

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 123

To express the sense of Congress regarding the policy of the Forest Service toward recreational shooting and archery ranges on Federal land.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 29), 1998

Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress regarding the policy of the Forest Service toward recreational shooting and archery ranges on Federal land.

Whereas the Forest Service is developing a national policy to guide its management of existing and proposed shooting and archery ranges on national forest land;

Whereas when managed appropriately, firearm and archery sports are a legitimate use of national forest land;

Whereas the Forest Service has proceeded with closure actions of recreational shooting ranges on Forest Service land without prior notification to Congress or the general public;

Whereas on March 10, 1997, the Forest Service suspended the special-use permit of the Tucson Rod and Gun Club

located in the Coronado National Forest near Tucson, Arizona; and

Whereas the Forest Service is evaluating alternative sites in the Coronado National Forest that could be used by the Tucson Rod and Gun Club for firearm and archery sports, the Secretary of Agriculture has directed the expeditious completion of the environmental assessment, and the Forest Service has committed to notify Congress of its decision by November 20, 1998: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PUBLIC REC-**
4 **REATIONAL AND MULTI-PURPOSE USE OF**
5 **UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE LAND.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the Forest Service should not close shooting
8 or archery facilities without prior notification to
9 Congress and the general public unless there is an
10 immediate threat to public safety;

11 (2) notification to Congress of any plan for clo-
12 sure of a shooting or archery facility should include
13 the reasons for the closure, including any potential
14 for imminent public safety endangerment;

15 (3) the Forest Service should avoid unreason-
16 able restrictions in the issuance of special-use per-
17 mits for firearm and archery sports facilities;

1 (4) the Forest Service should fully evaluate al-
2 ternative sites in the Coronado National Forest and
3 provide, to the extent consistent with the environ-
4 mental assessment, a reasonable alternative that
5 would allow the Tucson Rod and Gun Club to quick-
6 ly open a safe facility for firearm and archery
7 sports; and

8 (5) the Forest Service should adhere to its
9 deadline of November 20, 1998, for a decision on a
10 site for the Tucson Rod and Gun Club.

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