AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 6994

Offered by M__.

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2	This Act may be cited as the "Restoring Our Un-
3	opened Trails for Enjoyment and Safety Act" or the
4	"ROUTES Act".
5	SEC. 2. REOPENING OF COVERED RECREATION SITES
6	CLOSED DUE TO NATURAL DISASTERS.
7	(a) Reopening Required.—In the case of a covered
8	recreation site that is fully or partially closed due to per-
9	sonal injury or damage caused by a natural disaster, the
10	Secretary concerned shall—
11	(1) reopen such covered recreation site not later
12	than 3 years after the date on which such natural
13	disaster ends, as determined by the Secretary con-
14	cerned; and
15	(2) if the covered recreation site is not reopened
16	on or before the date described in paragraph (1), not
17	later 30 days after such date and every 30 days
18	thereafter during which such site remains closed,

1	submit to Congress a report identifying the barriers
2	to reopening such site.
3	(b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR COVERED RECRE-
4	ATION SITE RESTORATION.—
5	(1) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—
6	Activities described in paragraph (2) are a category
7	of actions hereby designated as being categorically
8	excluded from the preparation of an environmental
9	assessment or an environmental impact statement
10	under section 102 of the National Environmental
11	Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).
12	(2) Activities designated for categorical
13	EXCLUSION.—The activities designated under this
14	section for a categorical exclusion are activities car-
15	ried out by the Secretary concerned on Interior rec-
16	reational lands or National Forest System lands
17	where the primary purpose of such activity is, con-
18	sistent with the land use plan applicable to such
19	lands, to—
20	(A) repair and restore covered recreation
21	sites damaged by a natural disaster;
22	(B) remove or mitigate hazard trees for
23	the purpose of public safety, protection of prop-
24	erty, or improving access to a covered recre-
25	ation site;

1	(C) mitigate and reduce soil erosion im-
2	pacting a covered recreation site;
3	(D) restore drainage patterns to support a
4	covered recreation site; or
5	(E) any combination of the purposes speci-
6	fied in subparagraphs (A) through (D).
7	(3) Availability of categorical exclu-
8	SION.—On and after the date of the enactment of
9	this Act, the Secretary concerned may use the cat-
10	egorical exclusion established under paragraph (1) in
11	accordance with this subsection.
12	(4) Extraordinary circumstances.—The
13	activities categorically excluded under paragraph (1)
14	shall be subject to the extraordinary circumstances
15	procedures established pursuant to section 1501.4 of
16	title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
17	cessor regulation).
18	(e) Emergency Hazard Tree Removal.—
19	(1) National forest system lands.—With
20	respect to the removal or mitigation of hazard trees
21	located on a parcel of National Forest System land,
22	during the 3-year period after a natural disaster on
23	such parcel ends, as determined by the Secretary of
24	Agriculture, section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of
25	Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the

1	enactment of this Act) shall have the force and ef-
2	fect of law with respect to such parcel.
3	(2) Interior recreational lands.—With re-
4	spect to hazard trees located on Interior recreational
5	lands, during the 3-year period after a natural dis-
6	aster on such parcel ends, as determined by the Sec-
7	retary of the Interior, section 46.150 of title 43,
8	Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
9	date of the enactment of this Act) shall have the
10	force and effect of law with respect to such parcel.
11	(d) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date
12	of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
13	submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the
14	website of the Department of the Interior and the Depart-
15	ment of Agriculture, a report that includes the number
16	of covered recreation sites—
17	(1) that have been reopened pursuant to sub-
18	section $(a)(1)$; and
19	(2) that, as of the date of such report, are
20	closed due to damage caused by a natural disaster
21	and the date such natural disaster ended, as deter-
22	mined by the Secretary concerned.
23	(e) Definitions.—In this section:
24	(1) COVERED RECREATION SITE.—The term
25	"covered recreation site" means—

1	(A) a campground or developed day-use
2	recreation site that—
3	(i) is operated by the Secretary con-
4	cerned; and
5	(ii) is located on Interior recreational
6	lands or National Forest System lands;
7	and
8	(B) a road or trail that—
9	(i) is under the jurisdiction of the
10	Secretary concerned;
11	(ii) used to access or serve a camp-
12	ground or developed day-use recreation site
13	described in subparagraph (A); and
14	(iii) is located on Interior recreational
15	lands or National Forest System lands.
16	(2) HAZARD TREE.—The term "hazard tree"
17	means a standing tree that presents a visible hazard
18	to people or property due to conditions such as the
19	deterioration of, or damage to—
20	(A) the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs
21	of the tree; or
22	(B) the direction or lean of the tree.
23	(3) Interior recreational lands.—The
24	term "Interior recreational lands" means lands man-
25	aged by the National Park Service, the United

1	States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of
2	Land Management, or the Bureau of Reclamation.
3	(4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
4	"National Forest System" has the meaning given
5	that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
6	land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
7	U.S.C. 1609(a)).
8	(5) Natural disaster.—The term "natural
9	disaster" includes a wildfire, flood, hurricane, wind-
10	storm, erosion, and tornado.
11	(6) Secretary Concerned.—The term "Sec-
12	retary concerned" means—
13	(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
14	spect to Interior recreational lands; or
15	(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
16	spect to National Forest System lands.

