



Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell Jr Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act – Identifying Opportunities for Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing on Federal Land

Within Section 4105 of Public Law 116-9, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Act), the Forest Service received the following directive:

(b) PRIORITY LISTS REQUIRED. –

(1) IN GENERAL. – Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the first priority list is completed, the Secretary shall prepare a priority list, to be made publicly available on the website of the applicable Federal agency referred to in subsection (a)(1), which shall identify 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 purposes but—

(A) to which there is no public access or egress; or

(B) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted (as determined by the Secretary).

(c) ACCESS OPTIONS. – With respect to land included on a priority list described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on options for providing access that—

(1) identifies how public access and egress could reasonably be provided to the legal boundaries of the land in a manner that minimizes the impact on wildlife habitat and water quality;

(2) specifies the steps recommended to secure the access and egress, including acquiring an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from a willing owner of any land that abuts the land or the need to coordinate with State land management agencies or other Federal, State, or Tribal governments to allow for such access and egress; and

(3) is consistent with the travel management plan in effect on the land.

The following is a list of acreage that meets this criterion broken down by Region, Forest, and Ranger District.

NORTHERN REGION (1)

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

- **Butte Ranger District - 1,240 acres** (T. 3 N., R. 2 W., T. 3 N., R. 3 W., multiple secs., T. 4 N., R. 4 W., T. 4 N., R. 3 W., multiple secs.) This parcel is interspersed with private property creating a checkerboard ownership pattern located west of Highway 69 and south of Boulder, Montana in the Bull Mountains. Dunn Canyon Road runs through the checkboard area and the Forest desires to secure an easement on the road; however, negotiations with landowners have

been unsuccessful. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest will continue to work with local access partners exploring negotiation opportunities to provide for permanent access to the parcel. If an easement or other agreement was negotiated, the public use would be consistent with current travel management plans.

- **Pintler Ranger District - 641 acres** (T. 10 N., R. 14 W., sec. 8) This parcel is surrounded by private property located to the north of Harvey Ridge and west of Drummond, Montana. There are no roads that access or cross through the parcel. Currently no options exist to develop public access. The Forest will continue to look for opportunities to work with the adjacent landowner to acquire a right-of-way. If public access was acquired from a willing landowner, and a road was constructed into the parcel, the use would be consistent with travel management plans for the area.

Custer-Gallatin National Forest

- **Bozeman Ranger District - 1,920 acres** (T. 3 N. and T. 4 N., R. 6 E., multiple secs.) This parcel is interspersed with private property creating a checkerboard area located northeast of Belgrade, Montana in the area of Hatfield Mountain and Elk Horn Ridge in the North Bridger Mountain Range. Possible solutions to secure access are to acquire an easement for the existing roads and trails or acquisition of the parcels through a land exchange. The Custer-Gallatin National Forest will continue to work with local partners such as the Gallatin Valley Land Trust and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to negotiate critical public recreation access. If public access was secured, the use would be consistent with travel management plans for the area.
- **Yellowstone Ranger District**
 - **1,600 acres** (T. 4 N., R. 12 E., multiple secs.) This parcel is interspersed with private property creating a checkerboard area located northwest of Big Timber, Montana near Sweet Grass Creek. The Forest is negotiating with landowners to consolidate ownership and build a new trail to access the area between Big Timber Canyon and Sweet Grass. Additionally, the Forest will continue to work with the Crazy Mountain Access Project collaborative group in moving forward the East Crazies-Inspiration Divide Land Exchange proposal. The land exchange would consolidate checkerboard ownership and provide permanent public access to the area. If permanent access was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.
 - **3,200 acres** (T. 2 N., R. 11 E., sec. 12, T. 2 N., R. 12 E., sec. 8, T. 3 N., R. 11 E., sec. 12, R. 3 N., R. 12 E., secs. 14, 24) This parcel is interspersed with private property creating a checkerboard area located northwest of Big Timber, Montana. The parcel includes Pear Lake, forks of the Big and Little Timber Creek and forks of Duck Creek. Several trails access and cross the parcel, but no perfected easements or rights of way are held. The Forest is currently working with several landowners in the South Crazy Mountain area on a land exchange proposal that would consolidate checkerboard ownership and provide permanent public access to the area. If permanent access was acquired through a land exchange, the access to the parcel would comply with current travel management plan.

