

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9221

To ensure access to certain public land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah 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 ensure access to certain public land, 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 “Outdoor Americans
5 with Disabilities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **DISABILITY-ACCESSIBLE LAND.**—The term
9 “disability-accessible land” means each square mile

1 of public land assessed, as of the date of enactment
2 of this Act, to have not less than 2.5 miles of au-
3 thorized road accessible to motorized vehicles or off-
4 road vehicles.

5 (2) OFF-ROAD VEHICLE.—The term “off-road
6 vehicle” means any motorized vehicle capable of, or
7 designed for, travel on or immediately over land,
8 water, or other natural terrain.

9 (3) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land”
10 means—

11 (A) National Forest System land; and

12 (B) land under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
13 retary of the Interior.

14 (4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
15 retary concerned” means—

16 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting
17 through the Chief of the Forest Service), with
18 respect to National Forest System land; and

19 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
20 spect to land under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
21 retary of the Interior.

22 **SEC. 3. UPDATES TO TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND**
23 **MOTOR VEHICLE USE PLANS.**

24 Notwithstanding any other provision of law (includ-
25 ing regulations), the Secretaries concerned shall prioritize

1 updating travel management plans and motor vehicle use
2 plans of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest
3 Service.

4 **SEC. 4. MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAPS AND DESIGNATION OF**
5 **CERTAIN PUBLIC LAND AS OPEN, LIMITED,**
6 **OR CLOSED TO OFF-ROAD VEHICLES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
8 sion of law (including regulations), the Secretary of Agri-
9 culture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service),
10 for purposes of developing motor vehicle use maps under
11 section 212.56 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations
12 (or a successor regulation), and the Secretary of the Inte-
13 rior, for purposes of designating public land under the ju-
14 risdiction of the Secretary of the Interior as open, limited,
15 or closed to off-road vehicles under section 8342.3 of title
16 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regula-
17 tion), shall—

18 (1) account for the total length of traversable,
19 approved roads in each square mile of public land
20 managed by the applicable Secretary concerned;

21 (2) for purposes of closing roads under the ju-
22 risdiction of the Secretary concerned, comply with
23 the requirements established under subsection (b);

24 (3) prioritize the inclusion and approval of
25 roads on public land that provide access to diverse

1 opportunities for recreation, including hunting, fish-
2 ing, visiting cultural and natural sites, birdwatching,
3 hiking, picnicking, camping, boating, mountain
4 biking, and the use of motorized vehicles or off-road
5 vehicles (including electric bicycles and over-snow ve-
6 hicles);

7 (4) coordinate with appropriate Federal agen-
8 cies, State, county, and other local governmental en-
9 tities, and Tribal governments for purposes of iden-
10 tifying routes on public land that are considered to
11 be desirable for recreation to ensure the public land
12 is disability-accessible land;

13 (5) have the authority to revise a route on pub-
14 lic land as the Secretary concerned determines to be
15 necessary to address changes to conditions occurring
16 after the date of the designation of the route; and

17 (6) ensure that any road that is subject to a
18 claim under section 2477 of the Revised Statutes
19 (43 U.S.C. 932) (repealed by section 706 of the
20 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
21 (Public Law 94–579; 90 Stat. 2793)) that has not
22 been adjudicated or litigated shall remain open until
23 the adjudication or litigation has been completed.

24 (b) ROAD CLOSURES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection

2 (a)(2)—

3 (A) in the case of disability-accessible land,
4 the Secretary concerned shall not close roads
5 that would result in a net decrease of author-
6 ized road accessible to motorized vehicles or off-
7 road vehicles to the extent that the public land
8 would no longer be designated as disability-ac-
9 cessible land, unless—

10 (i) the road on public land being
11 closed was established during the 1-year
12 period ending on the date of the closure to
13 address a temporary need or emergency; or

14 (ii) the Secretary concerned—

15 (I) determines that the road on
16 public land being closed poses a direct
17 threat to the health or safety of per-
18 sonnel or visitors to the public land;
19 and

20 (II) complies with the require-
21 ments of paragraphs (3) and (4) with
22 respect to the closure; and

23 (B) in the case of public land that is not
24 considered to be disability-accessible land—

1 (i) the Secretary concerned shall con-
2 sider opening any road on public land that
3 was closed during the 10-year period end-
4 ing on the date of enactment of this Act;

5 (ii) the Secretary concerned shall not
6 close any additional roads on public land,
7 unless the Secretary concerned—

8 (I) determines that the road
9 poses a direct threat to the health or
10 safety of personnel or visitors to the
11 public land; and

12 (II) complies with the require-
13 ments of paragraphs (3) and (4) with
14 respect to the closure; and

15 (iii) the Secretary concerned shall not
16 close any roads on public land that the
17 Secretary concerned determines are bene-
18 ficial for fuels reduction treatments, wild-
19 fire response, or search and rescue activi-
20 ties.

21 (2) NOTICE AND HEARING.—For purposes of a
22 road closure under subparagraph (A) or (B) of para-
23 graph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

24 (A) provide notice of the proposed closure
25 to allow for public comment, which may be pro-

1 vided after the closure if the Secretary con-
2 cerned determines that there is an immediate
3 threat to the health or safety of personnel or
4 visitors to the public land; and

5 (B) conduct a public hearing with respect
6 to the closure, which may be held after the clo-
7 sure if the Secretary concerned makes a deter-
8 mination in the affirmative under subparagraph
9 (A).

10 (3) NEW ROADS.—For purposes of a road clo-
11 sure under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
12 (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

13 (A) provide for the nomination of new
14 roads on public land to be added to a motor ve-
15 hicle use plan or travel management plan of the
16 Secretary concerned; and

17 (B) establish an appropriate new road on
18 public land not later than 1 year after the date
19 on which the road is closed under that para-
20 graph.

21 (4) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—A road closure
22 that the Secretary concerned determines to be nec-
23 essary under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph
24 (1) or the establishment of a new road nominated
25 for establishment under subparagraph (A) of para-

1 graph (3) shall be categorically excluded from the
2 requirements of the National Environmental Policy
3 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), subject to any
4 regulations requiring a determination that there are
5 no extraordinary circumstances that warrant the
6 preparation of an environmental assessment or an
7 environmental impact statement with respect to the
8 proposed road closure or establishment of the new
9 road.

10 (5) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—For pur-
11 poses of the review of a road closure under subpara-
12 graph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), there shall be a
13 rebuttable presumption that roads shall remain open
14 for public use, which may only be rebutted by clear
15 and compelling evidence demonstrating that the clo-
16 sure of the road is necessary in accordance with this
17 Act.

18 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretaries concerned may
19 issue or revise regulations to carry out this section.

20 **SEC. 5. EFFECT OF ACT.**

21 Nothing in this Act—

22 (1) prohibits the Secretary concerned from de-
23 veloping new roads or trails on public land for the
24 use of motorized vehicles or off-road vehicles; or

1 (2) establishes new roads or trails in a compo-
2 nent of the National Wilderness System, inventoried
3 roadless area, congressionally designated primitive
4 area, or unit of the National Park System (other
5 than a National Recreation Area).

○