

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 187

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 22, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing Access
3 to our Public Waters Act of 2025” or the “MAPWaters
4 Act of 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

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

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

15 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

16 (B) the National Park Service;

17 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

18 (D) the United States Fish and Wildlife
19 Service; and

20 (E) the Forest Service.

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

24 (4) **FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.**—The
25 term “Federal waterway restriction” means a re-
26 striction on the access or use of a Federal waterway

1 applied under applicable law by 1 or more of the
2 Secretaries.

3 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
4 means—

5 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
6 through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

7 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

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

11 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.**

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

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

23 (a) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.—Not later
24 than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each
25 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,

1 shall digitize and make publicly available online, as appli-
2 cable, geographic information system data that includes,
3 with respect to Federal waterway restrictions—

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

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

11 (3) the areas of Federal waterways with restric-
12 tions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel
13 type;

14 (4) the areas of Federal waterways with an-
15 choring restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones,
16 danger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;

17 (5) Federal waterway restrictions on the direc-
18 tion of travel, including upstream or downstream
19 travel; and

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

23 (A) canoes and other paddlecraft;

24 (B) rafts and driftboats;

25 (C) motorboats;

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

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

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

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

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

3 (c) FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.—Not later
4 than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each
5 of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable,
6 shall digitize and make publicly available online geo-
7 graphic information system data that describes, with re-
8 spect to Federal fishing restrictions—

9 (1) the location and geographic boundaries of
10 Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and com-
11 mercial fishing, including—

12 (A) full or partial closures;

13 (B) no-take zones; and

14 (C) Federal fishing restrictions within or
15 surrounding marine protected areas;

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

18 (3) Federal requirements with respect to catch
19 and release.

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

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

1 (1) the data described in subsections (a) and
2 (b) not less frequently than 2 times per year; and

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.**

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

16 (1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal
17 agencies and private sector and nonprofit partners,
18 including—

19 (A) State natural resource agencies;

20 (B) Tribal natural resource agencies;

21 (C) technology companies;

22 (D) geospatial data companies; and

23 (E) experts in data science, analytics, and
24 operations research; and

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

3 (b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The
4 Secretaries may work with the Director of the United
5 States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize,
6 standardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries
7 to meet the requirements of this Act.

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

10 (1) develop the data in accordance with applica-
11 ble Federal, State, and Tribal laws (including regu-
12 lations); and

13 (2) include a notice that any geospatial data
14 are subject to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal
15 laws (including regulations).

16 (d) EXISTING EFFORTS.—To the extent practicable,
17 the Secretary concerned shall use or incorporate existing
18 applicable data, maps, and resources in carrying out this
19 Act, including data, maps, and resources developed and
20 published under—

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

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

25 (3) other applicable law.

1 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
3 of this Act and annually thereafter through March 30,
4 2034, the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes
5 the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meet-
6 ing the requirements of this Act to—

7 (1) the Committee on Natural Resources of the
8 House of Representatives;

9 (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
10 the House of Representatives;

11 (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
12 of Representatives;

13 (4) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
14 sources of the Senate; and

15 (5) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
16 and Forestry of the Senate.

17 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

18 Nothing in this Act—

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

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

23 (3) modifies or alters the authority or jurisdic-
24 tion of Federal or State agencies to manage fish-
25 eries; or

Attest: **KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,**
Clerk.