



Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act Major Provisions & Section-by-Section

Title I – Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure

Subtitle A – Outdoor Recreation Policy

Sec. 111. Congressional Declaration of Policy.

- Declares the policy of the federal government to foster and encourage recreation on federal recreational lands and waters, consistent with multiple-use mandates and land management planning.

Sec. 112. Identifying Opportunities for Recreation.

- Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to conduct a single inventory and assessment of recreation resources on federal lands.
- Requires the publication of the assessment for public comment.
- Requires the Secretaries to identify, list, and map areas of unique recreation resources, delineated by type of recreation and location of the resource. This shall also include an assessment of demand for the resource, its maintenance needs, and projections on current and future use.
- Based on the results of the assessment, the Secretaries shall estimate future recreation demands and identify underutilized locations suitable for developing or expanding recreation opportunities. The Secretaries must solicit input from the public, including adjacent landowners, and consider future maintenance needs.
- Allows the Secretaries to rely on existing research or studies.

Sec. 113. Federal Interagency Council on Recreation. *[H.R. 3107 (Neguse/Lawler), “Improving Outdoor Recreation Coordination Act”]*

- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the “Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation” (Council) consisting of the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- Allows the Secretary to invite other federal, state, or local agencies to participate in meetings of the Council.
- Directs the Council to coordinate on:
 - Recreation management policies, including the implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act;
 - Responses to emergencies that disrupt recreation access;
 - Expenditures of recreation funds;
 - The adoption of new technologies on federal lands and waters;
 - Research activities, including quantifying the economic impacts of recreation;
 - Dissemination of educational materials to the public about recreation;

- Improvement of access to federal lands and waters; and
- Identification of non-federal partners to promote recreation access.

Sec. 114. Recreation Budget Crosscut.

- Requires the Office of Management and Budget to create a public report itemizing the total amount of federal funding spent on outdoor recreation among the Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the prior fiscal year (FY), starting in FY 2025.

Subtitle B – Public Recreation on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

Sec. 121. Biking on Long-Distance Trails. *[H.R. 1319 (Neguse/Curtis), “BOLT Act”]*

- Requires the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to 1) identify not fewer than 10 long-distance bike trails that make use of existing trails and roads; 2) identify not fewer than 10 areas in which there is an opportunity to develop or complete long-distance bike trails; and 3) develop a process for a public comment period regarding the identification, development, and completing on trails in a geographically equitable manner.
- Authorizes the Secretaries to publish and distribute maps, install signage, and issue promotional materials for the trails.
- Emphasizes the trails do not conflict with existing trails or other uses of the land.
- Requires the Secretaries to prepare a report listing the identified trails no later than two years following the date of enactment of the Act.
- Defines long-distant bike trail as a continuous route not less than 80 miles and is primarily made of dirt or natural surfaces.
- Clarifies a long-distance bike trail does not apply to federal lands where mountain biking is not consistent with management plans.

Sec. 122. Protecting America’s Rock Climbing. *[H.R. 1380 (Curtis/Neguse), “PARC Act”]*

- Within 18 months of passage of the bill, requires the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture to issue guidance on climbing management in wilderness areas. The guidance will recognize recreational climbing, including the placement and use of fixed anchors and other equipment, as an allowable activity in wilderness.
- Directs the guidance to describe terms and conditions for allowing fixed anchors and protects existing routes.
- Requires a notice and comment period on the guidance.

Sec. 123. Range Access. *[H.R. 1614 (Moore of UT/Panetta), “Range Access Act”]*

- Directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to make a publicly available list identifying every national forest and BLM unit and whether those units have a target shooting range.
- Directs the Secretaries to identify and establish, within five years, at least one target shooting range on every national forest and BLM unit determined suitable by the Secretary. Sets up requirements for the establishment of the shooting ranges, including appropriate safety designs and features.
- Specifies target shooting ranges shall be open to the public, with exceptions for emergency closures.

