

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service to a field unit which the individual would report to work into any position at or below grade GS-9 of the General Schedule, WG-15 of the Federal Wage System, or equivalent within the applicable field unit.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—An appointment by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be considered compliant with all applicable provisions of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, if the Secretary ensures that the appointment action—

(1) is consistent with the merit principles of section 2301 of that title; and

(2) complies with the public notice requirements of section 3327 of that title.

(c) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2030.

SEC. 302. SUPPORTING THE SEASONAL NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WORKFORCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of determining the noncompetitive rehiring eligibility of temporary seasonal employees of the National Park Service—

(1) the Secretary shall establish a definition of what constitutes a major subdivision of the National Park Service; and

(2) any requirement that a position be in the same local commuting area shall not apply.

(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority provided under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2030.

TITLE IV—REPORTS AND OVERSIGHT

SEC. 401. QUANTIFYING THE WORKFORCE HOUSING NEEDS OF LAND MANAGERS.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a needs assessment report that provides, with respect to housing the workforce of covered agencies, as applicable—

(1) an analysis of the unit type and condition of—

(A) housing owned by the covered agencies; and

(B) housing leased by the covered agencies; (2) an analysis of the employment status of the occupants of the housing analyzed under paragraph (1), including—

(A) whether the occupants are—
(i) members of the permanent workforce; or
(ii) members of the seasonal workforce; and
(B) which positions identified under subparagraph (A) required housing provided by the applicable covered agency as a condition of employment with the covered agency; and

(3) an analysis of the private housing markets within the vicinity of a covered agency field unit, including—
(A) the availability and affordability of housing for sale or lease; and
(B) the impact of vacation rental services on—
(i) the cost of living; and
(ii) the available supply of housing.

SEC. 402. CONDUCTING OVERSIGHT ON THE HOUSING PROGRAMMING OF LAND MANAGERS.

(a) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) assesses, in consultation with the National Housing Council described in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45, the effect of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45R on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies;

(2) assesses the effect of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11 on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies;

(3) assesses the effect of department-level guidance on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies;

(4) assesses the effect of agency-level guidance on the housing of the workforce of covered agencies; and

(5) identifies suggested administrative actions and legislative proposals to reform the guidance assessed under paragraphs (1) through (4), including—

(A) improvements to tenant experience;
(B) improvements to workforce housing supply, including—

(i) housing managed by the covered agencies; and

(ii) leased private market housing;
(C) improvements to financing options;

(D) improvements to public-private partnerships;

(E) improvements to philanthropic engagement; and

(F) improvements to commuting times to report stations, including—

(i) available housing in the gateway communities;

(ii) available housing in the nearest established community (as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-45); and

(iii) differences between normal commuting conditions and peak-commute traffic conditions, including considerations for—

(I) road quality and condition;
(II) availability of public transportation;

(III) winter driving; and
(IV) visitor traffic.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (a), the heads of the covered agencies shall carry out the administrative actions identified under paragraph (5) of that subsection.

SEC. 403. JUSTIFYING EMERGENCY SPENDING.

Section 5 of the Act of August 3, 1956 (70 Stat. 1033, chapter 950; 7 U.S.C. 2228), is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and all that follows through “The Department” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 5. EMERGENCY SUBSISTENCE FOR EMPLOYEES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **REPORT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture furnishes subsistence to employees under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of the Land Manager Housing and Workforce Improvement Act of 2024) a report providing—

“(A) 1 or more justifications for the use of the authority;

“(B) the number of employees that were furnished subsistence;

“(C) the estimated cost of furnishing subsistence; and

“(D) the expected duration for which subsistence is to be provided.

“(2) **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**—The information for a report required under paragraph (1) shall be produced in coordination with, and approved by, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(3) **EXCEPTION.**—A report under paragraph (1) shall not be required in the case of an emergency resulting from a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster.”.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 5125), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONNECT OUR PARKS ACT

A bill (S. 2018) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in Na-

tional Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“(4) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a plan developed under that paragraph shall not be required to address broadband internet access service or cellular service in any National Park with respect to which the superintendent of the National Park determines that there is adequate access to broadband internet access service or cellular service, as applicable.”

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Connect Our Parks Act”.

SEC. 2. BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE AND CELLULAR SERVICE ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING IN NATIONAL PARKS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) **BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.**—The term “broadband internet access service” has the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(3) **CELLULAR SERVICE.**—The term “cellular service” has the meaning given the term in section 22.99 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(4) **NATIONAL PARK.**—The term “National Park” means a unit of the National Park System.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an assessment of National Parks to identify—

(A) locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service, based on the considerations described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, based on the considerations described in paragraph (2)(B).