Flathead National Forest

- **Glacier View Ranger District - 1,880 acres** (T. 30 N. and T. 31 N., R. 19 W. and 20 W., multiple secs.) This parcel is surrounded by private property located east of Columbia Falls, Montana in the Flathead River area. Access to the area is complex and will require obtaining right-of-way easements across 25 privately-owned parcels with 18 different landowners. The Flathead National Forest will continue negotiations with the landowners to secure access into the parcel. If permanent access was acquired through easements, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.

Helena National Forest

- **Helena Ranger District - 2,258 acres** (T. 13 N., R. 1 E., secs. 14-16, 22) This parcel is surrounded by private property located northeast of Helena, Montana in the French Creek area. Elk Ridge Road provides access to the area, but the road has no easement or right-of-way to perfect access. To secure public access, the Helena National Forest will need to work with landowners through a right-of-way acquisition or other land adjustment such as a purchase or land exchange. If permanent access was negotiated and acquired, the access into the parcel would be consistent with current travel management plans.
- **Townsend Ranger District**
 - **1,120 acres** (T. 6 N., R. 3 E., secs. 26, 36) This parcel is interspersed with private property creating a checkerboard area located southeast of Townsend, Montana on the southern end of the Big Belt Mountains in the Dry Creek area. The Dry Creek Road runs north of the eastern corner of section 26; however, it does not cross or access NFS lands. The Forest has been unable to secure public access from willing landowners in the area but will continue to work with landowners as opportunities arise. If the Forest can negotiate a right-of-way easement, land acquisition through purchase or a land exchange, the access into the parcel would comply with current travel management plans.
 - **3,200 acres** (T. 12 N., R. 3 E., secs. 10, 12, 14, 22, 24) This parcel is interspersed with private land creating a checkerboard landownership pattern located northeast of Townsend, Montana on the east side of the Big Belt Mountain Range in the Dry Range area. There are existing routes in the area from adjacent private property; however the Forest has been unable to secure public access from willing landowners. The Forest will continue to work with landowners as opportunities arise to acquire rights-of-way or negotiate reciprocal access agreements. If permanent access was negotiated and acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.

Lewis and Clark National Forest

- **Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District - 6,538 acres** (T. 6 N., R. 11 E., sec. 14, T. 7 N., R. 8 E., sec. 4, T. 12 N., R. 6 E., secs. 4-6, 8, 10, 14, 30 T. 13 N., R. 5 E., sec. 36) This parcel is surrounded by private land located northwest of White Sulphur Springs, Montana in the Sheep Creek area. There are no existing roads or trails to the parcel. The Lewis and Clark National Forest will continue to work with landowners as opportunities arise to acquire a right-of-way or other land adjustment such as a land exchange to provide access into the area. If public access was acquired to the parcel, the use would be consistent with current travel management plans.

Little Missouri National Grassland

- **McKenzie Ranger District - 1,108 acres** (T. 145 N., R. 105 W., secs. 22, 26, 27, 34) This parcel is surrounded by private property located near Trotters, North Dakota in the Smith Creek area. Existing roads do access the parcel, but the Little Missouri National Grassland has been unable to secure easements from willing landowners. The Grassland will continue to work with landowners as opportunities arise to acquire a public right-of-way. If permanent access was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Medora Ranger District - 7,172 acres** (T. 134 N., R. 103 W., secs. 19, 20, 29, 30, T. 134 N., R. 104 W., secs. 24, 25, T. 134 N., R. 102 W., secs. 5, 6, 8, 17-21, 28-30, T. 135 N., R. 102 W., sec. 32) This parcel is surrounded private land located northwest of Bowman, North Dakota in the Chalky Buttes area. Existing roads access the parcel, but the Grassland has been unable to secure an easement from willing landowners. The Grassland will continue to work with landowners as opportunities arise to acquire a public right-of-way. If an easement was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.