- Directs the Secretaries to consult with identified stakeholders, including local and tribal governments and organizations experienced with target shooting.
- Allows the Secretaries to enter into partnerships to construct shooting ranges.
- Requires an annual report to Congress on the implementation of the section.

Sec. 124. Restoration of Overnight Campsites. [*H.R. 1667 (Westerman), “Ouachita National Forest Overnight Camping Act”*]

- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to identify 54 areas in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas suitable for camping and re-open 27 campsites within 2 years of the enactment of this Act. Camping has been closed in this area since 2010.
- Requires all campsites be constructed outside of the 1 percent annual exceedance probability floodplain.
- Requires all existing campsites outside of the floodplain be immediately reopened.
- Rehabilitates existing recreation areas for year-round day use, including a picnic pavilion and parking lot.

Sec. 125. Federal Interior Land Media. [*H.R. 1576 (Fulcher), “FILM Act”*]

- Specifies the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture must ensure that filming or still photography activities are consistent with laws, policies, and general management plans applicable to the Department concerned.
- Prohibits the Secretaries from requiring a permit or assessing a fee for filming or still photography activities on federal lands under their jurisdiction, regardless of distribution platform, if the activity involves fewer than six people and meets certain requirements. Requirements include not impeding or intruding on the experience of other visitors, not disturbing or negatively impacting a natural or cultural resource or an environmental or scenic value, not conducting the activity at a location in which the public is not allowed, not requiring exclusive use of the area, and not requiring use a set or staging equipment (except for tripods, monopods, and handheld lighting equipment).
- Prohibits the Secretaries from requiring a permit or assessing a fee for a filming or still photography activity on land under their jurisdiction that is merely incidental to an otherwise authorized or allowable activity.
- Directs the Secretaries to establish de minimis use authorization process for filming and photography activities that involve groups of six to eight people and that adhere to certain requirements related to resource impacts. Such authorizations are to be issued immediately upon request by an applicant.
- Authorizes the Secretaries to require a permit and assess a reasonable fee for a filming or still photography activity on lands under their jurisdiction that involves more than eight people or does not meet certain requirements.
- Authorizes the Secretaries to recover costs from a permit applicant including the cost of the review or issuance of the permit and related administrative and personnel costs.
- Authorizes the Secretaries to retain recovered costs without further appropriation.
- Requires the Secretaries to establish a process to ensure a timely response to permit applications.
- Requires the Secretaries to coordinate and select a lead agency if a permit is required for two or more federal agencies or federal land management units.

Sec. 126. Cape and Antler Preservation Enhancement.

- Allows NPS to donate the cape (hide), horns, and/or antlers to skilled volunteers who conduct a wildlife management activity on NPS lands. Currently, volunteers are only allowed to keep the meat from such activities.

Sec. 127. Motorized and Nonmotorized Access.

- Directs USFS and BLM to update vehicular use maps within 5 years of the date of enactment of this Act.
- Within 10 years, USFS and BLM shall update over-snow vehicle-use maps.
- Directs the Secretaries to update out-of-date maps within 20 years of an individual map's adoption.
- Encourages USFS and BLM to create more opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized vehicles on federal lands.

Sec. 128. Aquatic Resource Activities Assistance.

- Allows the BLM, BOR, NPS, and USFS to carry out inspections and decontamination of watercraft entering or leaving federal lands and waters. The agencies shall do this in consultation with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and in a way that minimizes disruptions to boating access.
- Allows the Secretaries to provide technical assistance to carry out inspections and decontamination activities. Allows the Secretaries to provide grants for this purpose.
- Prohibits agencies from denying access based on a lack of inspections.
- Allows the Secretaries to share data with certain states.

Subtitle C – Supporting Gateway Communities and Addressing Park Overcrowding
[H.R. 3200 (Zinke/Peltola), “Gateway Community and Recreation Enhancement Act”]

Sec. 131. Gateway Communities.

