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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1614

To facilitate the creation of designated shooting ranges on National Forest System land and public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management for the public to use for recreational target shooting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MOORE of Utah introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To facilitate the creation of designated shooting ranges on National Forest System land and public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management for the public to use for recreational target shooting, 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 "Range Access Act".

1 **SEC. 2. TARGET SHOOTING RANGES.**

2 (a) DEFINITION OF TARGET SHOOTING RANGE.—In
3 this section, the term “target shooting range” means a
4 developed and managed area that is authorized or oper-
5 ated by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Manage-
6 ment specifically for the purposeful discharge by the public
7 of legal firearms, firearms training, archery, or other asso-
8 ciated activities.

9 (b) ASSESSMENT; IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET
10 SHOOTING RANGE LOCATIONS.—

11 (1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-
13 cerned shall make available to the public a list
14 that—

15 (A) identifies each National Forest and
16 each Bureau of Land Management district that
17 has a target shooting range that meets the re-
18 quirements described in paragraph (3)(B);

19 (B) identifies each National Forest and
20 each Bureau of Land Management district that
21 does not have a target shooting range that
22 meets the requirements described in paragraph
23 (3)(B); and

24 (C) for each National Forest and each Bu-
25 reau of Land Management district identified
26 under subparagraph (B), provides a determina-

1 tion of whether applicable law or the applicable
2 land use plan prevents the establishment of a
3 target shooting range that meets the require-
4 ments described in paragraph (3)(B).

5 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET SHOOTING
6 RANGE LOCATIONS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary con-
8 cerned shall identify at least 1 suitable location
9 for a target shooting range that meets the re-
10 quirements described in paragraph (3)(B) with-
11 in each National Forest and each Bureau of
12 Land Management district with respect to
13 which the Secretary concerned has determined
14 under paragraph (1)(C) that the establishment
15 of a target shooting range is not prevented by
16 applicable law or the applicable land use plan.

17 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries, in
18 consultation with the entities described in sub-
19 section (d), shall, for purposes of identifying a
20 suitable location for a target shooting range
21 under subparagraph (A)—

22 (i) consider the proximity of areas fre-
23 quently used by recreational shooters;

24 (ii) ensure that the target shooting
25 range would not adversely impact a shoot-

1 ing range operated or maintained by a
2 non-Federal entity, including a shooting
3 range located on private land; and

4 (iii) consider other nearby recreational
5 uses to minimize potential conflict.

6 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TARGET SHOOT-
7 ING RANGES.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, at 1 or
10 more suitable locations identified on each eligi-
11 ble National Forest and each Bureau of Land
12 Management district under paragraph (2)(A),
13 the Secretary concerned shall—

14 (i) subject to the availability of appro-
15 priations, construct a target shooting
16 range that meets the requirements de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (B) or modify an
18 existing target shooting range to meet the
19 requirements described in subparagraph
20 (B); or

21 (ii) enter into an agreement with an
22 entity described in subsection (d)(1), under
23 which the entity shall establish or maintain
24 a target shooting range that meets the re-
25 quirements described in subparagraph (B).

1 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—A target shooting
2 range established under this paragraph—

3 (i)(I) shall be able to accommodate ri-
4 fles, pistols, and shotguns; and

5 (II) may accommodate archery;

6 (ii) shall include appropriate public
7 safety designs and features, including—

8 (I) significantly modified land-
9 scapes, including berms, buffer dis-
10 tances, or other public safety designs
11 or features;

12 (II) a designated firing line; and

13 (III) benches;

14 (iii) may include—

15 (I) shade structures;

16 (II) trash containers;

17 (III) restrooms; and

18 (IV) any other features that the
19 Secretary concerned determines to be
20 necessary; and

21 (iv) may not require a user to pay a
22 fee to use the target shooting range.

23 (C) RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES
24 ACT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the
25 Secretary concerned may consider a target

1 shooting range that is located on land trans-
2 ferred pursuant to the Act of June 14, 1926
3 (commonly known as the “Recreation and Pub-
4 lic Purposes Act”) (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578;
5 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), as a target shooting
6 range that meets the requirements described in
7 subparagraph (B).

8 (c) RESTRICTIONS.—

9 (1) MANAGEMENT.—The management of a tar-
10 get shooting range shall be subject to such condi-
11 tions as the Secretary concerned determines are nec-
12 essary for the safe, responsible use of—

13 (A) the target shooting range; and

14 (B) the adjacent land and resources.

15 (2) CLOSURES.—Except in emergency situa-
16 tions, the Secretary concerned shall seek to ensure
17 that a target shooting range that meets the require-
18 ments described in subsection (b)(3)(B), or an
19 equivalent shooting range adjacent to a National
20 Forest or Bureau of Land Management district, is
21 available to the public prior to closing Federal rec-
22 reational lands and waters administered by the Chief
23 of the Forest Service or the Director of the Bureau
24 of Land Management to recreational shooting, in ac-
25 cordance with section 4103 of the John D. Dingell,

1 Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act
2 (16 U.S.C. 7913).

3 (d) CONSULTATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
5 the Secretaries shall consult, as applicable, with—

6 (A) local and Tribal governments;

7 (B) nonprofit or nongovernmental organi-
8 zations, including organizations that are sig-
9 natories to the memorandum of understanding
10 entitled “Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and
11 Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of
12 Understanding” and signed by the Forest Serv-
13 ice and the Bureau of Land Management on
14 August 17, 2006;

15 (C) State fish and wildlife agencies;

16 (D) shooting clubs;

17 (E) Federal advisory councils relating to
18 hunting and shooting sports;

19 (F) individuals or entities with authorized
20 leases or permits in an area under consideration
21 for a target shooting range;

22 (G) State and local offices of outdoor
23 recreation;

24 (H) State and local public safety agencies;

25 and

1 (I) the public.

2 (2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretaries may—

3 (A) coordinate with an entity described in
4 paragraph (1) to assist with the construction,
5 modification, operation, or maintenance of a
6 target shooting range; and

7 (B) explore opportunities to leverage fund-
8 ing to maximize non-Federal investment in the
9 construction, modification, operation, or main-
10 tenance of a target shooting range.

11 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after
12 the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter
13 through fiscal year 2033, the Secretaries shall submit to
14 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
15 Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the
16 House of Representatives a report describing the progress
17 made with respect to the implementation of this section.

18 (f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section affects
19 the authority of the Secretary concerned to administer a
20 target shooting range that is in addition to the target
21 shooting ranges that meet the requirements described in
22 subsection (b)(3)(B) on Federal recreational lands and
23 waters administered by the Secretary concerned.