

Sportsmen's Act of 2015

Section-by Section

TITLE I—NATIONAL POLICY

Sec.101.Congressional declaration of national policy. Declares a national policy that all Federal Departments and agencies, in accordance with their missions and with Executive Orders 12962 and 13443 shall facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities, shall conserve and enhance aquatic systems and the management of game species and the habitat of those species on federal land, including through hunting and fishing, and consider hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities as part of all Federal plans for land, resource, and travel management.

TITLE II—SPORTSMEN'S ACCESS TO FEDERAL LAND

Sec.201.Definitions. Provides definitions for this title.

Sec.202.Federal land open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. Provides that Federal land shall be open to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting unless the Secretary concerned closes an area in accordance with Sec. 203.

Sec.203.Closure of Federal land to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. The Secretary concerned may designate any area on Federal land in which, and establish any period during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting shall be prohibited. Except in an emergency, before permanently or temporarily closing any Federal land to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting, the Secretary concerned shall: consult with State fish and wildlife agencies and provide public notice and an opportunity for comment. Temporary closures under this section may not exceed a period of 180 days and may not be renewed more than 3 times after the first temporary closure. The Secretaries shall publish on a public website a list of all areas of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure under this section and shall submit to designated Congressional committees a list of areas of Federal land closed, the acreage of each closure and a survey of total aggregate areas and acres closed under this section in each State and what percentage of Federal land in each State the closed areas represent. This section shall not apply to closures less than 14 days in duration covered by a special use permit.

Sec.204.Shooting ranges. The Secretary concerned may, in accordance with this section and other applicable law, lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range, except the Secretary shall not lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range within certain specified areas.

Sec.205.Federal action transparency. Provides that the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States (Chairman) shall submit to Congress and make publicly available online a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding year under the Equal Access to Justice provisions. Provides that the Chairman shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing information on award of fees and other

expenses made under these provisions. Provides that the Chairman shall submit to Congress and make publicly available online a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding year under Section 2412 of title 28. Provides that the Chairman shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing information on award of fees and other expenses made under this section. Provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the public on a website information regarding payments tendered under Section 1304 of title 31.

TITLE III—FILMING ON FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY LAND

Sec.301.Commercial filming. Requires the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to develop a single joint land use fee schedule for commercial filming and still photography. Clarifies that commercial filming fees only apply to commercial still photography, not to all still photography. Updates the use of proceeds to match use of recreational fees by providing the use of proceeds shall be in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Ensures the First Amendment of the Constitution is followed by providing that the Secretary shall not consider subject matter or content as a criterion for issuing or denying a permit under this act. Exempts holders of commercial use authorization or special recreation permits who are small businesses where the filming is incidental to the permitted activity under the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit from commercial filming or still photography permits and fees. Commercial filming conducted by an entity that is a small business concern, with a crew of not more than 3 individuals who use only a camera and tripod, is exempt from fees under this act, but not from recovery of costs fees. Makes clear that newsgathering activities shall not be considered a commercial activity under this Act.

TITLE IV—BOWS, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, AND ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, HUNTING, AND FISHING

Sec.401.Bows in parks. The National Park Service Director shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from transporting bows and crossbows that are not ready for immediate use across any System unit in the vehicle of the individual if certain requirements are met.

Sec.402.Wildlife management in parks. If the Secretary determines it necessary to reduce the size of a wildlife population on National Park System land in accordance with applicable law and regulation, the Secretary may use qualified volunteers to assist in carrying out such wildlife management on System land.

Sec.403.Identifying opportunities for recreation, hunting, and fishing on Federal land. The Secretary shall prepare a priority list that identifies the location and acreage of land within the jurisdiction of each State or regional office on which the public is allowed, under Federal or state law, to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purpose but to which there is no public access or egress or to which the public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. For each parcel of land on the priority list, the Secretary shall include in the priority list whether resolving the issue of public access or egress to the land would require acquisition of an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from another Federal agency, a state, local,

or tribal government, or a private land owner. The Secretary shall develop and submit a report to designated Congressional committees that identifies how public access and egress could reasonably be provided to the legal boundaries in a manner that minimizes the impact on wildlife habitat and water quality.

TITLE V—FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT

Sec.501.Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. Permanently reauthorizes the program. Amends section 203(2) of FLTFA (Public Law 106-248) to make any federally designated area eligible for FLTFA funds, regardless of when the area was established. Amends Section 205 of FLTFA to allow any Federal lands identified for disposal in approved land use plans to be eligible for sale. Requires \$1 million in sales annually under the program to be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury for each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

TITLE VI--CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION

Sec. 601. National Park Service Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund. Establishes a National Park Service Critical Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund to address high-priority deferred maintenance needs of the National Park Service with a prohibition on the use of funds for land acquisition.

Sec. 602. Land and Water Conservation Fund. Permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Specifies the way in which funds may be allocated; adding two new set-asides: one for hunting, fishing, or other recreational purposes and another for recreation and conservation programs important to states. In making federal land acquisitions, the Secretaries shall consider conservation easements and are required to take into account certain considerations in determining which land or interests in land to acquire.

Sec. 603. Historic Preservation Fund. Permanently reauthorizes the Historic Preservation Fund.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec.701.Respect for treaties and rights. Provides that nothing in this act affects or modifies rights of federally recognized Indian tribes and that nothing in this act modifies Federal law relating to migratory birds.

Sec.703.No Priority. Provides that nothing in this act provides a preference to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting over any other use of Federal land or water.