

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 187

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FULCHER, and Mrs. DINGELL) 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

A BILL

To provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, 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 “Modernizing Access
5 to our Public Waters Act of 2025” or the “MAPWaters
6 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTION.**—The
4 term “Federal fishing restriction” means a defined
5 area in which all or certain fishing activities are
6 temporarily or permanently prohibited or restricted
7 by a Federal land or water management agency.

8 (2) **FEDERAL LAND OR WATER MANAGEMENT**
9 **AGENCY.**—The term “Federal land or water man-
10 agement agency” means—

11 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

12 (B) the National Park Service;

13 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

14 (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife
15 Service; and

16 (E) the Forest Service.

17 (3) **FEDERAL WATERWAY.**—The term “Federal
18 waterway” means waters managed by 1 or more of
19 the relevant Secretaries.

20 (4) **FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.**—The
21 term “Federal waterway restriction” means a re-
22 striction on the access or use of a Federal waterway
23 applied under applicable law by 1 or more of the
24 Secretaries.

25 (5) **SECRETARIES.**—The term “Secretaries”
26 means—

1 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
2 through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

3 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

4 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
5 the several States, the District of Columbia, and
6 each territory of the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

8 Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment
9 of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Fed-
10 eral Geographic Data Committee established by section
11 753(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (43
12 U.S.C. 2802(a)), shall jointly develop and adopt inter-
13 agency standards to ensure compatibility and interoper-
14 ability among applicable Federal databases with respect
15 to the collection and dissemination of geospatial data re-
16 lating to public outdoor recreational access of Federal wa-
17 terways and Federal fishing restrictions.

18 **SEC. 4. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION.**

19 (a) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.—Not later
20 than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each
21 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,
22 shall digitize and make publicly available online, as appli-
23 cable, geographic information system data that includes,
24 with respect to Federal waterway restrictions—

1 (1) status information with respect to the con-
2 ditions under which Federal waterways are open or
3 closed to entry or watercraft, including watercraft
4 inspection, decontamination requirements, low-ele-
5 vation aircraft, or diving;

6 (2) the dates on which Federal waterways are
7 seasonally closed to entry or watercraft;

8 (3) the areas of Federal waterways with restric-
9 tions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel
10 type;

11 (4) the areas of Federal waterways with an-
12 choring restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones,
13 danger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;

14 (5) Federal waterway restrictions on the direc-
15 tion of travel, including upstream or downstream
16 travel; and

17 (6) the uses, including by watercraft, that are
18 restricted on each area of a Federal waterway, in-
19 cluding the permissibility of—

20 (A) canoes and other paddlecraft;

21 (B) rafts and driftboats;

22 (C) motorboats;

23 (D) personal watercraft;

24 (E) airboats;

25 (F) amphibious aircraft;

- 1 (G) hovercraft;
- 2 (H) oversnow vehicles and other motorized
- 3 vehicles on frozen bodies of water;
- 4 (I) oceangoing ships;
- 5 (J) swimming; and
- 6 (K) other applicable recreational activities,
- 7 as determined to be appropriate by the Secre-
- 8 taries.

9 (b) FEDERAL WATERWAY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION
10 INFORMATION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of
11 enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the max-
12 imum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly
13 available online, as applicable, geographic information sys-
14 tem data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway
15 access and navigation information—

16 (1)(A) the location of boat ramps, portages, and
17 fishing access sites under the authority of the Fed-
18 eral land or water management agency; and

19 (B) the identification of the dates on which
20 the facilities and sites identified under subpara-
21 graph (A) are open or closed, as applicable; and

22 (2) bathymetric information and depth charts,
23 as feasible.

24 (c) FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.—Not later
25 than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each

1 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,
2 shall digitize and make publicly available online geo-
3 graphic information system data that describes, with re-
4 spect to Federal fishing restrictions—

5 (1) the location and geographic boundaries of
6 Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and com-
7 mercial fishing, including—

8 (A) full or partial closures;

9 (B) no-take zones; and

10 (C) Federal fishing restrictions within or
11 surrounding marine protected areas;

12 (2) Federal fishing restrictions on the use of
13 specific types of equipment or bait; and

14 (3) Federal requirements with respect to catch
15 and release.

16 (d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall de-
17 velop a process to allow members of the public to submit
18 questions or comments regarding the information de-
19 scribed in subsections (a) and (b).

20 (e) UPDATES.—The Secretaries, to the maximum ex-
21 tent practicable, shall update—

22 (1) the data described in subsections (a) and

23 (b) not less frequently than 2 times per year; and

24 (2) the data described in subsection (c) in real
25 time as changes go into effect.

1 (f) EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to irri-
 2 gation canals and flowage easements.

3 (g) DISCLOSURE.—Any geographic information sys-
 4 tem data made publicly available under this section shall
 5 not disclose information regarding the nature, location,
 6 character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or ar-
 7 chaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.

8 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.**

9 (a) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PRO-
 10 VIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Sec-
 11 retaries may—

12 (1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal
 13 agencies and private sector and nonprofit partners,
 14 including—

15 (A) State natural resource agencies;

16 (B) Tribal natural resource agencies;

17 (C) technology companies;

18 (D) geospatial data companies; and

19 (E) experts in data science, analytics, and
 20 operations research; and

21 (2) enter into an agreement with a third party
 22 to carry out any provision of this Act.

23 (b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The
 24 Secretaries may work with the Director of the United
 25 States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize,

1 standardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries
2 to meet the requirements of this Act.

3 (c) REQUIREMENT.—With respect to data developed
4 and distributed under this Act, the Secretaries shall—

5 (1) develop the data in accordance with applica-
6 ble Federal, State, and Tribal laws (including regu-
7 lations); and

8 (2) include a notice that any geospatial data
9 are subject to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal
10 laws (including regulations).

11 (d) EXISTING EFFORTS.—To the extent practicable,
12 the Secretary concerned shall use or incorporate existing
13 applicable data, maps, and resources in carrying out this
14 Act, including data, maps, and resources developed and
15 published under—

16 (1) the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land
17 Act (16 U.S.C. 6851 et seq.);

18 (2) section 103 of division DD of the Consoli-
19 dated Appropriations Act, 2023 (43 U.S.C. 776); or

20 (3) other applicable law.

21 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

22 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
23 of this Act and annually thereafter through March 30,
24 2034, the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes

1 the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meet-
2 ing the requirements of this Act to—

3 (1) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
4 House of Representatives;

5 (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
6 the House of Representatives;

7 (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
8 of Representatives;

9 (4) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
10 sources of the Senate; and

11 (5) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
12 and Forestry of the Senate.

13 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

14 Nothing in this Act—

15 (1) modifies or alters the definition of the term
16 “navigable waters” under Federal law;

17 (2) affects the jurisdiction or authority of State
18 or Federal agencies to regulate navigable waters;

19 (3) modifies or alters the authority or jurisdic-
20 tion of Federal or State agencies to manage fish-
21 eries; or

22 (4) authorizes or is intended to result in a
23 change in the accessibility of waters open to hunting,

- 1 fishing, or other forms of outdoor recreation as of
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

