

Statement of Chairman Rob Bishop
Committee on Natural Resources
Full Committee Markup
October 7, 2015

Today, the Committee will mark-up several important pieces of legislation, starting with the SHARE Act, (the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act”). This bipartisan package of proposals will promote greater opportunities and safeguard the rights of hunters, anglers and recreational shooters, and is supported by over 40 sportsmen organizations. A similar version passed the House last year but was not acted upon by the Senate.

This legislation is long past due. The President of the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation recently pointed out that some 37 million sportsmen and women spend \$90 billion on outdoor sporting activities—a significant amount of which occur on federal lands.

Unfortunately, arbitrary closures by federal bureaucrats and increasing lawsuits by extreme national special interests threaten access of these activities on America’s federal lands. This legislation clarifies and protects traditional rights to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting access on BLM and Forest Service lands. It also would protect citizens’ Second Amendment rights and use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle.

In addition to the Sportsmen's package, we also will consider other important bills to encourage better management and more participation and recreational access at our federal parks and lands. One such measure, H.R. 974, is a common sense measure sponsored by our colleague, Representative Lummis, to allow for paddling on rivers and streams, an activity that has been restricted by the Park Service for several decades in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller Memorial Parkway. Paddling is already considered an appropriate activity in other national parks and this bill will ensure the same is true for these parks as well.

H.R. 3382, offered by Mr. McClintock and Representative Amodei, would authorize activities to address the growing risk of catastrophic wildfires and invasive species threats through more active forest management in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The bill also ensures local governments are given a say in land acquisition transactions that may affect them or their citizens. This is another common-sense bill that recognizes the undisputed fact that money alone will not solve our wildfire crisis and that without management reform our communities will continue to burn. Doing nothing is to accept the status quo.

H.R. 1452, sponsored by Representative Jeff Miller, would ensure that a local county in his district that was granted rights to lands several decades ago by the federal government would be given flexibility on how to best utilize them for their local economy while protecting public access as appropriate.

Many of these bills advance core priorities of mine and others on this Committee, which is to increase and improve Americans' access and

enjoyment to federal lands, and to allow for them to be better managed than the status quo.

I am thankful for my colleagues' work on these bills and look forward to moving them and other bipartisan measures forward at this markup.