

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## 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.

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