

Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act of 2015

(H.R. 2406)

Purpose: To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

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 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 shooting ranges on public lands, and encourages federal land agencies to cooperate with state and local governments to maintain shooting ranges.
- ***Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act***
 - Enables 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 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 recreational hunting, fishing, and 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.
- ***Farmer and Hunter Protection Act***
 - Authorizes state extension offices to determine “normal agricultural practices.” This will remedy recent situations in which the Fish and Wildlife Service has interpreted the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to include hunting of migrating birds on rolled rice fields as illegal baiting, resulting in fines up to \$10,000 for farmers and hunters.
- ***Transporting Bows Across National Park Service Lands***
 - Authorizes that lawful transportation of bows and crossbows on National Park Service (NPS) lands. The NPS is prohibited from restricting the lawful transportation of bows and crossbows that remain in the vehicle while in a National Park unit.
- ***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.
 - 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.
- ***Respect for Treaties and Rights***
 - Prevents the bill from modifying of treaties and rights of federally recognized Indian tribes.
- ***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.