- Establishes an assessment of the needs of gateway communities in respect to housing, municipal infrastructure, visitation, and expansion of visitation on federal recreational land and water. Directs USDA and DOI to collaborate with state and local governments, Tribes, housing authorities, and nonprofit and trade organizations in identifying these needs.
- Allows the Secretaries to address these needs by providing financial or technical assistance to gateway communities, entering into leases, rights-of-way, or easements, or issuing special use permits.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial and technical assistance to communities through the Administrator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service for infrastructure needs such as hotels, campgrounds, and restaurants.
- Encourages the Secretaries to enter into public-private partnerships, cooperative agreements, or memorandums of understanding.

Sec. 132. Improved Recreation Visitation Data.

- Directs the Secretaries to establish a single visitation data reporting system. Data is required for each unit of federal recreational lands and waters and Tribal land, upon the request of the Tribe.

- Provides the Secretaries a maximum of 2 years to establish a pilot program to share real-time or predictive data on visitation and information about lesser-known recreation sites in 15 units under the jurisdiction of DOI and 5 units under the jurisdiction of USFS. Within 5 years after the date of enactment, the Secretaries shall expand the program to an additional 80 units.
- Requires the adjacent communities of the units selected for the pilot program to be supportive for inclusion in the program.
- Provides the Secretaries flexibility in communicating information of the pilot program to the public through multiple channels and partners.
- Contains protections for privacy.
- Requires an annual report of visitation by recreational category posted on a website.

Sec. 133. Monitoring for Improved Recreation Decision Making.

- Directs the agencies to collect comprehensive recreation data.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior to establish pilot protocols at 10 land management units to model recreation use patterns.

Subtitle D – Broadband Connectivity on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

Sec. 141. Connect Our Parks. [*H.R. 5919 (Curtis), “Connect Our Parks Act”*]

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to complete, within one year of Title I’s enactment, an assessment that identifies locations within national parks with the greatest needs for broadband internet access service and cellular service. The assessments must consider the availability of broadband internet in housing and developed campgrounds and cellular services that would increase access to emergency calls.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior report on the results of the assessments, submit that report to Congress, and publish the report to DOI’s official website.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior, within 3 years of Title I’s enactment, to develop a plan based on the results of the assessment to use public-private partnerships to install broadband internet access service infrastructure and cellular service equipment.
- The Secretary must consult with affected Tribes and appropriate local stakeholders and ensure that the plan minimizes adverse effects.

Sec. 142. Broadband Internet Connectivity at Developed Recreation Sites.

- Directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Chief of USFS to enter into agreements with the Secretary of Commerce to foster the installation or construction of broadband internet infrastructure at developed recreation sites.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior and the Chief of USFS to coordinate with state and local governments to publish annual reports through FY 2031 that list the highest priority developed recreation sites that lack broadband internet and estimate the costs of equipping those sites with broadband infrastructure.

Subtitle E – Public-Private Parks Partnerships

Sec. 151. Lodging Options Developed for Government Employees. [*H.R. 1314 (Moore of UT/Panetta), “LODGE Act”*] [*H.R. 3562 (Neguse/Boebert), “Forest Service Flexible Housing Partnerships Act of 2023”*]