Lolo National Forest

- **Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District - 724 acres** (T. 24 N., R. 27 W., secs. 28, 29) This parcel is surrounded by private land located northeast of Thompson Falls, Montana in the Young Creek area. There are no existing roads or trails that access the parcel and efforts by the Lolo National Forest to obtain easements from willing landowners have been unsuccessful. The Forest will continue to work with landowners as opportunities arise to acquire rights-of-ways or negotiate acquisition or land exchange to consolidate ownership and provide access. If permanent access was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION (2)

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

- **Pawnee National Grassland**
 - **640 acres** (T. 11 N., R. 66 W., sec. 26) This parcel is surrounded by private and Colorado State Trust lands, located east of Carr, Colorado, in the Cow Creek area. There are two routes into the parcel that the Forest Service uses for administrative access, but there is no right-of-way for public access. The Pawnee National Grassland would need to explore opportunities to perfect the access by acquiring an easement from the adjacent landowner. While both routes currently cross the same private landowner, only a permanent easement along one of the access routes would be acquired. If the Forest Service were to acquire permanent access, public use of this parcel would comply with current travel management plans and the Forest Plan.
 - **1,199 acres** (T. 10 N., R. 66 W., sec 34 & 35, T. 9 N., R. 66 W., sec. 2) This parcel is surrounded by USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) lands, Colorado State Trust lands and private property. It is located north of Nunn, Colorado in the Little Owl Creek area. The Forest Service currently uses an existing, well-defined two-track road to access

this parcel from the north across USA lands managed by ARS, principally to administer seasonal, permitted grazing use. The Forest Service would need to explore opportunities to perfect public access by acquiring an easement from the ARS. If the Forest were to acquire permanent access, public use of this parcel would comply with current travel management plans.

- **Clear Creek Ranger District - 990 acres** (T. 5 S., 72 W., secs. 23, 26, 27, 34, 35) This parcel is surrounded by private property located southwest of Evergreen, Colorado in the Yankee Creek area. Roads exist into the area, but the Forest has been unsuccessful in negotiating easements for public access that would be required from multiple landowners. The Forest will continue to explore opportunities as they become available. If permanent access was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.

Black Hills National Forest

- **Bear Lodge Ranger District - 1,781 acres** (T. 52 N., R. 65 W., secs. 28-33) This parcel is surrounded by private property located south of Carlile Junction, Wyoming in the Huett Canyon area. The Black Hills National Forest will continue to negotiate with area landowners to secure easements on existing roads as opportunities arise. If permanent access was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Hell Canyon Ranger District - 8,308 acres** (T. 8 S., R. 4 E., multiple secs.) This parcel is surrounded by private property located southwest of Hot Springs, South Dakota, in the Hell Canyon area. The Forest has been working with private landowners to secure reciprocal easements on existing roads that access the area. If acquiring easements was successful, access into the parcel would comply with current travel management plans.

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests

- **Douglas/Thunder Basin Ranger Districts**
 - **6,880 acres** (T. 37 N., R. 68 W., secs. 7-10, 13-15, 17-21, 23, 27, 28, 30, 32) This parcel is surrounded by private property and Bureau of Land Management lands (BLM) located northeast of Douglas, Wyoming in the Crooked Draw area. Existing roads and two- tracks access the parcel; however, the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests will need to determine adjacent landowner interest in conveying easements or rights of way to perfect public access. If easements were negotiated, the public use would be consistent with current travel management plans.
 - **8,900 acres** (T. 28 N., R. 75 W., multiple secs. and T. 29 N., R. 75 W., multiple secs.) This parcel is surrounded by private property, BLM and State lands located to the south of Glenrock, Wyoming in the Chimney Ridge area. Existing roads and two-tracks access the parcel; however, the Forest will need to determine adjacent land-owner interest in conveying easements or rights-of-way to perfect public access. If easements were negotiated, the public use would be consistent with current travel management plans.
 - **4,377 acres** (T. 25 N., R. 71 W., secs. 28, 33, 34, 35 and T. 24 N., R. 71 W., multiple secs) This parcel is surrounded by private property, BLM and State lands located to the west of Wheatland, Wyoming in the Britania and Green Mountain areas. Existing

