already been completed; however, the preferred alignment of the last portion of the MVC is being held up due to challenges associated with 36 acres within the Camp Williams boundary owned by the BLM.<sup>35</sup> Without clear title or a right-of-way agreement, UDOT is not authorized to build the last portion of the MVC over 3 separate parcels within Camp Williams.<sup>36</sup> The land in question is not being actively managed by the BLM and is undeveloped with sagebrush and

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> S. 1015, “A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona” 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1015/cosponsors>.

<sup>31</sup> Utah Department of Transportation, “Mountain View Corridor”, <https://mountainview.udot.utah.gov/history/>.

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> Information provided by UDOT.

<sup>34</sup> Utah National Guard, “Camp W. G. Williams”, <https://ut.ng.mil/ABOUT/Units/Utah-Training-Center-Camp-Williams/>.

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*



other high-desert vegetation.<sup>37</sup> H.R. 2468 would require the BLM to convey the 36 acres of land within Camp Williams necessary to complete the MVC to the State of Utah. This bill, which is co-sponsored by Congressman Curtis (R-UT), will allow the final portion of the MVC project to be completed.

#### **IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION**

##### **H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rep. Kiggans, R-VA), “Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act”**

#### **Section 2. Adaptive Trails and Recreation Opportunities for Military Servicemembers and Veterans.**

- Directs USFS, BLM, and NPS to each develop at least one adaptive trail in each of the regions they manage within 5 years. The agencies may create new adaptive trails or modify an existing trail into an adaptive trail. The agencies shall develop signs, maps, and promotional materials for these trails.
- Directs USFS, BLM, and NPS to each develop at least one new adaptive recreation opportunity in each of their regions within 5 years. These can include more accessible campgrounds, hunting and fishing opportunities, or outdoor recreation activities like skiing or kayaking. The agencies shall develop signs, maps, and promotional materials for these adaptive recreation opportunities.
- Allows the agencies to enter into partnerships to rent adaptive equipment for improved recreation access.
- Creates an inventory of existing adaptive recreation opportunities and directs that information be made available online.

#### **Section 3. Promotion of Outdoor Recreation for Military Service Members and Veterans.**

- Directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense to spread awareness and educational materials about outdoor recreation opportunities for veterans including: 1) the availability of free recreation passes under the VIP Act, 2) the availability and location of adaptive trails and recreation opportunities, 3) the benefits of outdoor recreation for physical and mental health and 4) resources and programs that promote volunteer or job opportunities in the outdoors.

#### **Section 4. Reducing Red Tape for Recreation Opportunities.**

- Waives standard amenity recreation fees for certain recreation opportunities (i.e., campground fees) for active-duty military members, veterans, and Gold Star Families.
- Requires the issuance of special recreation permits to veterans’ organizations if the general public is not limited to an entry permit system and there is capacity for such group.
- Waives permits for common-use areas such as picnic tables or recreation activities with nominal effects on recreational lands, resources, and programs.
- Exempts veterans’ organizations from caps on visitor-use days for special recreation permit holders.

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<sup>37</sup> *Id.*

### **Section 5. Partnerships to Promote Military and Veteran Recreation.**

- Promotes partnerships with state, Tribal, local, and non-profit organizations with expertise in outdoor-related volunteer and wellness programs for active-duty military service members and veterans to host recreation-related events on public lands.
- Provides technical and financial assistance to these entities to assist with the planning and execution of outdoor recreation events for veterans.

### **Section 6. National Strategy for Military and Veteran Recreation.**

- Directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop a national strategy to increase recreation visits to federal lands by veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and Gold Star Families within 1 year.
- The strategy developed shall establish objectives and quantifiable targets for increasing recreation visits and provide the anticipated costs to achieve these objectives.

### **Section 7. Recreation Resource Advisory Committees.**

- Amends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to add veterans' organizations to Recreation Resource Advisory Committees.

### **Section 8. Career and Volunteer Opportunities for Veterans.**

- Encourages the USDA and DOI to hire veterans in recreation-focused positions.
- Expands programs to recruit and train members of the Armed Forces and veterans as volunteers on public lands.
- Encourages branches of the military to encourage active-duty military service members to participate in outdoor recreation programs.

## **[H.R. 1786 \(Rep. Levin, D-CA\), "GROW Act"](#)**

### **Section 2. Reporting on the Warrior Training Advancement Course of the Veterans Benefit Administration.**

- Requires the VA to submit annual reports to Congress examining the WARTAC program that details best practices, cost saving information, and hiring results within 6 months.
- Requires the VA to share this report with the head of each federal agency.

### **Section 3. Pilot program to employ veterans in positions relating to conservation and resource management activities.**

- Requires DOL to establish guidelines containing best practices for federal departments and agencies to employ veterans transitioning from service in the Armed Forces.
- Requires DOI to establish a two-year pilot project in consultation with the DOL and VA to hire veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management. The agencies will provide briefings and reports on the implementation of the pilot project.

**H.R. 1829 (Rep. Crane), To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.**

**Section 1. Conveyance of Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.**

- Directs the Forest Service to convey a 232.9-acre property in the Tonto National Forest, without consideration and subject to valid and existing rights, to Gila County, Arizona, upon the county's submission of a written request for such conveyance.
- Requires Gila County to pay for the costs of the conveyance.
- Specifies that the Forest Service is not required to provide any covenant or warranty for the land and improvements conveyed to the County under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).
- Stipulates that if any land conveyed under this bill ceases to be used for purposes of serving veterans, all right, title, and interest in and to the land shall revert to the United States.

**H.R. 2468 (Rep. Owens, R-UT), "Mountain View Corridor Completion Act"**

**Section 2. Conveyance of Bureau of Land Management Land to State of Utah.**

- Directs the BLM to convey, without consideration and subject to valid and existing rights, approximately 36 acres of BLM land located within the boundary of Camp Williams to the State of Utah.
- Stipulates that if any land conveyed under this bill ceases to be used for transportation or public purposes, all right, title, and interest in and to the land shall revert to the United States.
- Exempts the conveyance from an executive order issued in 1914, which withdrew the lands for military use.
- Provides certain requirements for creating a map of the conveyance.

**V. COST**

None of the bills on today's hearing have received a formal cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

**VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION**

The administration position is unknown at this time.

**VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)**

**H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rep. Kiggans) "Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act"**