- For NPS lands:
 - Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements, leases, or contracts with other federal agencies, state or local governments, Tribal Governments, housing entities or other public or private organizations to develop, construct, rehabilitate, or manage housing in and adjacent to NPS lands for rent to field employees and members of the public.
 - Requires that any housing partnership agreements for housing on lands under NPS jurisdiction: 1) conform with approved plans for the field unit, Director’s orders, and reference manuals related to NPS housing; 2) that the location of the housing and related facilities will not degrade the primary resource values within the field unit or adversely affect the NPS mission; and 3) that terms and conditions are included to protect the interests of the United States.
 - Specifies that any housing partnership agreements for housing on other public or private lands must 1) have received the authorization of each federal agency, State or local government, or other public or private entity involved; 2) identify federal and non-federal funding to be expended for housing and related facilities; and 3) include terms and conditions to protect the interests of the United States.
 - States that the Secretary may allow field employees and members of the public to occupy and lease project quarters with priority given to employees, and that members of the public are subject to the same laws and policies which apply to field employees.
 - Prohibits field employees and members of the public from subleasing housing that was established through authorities provided in this law.
 - Requires that contracts be awarded through the use of publicly advertised, competitively bid, or competitively negotiated procedures unless the Secretary determines that it is in the public interest to use procedures other than competitive procedures.
 - Establishes rental rates, procedures for rent collection, and conditions for leases and limited ownership.
 - Specifies information to be included each fiscal year in the submission of the President’s budget to Congress.
- For USFS lands:
 - Amends existing authorities to lease underutilized administrative land for housing.
 - Provides a lease term of 100 years for the site and the option for renewal.
 - Reauthorizes this authority for 5 years.

Sec. 152. Partnership Agreements Creating Tangible Savings.

- Extends authority provided to the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative management agreements with state and local governments to Tribal governments and quasi-governmental entities as well.

- Eliminates the requirement that non-federal park areas be adjacent or near National Park System units as a condition of the Secretary being authorized to enter into a cooperative management agreement.

Sec. 153. Partnership Agreements to Modernize Federally Owned Campgrounds, Resorts, Cabins, and Visitor Centers on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters.

- Directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to create a pilot program that allows—via agreements or land use authorizations not exceeding 30 years—states, Tribes, local governments, non-profit organizations, and private entities to improve and maintain certain recreational facilities on federal recreational lands and waters.
- Requires each Secretary, within three years of Title I’s enactment, to enter into at least one agreement or land use authorization in each region of the National Forest System and in at least five states in which the BLM administers federal recreational lands and waters.
- Requires entities seeking to participate in the pilot program to submit to the appropriate Secretary a development plan with planned expenditures for the recreational facility.
- Requires entities selected to participate in the pilot program to expend or set aside at least \$2 million for the authorized recreational activities within three years of beginning participation.
- Allows the Secretaries to collect land use fees or shared revenues from the pilot program’s participants and expend those funds on recreational purposes at the sites at which they were collected.

Sec. 154. Parking Opportunities for Federal Recreational Lands and Waters.

- Directs DOI and USDA to increase the parking available at federal recreational lands and waters, in accordance with existing laws and land use plans and while minimizing maintenance obligations and negative effects on wildlife.
- Permits DOI and USDA to achieve this goal by entering into public-private partnerships, leasing non-federal land, and providing alternate transportation systems.

Sec. 155. Pay-for-Performance Projects.

- Directs USDA to establish a pilot program featuring a pay-for-performance financing model for recreation projects on or benefiting Forest Service lands.
- The pilot program allows states, Tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, or private entities to pay upfront for projects that would create or enhance recreational opportunities on or benefiting Forest Service lands and then repay those costs over the long-term based on performance outcomes.
- Specifies that all pay-for-performance projects must be consistent with any applicable land management plan developed under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.
- Specifies that all pay-for-performance projects must not exceed \$15 million and must be assessed by an independent evaluator to account for payments made and outcomes achieved.
- Requires USDA to seek to avoid any potential conflicts, including economic competition, between a pay-for-performance project and any prior authorized uses.

Sec. 156. Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program.

- Codifies the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, under which the Secretary of the Interior provides grants to eligible entities to improve recreational opportunities in certain urban communities, as well as in areas administered by a Tribe or an Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community organization.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to screen and review all grant applications, evaluate and score all qualifying applications, and provide eligible entities with detailed information about the grant program.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize grants for projects that create or significantly enhance access to recreational opportunities, engage low-income communities and youth, grow public-private partnerships, and leverage coordination across various levels of government.
- Requires grant-receiving entities to provide matching funds equal to at least the full amount of grant funding received and to use no more than 7 percent of grant funding on administrative expenses.
- Directs all state-led agencies that receive grants to submit to the Secretary of the Interior annual and final reports on the activities conducted during the project and any other requested information.

