

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2600

Cosponsor H.R. 3962, the *Making Public Lands Public Access Act*

Supported by Safari Club International, Mule Deer Foundation, Boone and Crockett Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, National Sports Shooting Foundation, and Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Dear Colleague,

The federal government owns roughly 635-640 million acres in the United States. Much of this land, including roughly 4 million acres in the Rocky Mountain West, is inaccessible to the public. Many of our states and districts are occupied by this inaccessible public land, making revenue-raising activities like resource development and outdoor recreation activity difficult. In Montana alone, almost 2 million acres of public land are inaccessible. Congress must act to provide tools necessary to break these barriers.

H.R. 3962 would reserve 1.5% or \$10 million of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies to be used exclusively to gain access to existing public lands for recreational purposes.

This bill was introduced by Rep. Jeff Miller (H.R. 1997) last Congress. A similar provision was also offered by Rep. Scott Tipton during House consideration of the FY2013 Interior appropriations bill and was adopted by a voice vote. Additionally, in 2010, a similar bill passed by a large bipartisan vote of 404 to 1. Language similar to H.R. 3962 is also included in S. 1660, the SPORT Act. Clearly, the principle of my legislation has broad, bipartisan, bicameral support.

As Congress begins to consider reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund this year, H.R. 3962 is important to ensure increasing public access to public land remains a principle piece of those efforts. I urge you to join me by cosponsoring this bill.

If you would like more information or bill text, please contact Meghan Marino on my staff at Meghan.Marino@mail.house.gov or 202.225.3211.

Sincerely,


STEVE DAINES
Member of Congress