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—

(A) **BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.**—For purposes of identifying locations in National Parks under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall consider, with respect to each National Park, the availability of broadband internet access service in—

(i) housing;

(ii) administrative facilities and related structures;

(iii) lodging;

(iv) developed campgrounds; and

(v) any other location within the National Park in which broadband internet access service is determined to be necessary by the superintendent of the National Park.

(B) **CELLULAR SERVICE.**—For purposes of identifying areas in National Parks under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, with respect to each National Park, the availability

of cellular service in any developed area within the National Park that would increase—

(i) the access of the public to emergency services and traveler information technologies; or

(ii) the communications capabilities of National Park Service employees.

(3) **REPORT.**—On completion of the assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make available on the website of the Department of the Interior, a report describing the results of the assessment.

(c) **PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a plan, based on the results of the assessment completed under subsection (b) and subject to paragraph (4)—

(A) to install broadband internet access service infrastructure in certain locations in National Parks; and

(B) to install cellular service equipment and infrastructure in certain areas of National Parks.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) affected Indian Tribes; and

(B) local stakeholders that the superintendent of the applicable National Park determines to be appropriate.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide for avoiding or minimizing impacts to—

(i) National Park viewsheds;

(ii) cultural and natural resources;

(iii) the visitor experience;

(iv) other resources or values of the National Park; and

(v) historic properties and the viewsheds of historic properties;

(B) provide for infrastructure providing broadband internet access service or cellular service to be located in—

(i) previously disturbed or developed areas; or

(ii) areas zoned for uses that would support the infrastructure;

(C) provide for the use of public-private partnerships—

(i) to install broadband internet access service or cellular service equipment; and

(ii) to provide broadband internet access service or cellular service;

(D) be technology neutral; and

(E) in the case of broadband internet access service, provide for broadband internet access service of at least—

(i) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

(ii) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

(4) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a plan developed under that paragraph shall not be required to address broadband internet access service or cellular service in any National Park with respect to which the superintendent of the National Park determines that there is adequate access to broadband internet access service or cellular service, as applicable.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2018), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ACCELERATING APPRAISALS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS ACT

The bill (H.R. 5443) to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other

purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION AND BOUNDARY STUDY ACT

The bill (S. 961) to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 961

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”.

SEC. 2. SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—The Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”.

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the national historic site referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY STUDY.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **STUDY AREA.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “study area” means the city of Salem, Massachusetts, and the vicinity of that city.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “study area” includes—

(i) the Salem Armory Visitor Center building; and

(ii) the park located adjacent to that building, known as “Salem Armory Park”.

(b) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a boundary study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System, as part of the Salem Maritime National Historical Park (as redesignated by section 2(a)), any sites and resources located in the study area that are associated with—

(1) the maritime history of the study area;

(2) coastal defenses of the study area; or

(3) military history of the study area, including National Guard and militia activity.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are initially made available to conduct the study under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Secretary.

KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT ACCESS ACT

The bill (S. 4209) to provide greater regional access to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the

State of Maine, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4209

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Access Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AUTHORIZED ACQUISITION AREA.**—The term “authorized acquisition area” means the designated area outside the boundary of the National Monument depicted as “Authorized Acquisition Area” on the map entitled “Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Proposed Boundary Adjustment”, numbered 686/193.181 and dated March 2024.

(2) **NATIONAL MONUMENT.**—The term “National Monument” means the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in the State of Maine established by the Proclamation.

(3) **PROCLAMATION.**—The term “Proclamation” means Presidential Proclamation Number 9476, dated August 24, 2016 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundaries of the National Monument shall be the boundaries established by the Proclamation.

(b) **ACQUISITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may acquire, by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange, land or interests in land within the authorized acquisition area.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN.**—Nothing in this Act authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire land or an interest in land.

(c) **TREATMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND; BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—On acquisition by the Secretary of any land pursuant to subsection (b)—

(1) the land shall be included in the National Monument; and

(2) the boundaries of the National Monument shall be adjusted accordingly.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary shall administer the National Monument (including the land added to the National Monument under this Act) in accordance with—

(1) this Act;

(2) the Proclamation; and

(3) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(b) **HUNTING, FISHING, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ON ACQUIRED LAND.**—The Secretary shall allow hunting, fishing, or any other outdoor recreation activity on land acquired pursuant to section 3(b)—

(1) if that activity was in existence on the day before the date of acquisition of the land; and

(2) consistent with the management of that activity under the Proclamation.

(c) **COLLECTION OF FIDDLEHEAD FERNS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allow the gathering by hand of fiddlehead ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) in the National Monument for noncommercial personal use and consumption by the general public.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—If the Secretary determines that the gathering of fiddlehead ferns