Title II – Access America

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Subtitle A – Access for People With Disabilities

[H.R. 6342 (Kiggans/Peters), “Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act”]

Sec. 211. Accessible Recreation Inventory.

- Requires USDA and DOI to conduct a comprehensive assessment within 5 years, in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA), to assess the accessibility of recreational infrastructure for people with disabilities.
- The Secretaries shall make the assessment publicly available and can rely on existing assessments.
- Within 7 years, the Secretaries shall identify opportunities to update public information at developed recreation sites based on the assessment and in accordance with the ABA.

Sec. 212. Trail Inventory.

- Requires USDA and DOI to conduct a comprehensive assessment within 7 years, in accordance with the ABA, to assess the accessibility of trails for people with disabilities. This involves measuring trails for surface, clear tread width, passing space, etc.
- The Secretaries shall make the assessment publicly available and can rely on existing assessments.
- Requires consultation with stakeholder groups to prioritize which trails to measure.
- Allows the Secretaries to make information available about trails that do not meet ABA standards but could otherwise provide a recreation experience to an individual with disabilities through the use of assistive technology.

Sec. 213. Trail Pilot Program.

- Creates a pilot program to measure trails for accessibility, develop new accessible trails, and make minor modifications to existing trails to enhance recreational experiences for individuals with disabilities using assistive technology.
- The pilot program shall occur in no fewer than 5 units managed by the Secretary concerned, including at least 1 managed by NPS, BLM, and FWS.
- Sunsets within 7 years.

Sec. 214. Accessible Trails.

- Directs USFS, BLM, NPS, and FWS to each develop at least 3 accessible trails in each of the regions they manage within 7 years. The agencies shall develop signs, maps, and promotional materials for these trails.
- Requires interim and final reports on the development of the trails.

Sec. 215. Accessible Recreation Opportunities.

- Directs USFS, BLM, NPS, and FWS to each develop at least 2 accessible recreation opportunities in each of the regions they manage within 7 years. The agencies shall develop signs, maps, and promotional materials for these opportunities.
- Opportunities can encompass camping facilities, rock climbing, biking, snow activities, and water activities, among others.
- Requires interim and final reports on the development of the recreation opportunities.

Sec. 216. Assistive Technology.

- Allows the agencies to enter into partnerships, contracts, or agreements to make assistive technology available on federal lands and waters.

Sec. 217. Savings Clause.

- Nothing in this Act conflicts with the standards established under the ABA.

Subtitle B – Military and Veterans in Parks

[H.R. 6342 (Kiggans/Peters), “Military and Veterans in Parks (MVP) Act”]

Sec. 221. Promotion of Outdoor Recreation for Military Servicemembers and Veterans.

- Directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense to spread awareness and educational materials about outdoor recreation opportunities for veterans including: 1) the availability of free recreation passes under the VIP Act, 2) the availability and location of adaptive trails and recreation opportunities, 3) the benefits of outdoor recreation for physical and mental health and 4) resources and programs that promote volunteer or job opportunities in the outdoors.

Sec. 222. Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaisons.

- Requires USDA, DOI, and VA to establish a Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaison position at each department to coordinate on the implementation of this subtitle.

Sec. 223. Partnerships to Promote Military and Veteran Recreation.

- Promotes partnerships with state, Tribal, local, and non-profit organizations with expertise in outdoor-related volunteer and wellness programs for active-duty military service members and veterans to host recreation-related events on public lands.
- Provides technical and financial assistance to these entities to assist with the planning and execution of outdoor recreation events for veterans.

Sec. 224. National Strategy for Military and Veteran Recreation.

- Directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop a national strategy to increase recreation visits to federal lands by veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and Gold Star Families within 1 year.
- The strategy developed shall establish objectives and quantifiable targets for increasing recreation visits and provide the anticipated costs to achieve these objectives.