roads and two-tracks access the parcel; however, the Forest will need to determine adjacent landowner interest in conveying easements or rights-of-way to perfect public access. A land exchange in the area of Britania Mountain is currently being proposed which would convey some of the properties out of Federal ownership. If easements were negotiated, the public use would be consistent with current travel management plans.

- **1,920 acres** (T. 26 N., R. 70 W., secs. 31, 32) This parcel is surrounded by private property located to the northwest of Wheatland, Wyoming in the Claude Irvine Creek and the North Larimer River areas. Existing roads and two-tracks access the parcel; however, the Forest will need to determine adjacent landowner interest in conveying easements or rights-of-way to perfect public access. If easements were negotiated, the public use would be consistent with current travel management plans.

Nebraska National Forest

- **Fall River Ranger District - 4,600 acres** (T. 3 S., R. 10 E., secs. 20-22, 24-28, 35 and T. 3 S. R. 11 E., sec. 29) This parcel is interspersed with private land creating a checkerboard area located east of Hermosa South Dakota and northwest of the Cheyenne River. There are multiple private roads that provide access to the NFS parcel. The Nebraska National Forest desires to secure easements to the parcel; however, negotiations with landowners have been unsuccessful. The Forest will continue to explore options to work with local partners and landowners who would be willing to provide permanent public access to the area. If an easement or other agreement can be negotiated, the public use would be consistent with current travel management plans.

San Juan National Forest

- **Columbine Ranger District - 1,034 acres** (T. 35 N., R. 6 W., secs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) This parcel is surrounded by private property located north of Bayfield, Colorado, in the Schafer Mountain area, southeast of the Forest Lakes Subdivision. Access to the northwest portion of the parcel could potentially be obtained through the subdivision by obtaining an easement, but parking areas and additional roads may need to be constructed. Access agreements may also need to be negotiated with the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District to allow for public access. The Forest will continue to explore these options. If permanent access was acquired, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Pagosa Ranger District - 920 acres** (T. 33 N, R. 1 E, secs. 34, 35, 36) This parcel is surrounded by private land located southwest of Pagosa Springs, Colorado and east of Highway 84. There are no established roads accessing the parcel. The Forest will explore opportunities to acquire an easement from adjacent landowners, which would also require construction of a road or trail. If permanent access was acquired through an easement and a road was constructed, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION (3)

Cibola National Forest

- **Kiowa/Rita Blanca Ranger District - 3,840 acres** (T. 20 N., R. 25 E., secs. 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, NMMPM) This parcel is surrounded by private and State lands located west of Roy, New Mexico in the Canon Emplazado, Whitman Canyon and Canon Blanco areas. Roads access the parcel; however, the Cibola National Forest will need to pursue the feasibility of acquiring easements, fee acquisition through purchase or land exchange to secure public access. If permanent public access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Mount Taylor Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 11 N., R. 15 W., sec. 16, NMMPM) This parcel is surrounded by private property located northeast of Ramah, New Mexico in the Burnt Mill Canyon area. The Forest would like to pursue acquisition of the adjacent private parcel through purchase to perfect public access. If permanent access was acquired through a purchase, the access into the parcel would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Mountainair Ranger District - 1,280 acres** (T. 10 N., R. 5 E., secs. 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, NMMPM) This parcel is surrounded by private land located east of Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the west side of the Manzano Mountains. To secure public access, the Forest will need to negotiate an easement from adjacent landowner on existing roads. If permanent access was acquired through an easement, the public use would comply with current travel management plans.

