

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2809

To amend the Wilderness Act to allow recreation organizations consisting of hikers or horseback riders to cross wilderness areas on established trails, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2009

Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Wilderness Act to allow recreation organizations consisting of hikers or horseback riders to cross wilderness areas on established trails, 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. ABILITY OF RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS TO**
4 **CROSS WILDERNESS AREAS ON ESTABLISHED**
5 **TRAILS.**

6 Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
7 1133(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following
8 new paragraph:

1 “(8) USE BY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS.—

2 “(A) RECREATION ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—

3 In this paragraph, a ‘recreation organization’ is an
4 organization of hikers or horseback riders—

5 “(i) whose purposes include one or more of
6 the following:

7 “(I) the promotion of the development
8 and preservation of trails throughout Fed-
9 eral lands;

10 “(II) the promotion and encourage-
11 ment of education of the public about the
12 fragile nature of mountain and forest ecol-
13 ogy and the necessity for its protection and
14 preservation; or

15 “(III) the gathering and dissemina-
16 tion of information regarding the use and
17 enjoyment of wilderness areas and other
18 Federal land; and

19 “(ii) whose leadership has by reputation
20 and practice over a period of at least 10 years
21 demonstrated compliance and consistency with
22 one or more of those purposes.

23 “(B) Members of a recreation organization act-
24 ing as an organized unit and regardless of their
25 number shall have the right to cross wilderness

1 areas on established trails without restriction as part
2 of a journey along a connecting system of trails
3 across public, private, or wilderness area lands, so
4 long as such travel is conducted within one day and
5 is completed without unreasonable delay. Such travel
6 shall neither be deemed inconsistent with the pur-
7 poses of a wilderness area nor to affect any wilder-
8 ness area's opportunities for solitude or a primitive
9 and unconfined type of recreation.

10 “(C) The agency administering any wilderness
11 area may limit the exercise of such right within any
12 specific wilderness area to not more than 10 wilder-
13 ness crossings annually and may establish fair proce-
14 dures to implement this paragraph, except that the
15 right of a recreation organization hereby granted
16 shall not be impaired during such process.”.

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