Sec. 225. Recreation Resource Advisory Committees.

- Amends the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to add veterans’ organizations to Recreation Resource Advisory Committees.

Sec. 226. Career and Volunteer Opportunities for Veterans.

- Encourages the USDA and DOI to hire veterans in recreation-focused positions.
- Requires DOI to establish a two-year pilot project in consultation with the DOL and VA to hire veterans in positions that relate to conservation and resource management. The agencies will provide briefings and reports on the implementation of the pilot project.
- Encourages branches of the military to encourage active-duty military service members to participate in outdoor recreation programs.

Subtitle C – Youth Access

Sec. 231. Increasing Youth Recreation Visits to Federal Land.

- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Interior to develop and update a joint national strategy to increase youth recreation visits to federal lands within 2 years that shall be updated every 5 years.
- The strategy will focus on establishing objectives and quantifiable targets, estimating anticipated costs, and increasing recreation opportunities for youth.

Sec. 232. Every Kid Outdoors Act Extension.

- Extends the “Every Kid Outdoors Act” by 7 years.

Title III – Simplify Outdoor Access for Recreation Act
[H.R. 1527 (Curtis/Neguse), “SOAR Act”]

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Subtitle A – Modernizing Recreation Permitting

Sec. 311. Special Recreation Permit and Fee.

- Makes technical amendments to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), including adding new definitions of recreation service provider and special recreation permit.
- Allows the collection of special recreation permit fees and requires disclosure of certain fees.
- Requires centralized reporting of recreation fees collected.
- Reauthorizes FLREA for 7 years.

Sec. 312. Permitting Process Improvements.

- Requires the agencies to evaluate the processes for issuing special recreation permits and eliminate duplicative processes, reduce costs, decrease processing times, and issue simplified permits.
- Directs the agencies to rely on existing environmental reviews for the issuance of permits.
- Directs the agencies to develop or expand existing categorical exclusions for issuing recreational permits.
- Prohibits needs assessments, with exceptions for wilderness, for issuing a special recreation permit.
- Requires online applications for permits.
- Exempts certain organized group activities, including youth groups, from visitor-use day allocations.

Sec. 313. Permit Flexibility.

- Authorizes recreation service providers to engage in substantially similar activities under an existing special recreation permit rather than acquiring a new permit.
- Allows recreation service providers to surrender unused visitor-use days.

Sec. 314. Permit Administration.

- Directs the agencies to make information public about the availability of special recreation permits.
- Directs the agencies to create email notifications about the availability of special recreation permits.
- Establishes a 60-day timeframe to acknowledge and respond to the application for a special recreation permit.

Sec. 315. Service First Initiative; Permits for Multijurisdictional Trips.

- Creates a “Service First Initiative” to co-locate DOI and USDA offices and test the feasibility of issuing joint permits and applications. Requires a report to Congress on this initiative.
- Creates a pilot program to issue joint permits for multijurisdictional trips. The program shall issue no fewer than 10 permits within 4 years.
- Requires the designation of a lead agency for the purpose of issuing such multijurisdictional permits.

Sec. 316. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Transitional Special Recreation Permits for Outfitting and Guiding.

- Directs the agencies to issue 2-year transitional special recreation permits for new or additional reoccurring outfitting and guiding services on BLM or Forest Service land.
- The Secretaries may issue a long-term permit to a transitional permittee if the permittee meets certain requirements. Long-term permits shall be for a term of 5 or 10 years.
- Allows the Secretary to increase visitor-use day allocations.

Sec. 317. Reviews for Transitional Permits and Long-Term Permits.

- Requires the Secretaries to monitor and review permits issued under section 316 of the EXPLORE Act.
- Requires the Secretaries to monitor and review the allocation of visitor-use days.

Sec. 318. Adjustment of Allocated Visitor-Use Days.