Prescott National Forest

- **Chino Valley Ranger District - 16,000 acres** (T. 19 N., R. 5 W., secs. 6, 8 and T. 19 N., R. 6 W., secs. 4, 8 and T. 20 N., R. 5 W., secs. 18, 20, 30, 32 and T. 20 N., R. 6 W., multiple secs.) This parcel is interspersed by Yavapai Ranch property creating a checkboard ownership pattern located northwest of Paulden, Arizona in the Red Mountain area. The Prescott National Forest is currently working with the Ranch to acquire reciprocal easements across NFS lands. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2026. When permanent access is acquired through easements, the public use will comply with current travel management plans.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION (4)

Boise National Forest

- **Mountain Home Ranger District - 1,740 acres** (T. 1 N., R. 10 E, secs. 29, 31, 32, 33 and T. 1 S., R. 10 E., secs. 4, 5, 6) This isolated parcel is surrounded by private property and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) located near Mountain Home, Idaho, southeast of Anderson Ranch Reservoir in the Wood Creek area. Louse Creek Road is in the vicinity but does not cross or provide access to the parcel. Providing public access would require pursuing an easement or right-of-way from the landowners, land acquisition in fee via a purchase or a land exchange. If access or parcels were to be acquired, the Boise National Forest would need to go through travel management planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes to determine the appropriate level of access to be provided.

Manti-La Sal National Forest

- **Moab Ranger District - 1,783 acres** (T. 50 N., R. 20 W., secs. 23, 24, 25, 26) This parcel is surrounded by private property and BLM land located southwest of

Gateway, Colorado to the northeast of Pace Lake in the Kirk's Basin area. Providing public access would require obtaining easements or right of ways from the adjacent private landowner. Currently, the BLM has started a process through a Memoranda of Understanding with the landowner and is working on obtaining some form of permanent public access. The Forest Service will work with the BLM to support this effort. To be consistent with travel management plans, access would be motorized through the private property, but once onto NFS lands, the access will be by non-motorized means only.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION (5)

Cleveland National Forest

- **Palomar Ranger District - 5000 acres** (T. 14 S., R. 2 E., multiple secs.) This parcel is surrounded by Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and private land located southeast of Ramona, California in the Capitan Lake area. Roads exist into the parcel from the north and the south; however negotiations with landowners and the BIA to the north have been unsuccessful. The Cleveland National Forest will continue exploring opportunities to acquire an easement from adjacent landowners to the south of the parcel. If permanent access was acquired through an easement, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

Eldorado National Forest

- **Georgetown Ranger District - 843 acres** (T. 14 S., R. 2 E., multiple secs) This parcel is surrounded by private property and BLM land located northeast of Placerville, California in the Swansboro and Slate Mountain areas. The Eldorado National Forest will explore opportunities for public access through easement acquisitions from the northwest through BLM land off of Road 11N86, or southeast through private property. If permanent public access was acquired through easements, the Forest would have to go through travel management planning, as the current access road is not open to public motorized travel and does not comply with travel management plans for the area.

Mendocino National Forest

- **Upper Lake Ranger District - 1,600 acres** (T. 18 N., R. 11 W., secs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and T. 19 N., R. 11 W., secs. 30, 31, 32) This parcel is surrounded by State and private land located east of Willits, California in the Thomas Creek and Whitney Creek areas. The Mendocino National Forest has an administrative right-of-way through an adjacent private ranch, but public access was not included because the ranch owner did not have the right to grant public access on the main road accessing the ranch. The recommended step to secure public access to the parcel is to seek opportunities from Ridgeway Highway through multiple private properties, as most of the other areas through State land are rugged and not practical for motorized road access. If permanent public access was acquired through easements, the Forest would have to go through travel management planning, as the use does not comply with travel management plans for the area.
- **Grindstone Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 25 N., R. 7 W., sec. 32) This parcel is surrounded by private property located to the northwest of Paskenta, California in the South Fork Elder Creek area. There is an existing road to the north that connects to

County Road 693, which is the most likely access, as other adjacent lands are steep, rugged and inaccessible. To secure public access, the Forest will need to explore acquiring easements for this road from at least three different landowners. If permanent public access was acquired, the Forest would have to go through travel management planning, as the current access road is not open to public motorized travel.

