

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4272

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2014

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 to require the Forest Service to incorporate the needs, uses, and input of affected communities before taking any travel management action affecting access to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, 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 “Forest Access in Rural
5 Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONDITIONS ON FOREST SERVICE ACCESS TRAVEL**
2 **MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR UNITS OF THE**
3 **NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DERIVED FROM**
4 **THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ACCESS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT ACTION.—

7 The term “access travel management action” means
8 any Forest Service action regarding a unit of the
9 National Forest System that—

10 (A) will, or can reasonably be expected to,
11 alter public access to National Forest System
12 lands of the unit, including any change in ac-
13 cess using motorized vehicles or nonmotorized
14 means resulting from—

15 (i) the decommissioning in whole or in
16 part of a road, trail, or combination road
17 and trail system;

18 (ii) a change in the status of a road
19 as open or closed; or

20 (iii) a change in forest road densities;

21 and

22 (B) requires the preparation of an environ-
23 mental impact statement or environmental as-
24 sessment under the National Environmental
25 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.).

1 (2) AFFECTED COUNTY.—The term “affected
2 county” means—

3 (A) a political subdivision of a State whose
4 boundaries contain National Forest System
5 lands of a unit of the National Forest System
6 affected by an access travel management action;
7 or

8 (B) a political subdivision of a State adja-
9 cent to a political subdivision of a State de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A).

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
13 Chief of the Forest Service.

14 (4) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE.—The term
15 “travel management rule” refers to subparts A, B,
16 and C of part 212 of title 36, Code of Federal Regu-
17 lations, and subparts A and B of part 261 of such
18 title.

19 (5) UNIT OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYS-
20 TEM.—The terms “unit of the National Forest Sys-
21 tem” and “unit” are limited to a unit of the Na-
22 tional Forest System derived from the public do-
23 main.

24 (b) PROHIBITION ON IMPLEMENTATION OR EN-
25 FORCEMENT OF TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE.—Imme-

1 diately upon the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
2 cease all implementation and enforcement of the travel
3 management rule for units of the National Forest System
4 derived from the public domain.

5 (c) CONSULTATION WITH AND CONCURRENCE OF
6 AFFECTED COUNTIES.—

7 (1) CONSULTATION.—As a condition on the
8 preparation of an environmental impact statement or
9 environmental assessment under the National Envi-
10 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et
11 seq.) for a proposed access travel management ac-
12 tion, the Secretary shall consult with each affected
13 county for the purpose of incorporating the needs,
14 uses, and input of affected counties.

15 (2) CONCURRENCE.—The Secretary may not
16 implement an access travel management action un-
17 less and until the Secretary—

18 (A) complies with the consultation require-
19 ment imposed by paragraph (1); and

20 (B) obtains the concurrence of each af-
21 fected county for implementation of the access
22 travel management action.

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