111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2476

To amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that are subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 19, 2009

Ms. Degette (for herself and Mrs. McMorris Rodgers) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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 amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that are subject to ski area permits, 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 "Ski Area Recreational
- 5 Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2009".

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

2	(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
3	(1) it is in the national interest to provide, and
4	encourage citizens of the United States to take ad-
5	vantage of, opportunities during all 4 seasons to en-
6	gage in outdoor recreational activities that could
7	contribute to the health and well-being of the citi-
8	zens of the United States;
9	(2) as of 2009, under Federal law (including
10	regulations), National Forest System land has been
11	managed in ways that—
12	(A) encourage understanding and apprecia-
13	tion of nature and the importance of conserving
14	natural resources; and
15	(B) provide year-round opportunities for
16	natural resource-based, outdoor-developed rec-
17	reational activities outside of urban settings;
18	(3) by increasing the extent to which National
19	Forest System land is managed to provide opportu-
20	nities for outdoor recreational activities, more citi-
21	zens of the United States may gain the opportunity
22	to engage in such activities;
23	(4) National Forest System land that is used
24	for skiing and other snow-sports can provide addi-
25	tional opportunities for seasonal and year-round rec-
26	reational activities, which promotes jobs and en-

- hances the economy of local communities that serve
 these areas as well as the State and the United
 States;
 - (5) the authorization of increased use of certain National Forest System land for seasonal and yearround recreational activities and associated facilities can reduce the impact of such activities and facilities on other National Forest System land; and
 - (6) it is desirable to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b)—
 - (A) to enable snow-sports (other than nor-dic and alpine skiing) to be permitted on National Forest System land, subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") under section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b); and
 - (B) to clarify the authority of the Secretary to permit appropriate additional seasonal or year-round recreational activities and facilities on National Forest System land, subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary under section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b).

1 (b) Purpose.—The purpose of this Act is to amend 2 the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b)— 3 4 (1) to enable snow-sports (other than nordic 5 and alpine skiing) to be permitted on National For-6 est System land, subject to ski area permits issued 7 by the Secretary under section 3 of the National 8 Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 9 497b); and 10 (2) to clarify the authority of the Secretary to permit appropriate additional seasonal or year-round 11 12 recreational activities and facilities on National For-13 est System land, subject to ski area permits issued 14 by the Secretary under section 3 of the National 15 Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 16 497b). 17 SEC. 3. SKI AREA PERMITS. 18 Section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act 19 of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b) is amended— 20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking "nordic and 21 alpine ski areas and facilities" and inserting "ski 22 areas and associated facilities"; 23 (2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding 24 paragraph (1), by striking "nordic and alpine skiing"

operations and purposes" and inserting "skiing and

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1	other snow-sports and such other seasonal or year-
2	round recreational activities associated with moun-
3	tain resorts as the Secretary may authorize pursuant
4	to subsection (c)";
5	(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
6	subsections (d) and (e), respectively;
7	(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
8	lowing:
9	"(c) OTHER RECREATIONAL USES.—
10	"(1) Authority of Secretary.—Subject to
11	paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary may authorize
12	the holder of a ski area permit issued pursuant to
13	subsection (b) to provide on National Forest System
14	land subject to the ski area permit such other sea-
15	sonal or year-round natural resource-based, outdoor-
16	developed recreational activities and associated facili-
17	ties (in addition to skiing and other snow-sports) as
18	the Secretary determines to be appropriate.
19	"(2) Requirement of activities and facili-
20	TIES.—Each activity and facility authorized by the
21	Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—
22	"(A) encourage outdoor recreation;
23	"(B) to the extent practicable, harmonize
24	with the natural environment of the National

1	Forest System land on which the activity or fa-
2	cility is located; and
3	"(C) be subject to such terms and condi-
4	tions as the Secretary determines to be appro-
5	priate.
6	"(3) Limitation.—The Secretary may not au-
7	thorize any activity or facility under paragraph (1)
8	if the Secretary determines that the authorization of
9	the activity or facility would result in the primary
10	recreational purpose of a National Forest System
11	land that is subject to a ski area permit to be a pur-
12	pose other than skiing or any other snow-sport.";
13	and
14	(5) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by para-
15	graph (3))—
16	(A) by striking "Within one year after the
17	date of enactment of this Act, the" and insert-
18	ing "Not later than 1 year after the date of en-
19	actment of the Ski Area Recreational Oppor-
20	tunity Enhancement Act of 2009, the"; and
21	(B) by striking "within 3 years of the date
22	of enactment of this Act".
23	SEC. 4. EFFECT.
24	Nothing in this Act (including an amendment made
25	by this Act) affects any authority of the Secretary (includ-

- 1 ing the authority of the Secretary with respect to rec-
- 2 reational activities or facilities located on National Forest
- 3 System land) under any Federal law (including regula-
- 4 tions) other than the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act

5 of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b).

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