Tahoe National Forest

- **Sierraville Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 20 N., R. 14 E., sec. 28) This parcel is surrounded by private property and located southwest of Sierraville, California in the Dark Canyon area. The Mendocino National Forest currently has administrative access on a road to the north of the parcel; however, obtaining full public access from the landowner is unlikely. Public access may be acquired to the east on the 540-20 Road through property owned by Sierra Pacific Industry. The Tahoe National Forest will need to coordinate with Sierra Pacific to share in the cost of recreational use through the current Road Right-of- Way Construction and Use Agreements (RRCUA) held with the company. If public access was acquired through the RRCUA, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Yuba River Ranger District - 647 acres** (T. 20 N., R. 13 E., sec. 16) This parcel is surrounded by private property located northeast of Sierra City, California in the Lincoln Creek area. To obtain public access into the parcel, an easement would need to be acquired from Sierra Pacific Industries for the 12-14-45 Road, requiring construction of a half mile road or trail to extend the access to reach the parcel. If permanent access was acquired, and an extension was constructed, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION (6)

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

- **Cowlitz Valley Ranger District - 654 acres** (T. 13 N., R. 4 E., sec. 16) This parcel is surrounded by private property located northwest of Morton, Washington in the Connelly Creek area. National Forest System Roads (NFSR) 7001 and 7002 access the parcel through adjacent private property; however the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will need to acquire an easement or permit to perfect the public access. The Forest is currently not pursuing access unless the need is identified through a planning process. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Mt. Adams Ranger District - 786 acres** (T. 4 N., R. 12 E., secs. 30, 31, T. 4 N., R. 11 E., sec. 36) This parcel is surrounded by private land located to the east of Husum, Washington in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The East Fork Major Creek runs through one area of the parcel. Access to the area is limited due to the steep terrain. The Forest is currently not pursuing public access unless the need is identified through a planning process. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

Malheur National Forest

- **Blue Mountain Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 12 S., R. 30 E., sec. 30) This parcel is surrounded by private property and located northwest of Mount Vernon, Oregon in the East Fork Dry Creek area. Roads to the parcel do exist, but the access has not been perfected by an easement or permit. The Malheur National Forest is currently not pursuing public access unless the need is identified through a planning process. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

- **Snoqualmie Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 24 N., R. 9 E., sec. 11) This parcel is surrounded by private property and State lands located northeast of Snoqualmie, Washington in the Calligan Creek area. Public access already exists by cross-country travel over existing federal and State land. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is currently not pursuing public motorized access unless the need is identified through a planning process. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Chelan Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 28 N, R. 23 E., secs. 17, 20) This parcel is surrounded by private property and BLM lands located northeast of Chelan, Washington to the west of Bigelow Canyon. Public access already exists by cross-country travel over existing BLM lands. The Forest is currently not pursuing public motorized access unless the need is identified through a planning process. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Naches Ranger District - 640 acres** (T. 14 N., R. 15 E., sec. 32) This parcel is surrounded by private property and State lands located west of Yakima, Washington, in the Sentinel Creek area. Public access already exists by cross-country travel over existing State land. The Forest is not currently pursuing public motorized access unless the need is identified through a planning process. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

SOUTHERN REGION (8)