- Creates standards for the agencies to adjust the number of visitor-use days allocated to a recreation service provider using a special recreation permit, in accordance with the monitoring and review mandated under section 317 of the EXPLORE Act.
- Allows the Secretaries to temporarily re-assign unused visitor-use days or amend a special recreation permit to allocate additional visitor-use days.

Sec. 319. Liability.

- Allows the agency to condition issuing a special recreation permit by requiring a permit holder to have commercial general liability insurance, with an exception for low-risk activities.

Sec. 320. Cost Recovery Reform.

- Allows the agencies to recover costs associated with processing or issuing special recreation permits.
- Directs the agencies to establish a de minimis exemption for recovering costs for issuing special recreation permits and lower costs for similar applications.
- Prohibits cost recovery for programmatic reviews.
- Encourages the agencies to rely on existing studies to reduce the quantity of work and costs associated with processing applications.

Sec. 321. Availability of Federal, State, and Local Recreation Passes.

- Allows visitors to purchase a federal, state, or local recreation pass in one transaction. This includes federal annual recreation passes and state passes.
- Creates provisions to ensure revenue from federal passes sold by a state or local government return to the federal government, and vice versa.

Sec. 322. Online Purchases and Establishment of a Digital Version of America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes.

- Mandates the online sale of recreation passes, including annual passes and entrance fees.
- Mandates the creation of digitized passes that can be displayed on mobile phones.

Sec. 323. Savings Provision.

- Clarifies nothing in the bill affects concessions contracts.

Subtitle B – Making Recreation a Priority

Sec. 331. Extension of Seasonal Recreation Opportunities.

- Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to coordinate with outdoor recreation-related businesses to better understand how such entities are affected by visitor trends and seasonal closures and to learn about opportunities for extending the periods in which outdoor recreational activities can occur on federal recreational lands and waters.
- Directs the Secretaries to encourage unit managers of federal recreational lands and waters managed by USFS, BLM, and NPS to coordinate with local governments, Tribes, and outdoor recreation-related businesses that operate on or adjacent to the relevant unit.
- Allows unit managers to extend recreational seasons on their assigned units, provided that recreational use of those units is highly seasonal and such extensions comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies, including land use plans.
- In making their extension decisions, unit managers are required to consider the benefits that an extension would have on gateway communities and crowd reduction during peak recreational seasons.

Subtitle C – Maintenance of Public Land

Sec. 341. Volunteers in the National Forests and Public Land Act.

- Amends the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (Act) to make certain improvements, which include the following:
 - Clarifying that the purpose of the Act is to leverage volunteer engagement for projects carried out by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to fulfill the missions of USFS and BLM.
 - Allows the Secretaries to streamline the recruitment, training, and acceptance of volunteers for various purposes fulfilling the missions of USFS and BLM.
 - Permits the Secretaries to cover incidental expenses for volunteers.
 - Exempts volunteers from classification as federal employees and the provisions of federal employment law, with limited exceptions.
 - Requires the Secretaries to promote volunteer opportunities.
 - Allows the Secretaries to permit cooperators and volunteers to participate without liability insurance.

Sec. 342. Reference.

- Clarifies that all references to the Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the newly amended Volunteers in the National Forests and Public Land Act.

Subtitle D – Recreation Not Red Tape

Sec. 351. Good Neighbor Authority for Recreation.

- Expands Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) to allow states, counties, and Tribes to construct, restore, or repair recreation infrastructure on BLM, NPS, and USFS lands under GNA agreements.
- Allows leftover funds from GNA projects for timber sales to be used by Tribes, counties, and states on recreation projects.
- Sunsets this provision after 5 years.

Sec. 352. Permit Relief for Picnic Areas.

- Prohibits the BLM and USFS from requiring a permit for an event at a picnic area that is generally open to the public.

Sec. 353. Interagency Report on Special Recreation Permits for Underserved Communities.

- Directs DOI and USDA to submit a report detailing the current usage of special recreation permits servicing low-income or underrepresented communities.

Sec. 354. Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act Amendments.

- Makes technical amendments to the MAPLand Act.