



## **Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act of 2015 (H.R. 2406)**

**As passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee on October 8, 2015.**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

- ***Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act***
  - Makes the existing exemption from EPA regulation for lead shot permanent, adds lead tackle to the exempted products.
  - Prevents the Departments of Interior and Agriculture, excluding the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, from regulating the use of ammunition and fishing tackle based on lead content, except for the existing prohibition of lead used in waterfowl hunting.
- ***Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act***
  - Extends and increases states' authority to allocate Pittman-Robertson funding for acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing public shooting ranges, provides liability protection to public ranges, and encourages federal land agencies to cooperate with state and local governments to maintain shooting ranges.
- ***Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act***
  - Requires the Secretary of Interior to authorize import permits of 41 polar bears legally harvested from approved populations in Canada before the polar bear was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 2008.
- ***Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act***
  - Authorizes the lawful possession of firearms pursuant to state law on lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of a water resource development project.
- ***Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee***
  - Amends the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to permanently establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, and recreational shooting.
  - Eliminates the existing Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council.
- ***Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act***
  - Requires Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands to be open for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting unless specifically closed. National Parks and Wildlife Refuges will remain exempt from this provision, and BLM or USFS will remain authority to implement restrictions when needed.
  - Revises the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) Strategic Growth Policy to require the consideration of priority public uses such as hunting and fishing when adding new lands to the National Wildlife Refuge System.
  - Provides for the use of volunteers from the hunting community to cull excess animals on BLM, USFS, FWS, and NPS lands.

- Requires the submission of a yearly report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate that describes any closures of public lands to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting and the reason for the closure.
- ***Farmer and Hunter Protection Act***
  - Revises standards for determining what constitutes a baited area for the purposes of regulating the take of migratory game birds.
  - Requires an annual report from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior describing any changes to normal agricultural practices across the range of crops grown in each region of the United States in which recommendations are provided to producers.
- ***Transporting Bows Across National Park Service Lands***
  - Authorizes the transportation of bows and crossbows on National Park Service Lands (NPS) by foot if the bow or crossbow is not ready for immediate use during transport or by vehicle if the bow or crossbow remain in the vehicle.
  - Authorizes the NPS Director, with state consultation, to establish hunter access corridors to allow hunters to travel across System units to access public land.
- ***Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization (FLTFA)***
  - Reauthorizes FLTFA, enabling the government to sell public land for ranching, community development, and other projects. The revenue allows federal agencies to acquire high-priority in-holdings from willing sellers.
  - Establishes a database of public lands identified for disposal under approved land use plans.
  - Requires funds from the federal portion of the program to be used for deferred maintenance activities and enhance hunting, fishing, and recreational access.
- ***African Elephant Conservation and Legal Ivory Possession Act***
  - Reauthorizes the African Elephant Conservation Act (AECA) through FY2019.
  - Authorizes ivory to be imported or exported under the AECA and the ESA if the raw ivory or worked ivory is solely for a museum; it was lawfully importable into the United States on February 24, 2014, regardless of when it was acquired; or the worked ivory was previously lawfully possessed in the United States.
  - Authorizes stationing Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officers at the primary U.S. diplomatic or consular post in each African country with significant populations of African elephants to assist local rangers.
  - Directs the Secretary of the Interior to certify countries found to be a significant transit or destination point for illegal ivory trade to the president for the purposes of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967.
  - Restricts the AECA or ESA from prohibiting the possession, sale, delivery, receipt, shipment, or transportation of African elephant ivory or products containing ivory that has been lawfully imported or crafted in the U.S.
  - Protects importation of sport-hunted African elephant trophies taken from elephant populations that were listed on Appendix II of CITES at the time the trophy was taken.
- ***Respect for Treaties and Rights***
  - Clarifies that the SHARE Act shall not modify treaties or rights granted to any federally recognized Indian tribe.

- ***Interest on Obligations Held in the Wildlife Restoration Fund***
  - Extends the date after which interest earned on obligations held in the wildlife restoration fund may be available for apportionment through 2026.
- ***Permits for Film Crews of Five People or Fewer***
  - Directs the Secretary of Interior to require a permit and assess an annual fee of \$200 for any film crew of five persons or fewer, for commercial filming activities on federal lands and waterways administered by the Secretary.
- ***State Approval of Fishing Restriction***
  - Requires that restrictions of recreational or commercial fishing access to state or territorial marine waters or Great Lakes waters within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service or the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries be developed with and approved by the state or territory agency with fisheries management authority over those waters.
- ***Hunting and Recreational Fishing Within Certain National Forests***
  - Prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture or Chief of the Forest Service from establishing - and voids prior - policies, directives, or regulations that restrict the type, season, or method of hunting or recreational fishing on lands within the National Forest System that are otherwise open to those activities and are consistent with the applicable forest plan.
  - Only applies to the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana, the De Soto National Forest in Mississippi, and the Ozark National Forest, the St. Francis National Forest, and the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma.
- ***Grand Canyon Bison Management Act***
  - Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, directs the Secretary of the Interior to publish, in coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, a management plan to reduce, through humane lethal culling by skilled public volunteers and by other nonlethal means, the population of bison in Grand Canyon National Park that the Secretary determines are detrimental to the use of the Park.