Daniel Boone National Forest

- **Cumberland Ranger District - 832 acres** (83.41'47.431W, 38.2'33.135N) This isolated parcel is surrounded by private property located southwest of Olympia Springs, Kentucky, to the west of Highway 36 in the Mud Lick Creek area. To secure access, the Daniel Boone National Forest will need to negotiate with adjacent landowners to acquire an easement or purchase an adjacent private parcel from a willing seller within the Highway 36 frontage. If permanent access to the parcel was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Redbird Ranger District – 3,004 acres** Tract R-3094Bt-3-(83.30'30.247W 37.0'15.876N) This parcel is surrounded by private land located west of Marcum, Kentucky in the Arnetts Fork Creek area. The area is very steep and intersected by creeks, making motorized access via roads difficult. To secure access, the Forest will need to work with private landowners to the north end of the track to explore options for acquisition of a right-of-way easement. If permanent access was

acquired through an easement, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

George Washington & Jefferson National Forests

- **Eastern Divide Ranger District - 5,760 acres** (Craig County, VA) This parcel is surrounded by private property located west of New Castle, Virginia in the Johns Creek drainage and along Piney Ridge. County Route 632 parallels the property, but private lands along the road prevent public access. The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests will need to negotiate right-of-way easements or a fee simple interest through purchase of some of these private lands to secure access for public use. If permanent access was acquired through easements or purchase, the use would comply with current travel management plans.
- **James River Ranger District - 2,462 acres** (Tract 14 DB, Alleghany County) This parcel is surrounded by private property located southwest of Covington, Virginia in the Peters Mountain and Jingling Rocks area. The Forest recognizes that public access is badly needed, making the NFS lands difficult to manage. The Forest will explore acquiring right- of-way easements and/or a fee simple interest acquisition from willing landowners with private lands along Route 600. If permanent access was acquired through easements or purchase, the use would comply with current travel management plans
- **Mount Rogers Ranger District - 4,300 acres** (Glade Mountain Area) This parcel is surrounded by private property located east of Marion, Virginia in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The Appalachian Trail runs close to this parcel. The Forest will need to acquire a right-of-way or fee simple interest from willing adjacent landowners that have road frontage to secure public access. When acquiring road access to the parcel, the view sheds of the Appalachian Trail must be considered. If permanent access was acquired to the parcel, the use would comply with current travel management plans
- **Warm Springs Ranger District - 3,640 acres** (Federal Tract O-407 Bath County) This parcel is surrounded by private property located to the northwest of Warm Springs, Virginia in the Little Alleghany Mountain and Little Back Creek Road areas. The Forest needs to explore acquiring right-of-way easements and/or a fee simple interest acquisition from willing sellers owning land along Route 600 and Route 601. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans.

EASTERN REGION (9)

Mark Twain National Forest

- **Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District - 2,738 acres** (T. 34 N., R. 4 E., secs. 22-27, 34, 35) This parcel is surrounded by private property located east of Pilot Knob, Missouri in the Anderson Mountain area. There is no existing road into the parcel, and adjacent landowners are not interested in providing public access through an easement or other agreement. If the Forest was successful in gaining legal access, it would comply with current travel management plans to the parcel; however, this area is considered a semi- primitive, non-motorized area, so any

access by motor vehicle would end at the Forest boundary of the parcel.

