

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1555

To stop implementation and enforcement of the Forest Service travel management rule and require the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to incorporate the needs, uses, and input of affected communities, and to obtain their consent, before taking any travel management action affecting access to National Forest System lands derived from the public domain or public lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2015

Mr. WALDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To stop implementation and enforcement of the Forest Service travel management rule and require the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to incorporate the needs, uses, and input of affected communities, and to obtain their consent, before taking any travel management action affecting access to National Forest System lands derived from the public domain or public lands, 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 “Forest Access in Rural
3 Communities Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPLEMENTATION OR ENFORCE-**
5 **MENT OF TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE.**

6 Effective upon the enactment of this Act, in all units
7 of the National Forest System derived from the public do-
8 main, the Secretary of Agriculture shall cease all imple-
9 mentation and enforcement of the travel management rule
10 under subparts A, B, and C of part 212 of title 36, Code
11 of Federal Regulations, and subparts A and B of part 261
12 of such title.

13 **SEC. 3. CONDITIONS ON FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF**
14 **LAND MANAGEMENT ACCESS TRAVEL MAN-**
15 **AGEMENT ACTIONS FOR NATIONAL FOREST**
16 **SYSTEM LANDS DERIVED FROM THE PUBLIC**
17 **DOMAIN AND PUBLIC LANDS.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ACCESS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ACTION.—

20 The term “access travel management action” means
21 any action by the Secretary regarding National For-
22 est System lands or public lands that—

23 (A) will, or can reasonably be expected to,
24 alter public access to National Forest System
25 lands or public lands, including any change in
26 access to mining claims or access using motor-

1 ized vehicles or nonmotorized means, resulting
2 from—

3 (i) decommissioning, in whole or in
4 part, of a road, trail, or combination road
5 and trail system;

6 (ii) a change in the status of a road
7 as open or closed; or

8 (iii) a change in road densities; and

9 (B) requires the preparation of an environ-
10 mental impact statement or environmental as-
11 sessment under the National Environmental
12 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.).

13 (2) AFFECTED COMMUNITY.—The term “af-
14 fected community” means—

15 (A) a political subdivision whose bound-
16 aries contain National Forest System lands or
17 public lands affected by an access travel man-
18 agement action; or

19 (B) a political subdivision adjacent to a po-
20 litical subdivision described in subparagraph
21 (A).

22 (3) POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.—The term “polit-
23 ical subdivision” means any county, municipality,
24 city, town, or township created pursuant to State
25 law.

1 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The
2 term “National Forest System lands” means Fed-
3 eral lands derived from the public domain that are
4 included in the National Forest System (as defined
5 in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Re-
6 newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
7 1609(a))).

8 (5) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
9 has the meaning given that term in section 103(e)
10 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
11 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)).

12 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary con-
13 cerned” means—

14 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
15 through the Director of the Bureau of Land
16 Management, with respect to public lands; and

17 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
18 through the Chief of the Forest Service, with
19 respect to National Forest System lands.

20 (b) CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES
21 REQUIRED.—As a condition on the preparation of an envi-
22 ronmental impact statement or environmental assessment
23 under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
24 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) for a proposed access travel manage-
25 ment action, the Secretary concerned shall consult with

1 each affected community for the purpose of incorporating
2 the needs, uses, and input of affected communities.

3 (c) CONCURRENCE OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES RE-
4 QUIRED.—The Secretary concerned may not implement an
5 access travel management action unless and until the Sec-
6 retary concerned—

7 (1) complies with the consultation requirement
8 imposed by subsection (b); and

9 (2) obtains the concurrence of each affected
10 community for implementation of the access travel
11 management action.

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