Monongahela National Forest

- **Gauley Ranger District - 4,404 acres** (US Tract 372, Turkey Mountain Area) This tract is surrounded by private property located in Webster County, West Virginia in the Turkey Mountain area west of Slaty Fork. There are no existing roads into the parcel, and adjacent landowners are not interested in providing public access through an easement or other agreement. If the Forest was successful in gaining legal access, it would comply with current travel management plans to the parcel.
- **Greenbrier Ranger District - 4,853 acres** (US Tracts 317, 361a, 361e, 562, 563, 638c, and 64) These tracts are surrounded by private property located south of Bartow, West Virginia and west of Route 28. Existing roads into the parcel have uncertain public rights and some landowners have fought against allowing public access. The tracts are located within an inventoried Roadless area, limiting access, and within an area identified by the Forest Plan to be managed for backcountry recreation. If the Forest was successful in gaining legal access, it would comply with current travel management plans.
- **Marlinton Ranger District - 4,853 acres** (Tracts M51a and 372) These tracts are surrounded by private property located southwest of Valley Head, West Virginia. There are no existing roads into the parcel, and adjacent landowners are not interested in providing public access through an easement or other agreement. Public access is specifically desired to develop trailhead parking for the Allegheny Trail, a statewide through-trail. These parcels are located within an inventoried Roadless area, so there is limited access to the area. The parcel is also within an area identified by the Forest Plan to be managed for wildlife habitat. If the Forest was successful in gaining legal access, it would comply with current travel management plans to the parcel.
- **Potomac Ranger District - 1,335 acres** (US Tracts 945 and 1117) These tracts are surrounded by private property located north of Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, east of Route 28 in the Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. There are private roads into the parcels; however, adjacent landowners are not interested in providing public access through an easement or other agreement. If the Forest was successful in gaining legal access, it would comply with current travel management plans to the parcel.
- **White Sulphur Ranger District - 2,000 acres** (US Tract 1403N) This parcel is surrounded by private property located in the southern part of the Forest, northeast of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. There are some existing roads into the northern section of the parcel with access being limited in the southern portion. Adjacent landowners are not interested in providing public access through an easement or other agreement. This area is located within a Forest Plan management area that focuses on wildlife habitat. If the Forest was successful in gaining legal access, it would comply with current travel management plans to the parcel.

Shawnee National Forest

- **Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District - 860 acres** (8 S., R. 4 W., secs. 17, 19, 20, T. 8

S., R. 5 W., secs. 13, 24) This parcel is surrounded by private property located west of Murphysboro, Illinois in the Matusky Hollow area. There is an existing perpetual non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress to a parcel within this tract; however, it has not been utilized in several decades and there is no existing route constructed within the easement location. The Monongahela National Forest will need to communicate with the landowner(s) to construct a road, approximately 1600' from an existing public highway to the Forest Service boundary. Alternatively, there is a private road which travels from a public highway almost to the Forest boundary; the Forest will need to negotiate with the landowner to acquire an easement or right-of-way for public access over this existing route. If permanent access was acquired, the use would comply with current travel management plans and would benefit resource management, particularly for the application of prescribed fire to an existing limestone barrens area within the tract.



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE LISA MURKOWSKI
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

In addition to preparing this list and updating it biennially for 10 years from the date of enactment, the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on options for providing access. Previous reports were submitted to the Committees in February 2021 and March 2023. As of the enclosed 2025 report, 56 parcels remain on the priority list. Since nominations for the priority list may occur for the next five years, the Forest Service has provided a dedicated email (SM.FS.nominations@usda.gov) giving the public the opportunity to nominate additional parcels as convenient, with a mail-in option as well.

After 30 days, but before 60 days from the date of this letter, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance>, per Public Law 118-172.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Jeff Merkley.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE JEFF MERKLEY
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Merkley,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE JARED HUFFMAN
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U. S. House of Representatives
1332 Longworth House Office
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Huffman,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Bruce Westerman.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE BRUCE WESTERMAN
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U. S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Jared Huffman.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE CHELLIE PINGREE
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pingree,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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After 30 days, but before 60 days from the date of this letter, this report will be posted to the Forest Service website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/budget-performance>, per Public Law 118-172.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Mike Simpson.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE MARTIN HEINRICH
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
U. S. Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Heinrich,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Chairman Mike Lee.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE MIKE LEE
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
U. S. Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Martin Heinrich.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0108

September 24, 2025

THE HONORABLE MIKE SIMPSON
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson,

Section 4105 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act instructed the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to prepare a priority list of land the public is allowed to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes under Federal or State law, but “(a) to which there is no public access or egress; or (b) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted. (as determined by the Secretary).”

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If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720–7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Chellie Pingree.

Sincerely,

Kristin A. Sleeper
Deputy Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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