



H.R. 4089: Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012

[H.R. 4089](#), the *Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012*, protects the traditional right of American sportsmen to fish and hunt from bureaucratic restrictions and limitations. It will remove government roadblocks to these activities on certain public lands and guard against new regulations that threaten to block or limit access to hunting and fishing. The bill will protect American jobs and economic growth by supporting recreational opportunities on these federal lands. It also reaffirms existing law barring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from banning certain types of ammunition and fishing tackle, which will protect against lawsuits and bureaucratic maneuvers aimed at undermining current law.

Supports Access for Hunting and Fishing on Public Lands

- The bill clearly reaffirms that fishing, hunting, and shooting are important and traditional activities that should continue on public lands.
- It requires federal land managers to support and facilitate use and access for hunting, fishing and recreational shooting on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land.
- It protects sportsmen from arbitrary efforts by the federal government to block public lands from hunting and fishing activities by implementing an “open until closed” management policy. However, it does not prioritize hunting and fishing over other multiple uses of public lands.

Protects Against Unnecessary Closures of Public Lands to Hunting and Shooting

- The bill requires BLM to justify recreational shooting closures or restrictions on national monument lands for only reasons of national security, public safety or to comply with federal and state laws or regulations.
- Prior to such closure or restriction, BLM must give public notice and submit a report to Congress detailing the location and evidence justifying the closure or restriction.

Protects the Use of Traditional Ammunition and Fish Tackle

- Although Congress long ago barred the EPA from banning certain types of ammunition, activist environmental groups are currently seeking an end run around that law by petitioning the EPA to ban the use of lead in hunting and fishing components.
- A ban on non-lead bullets would increase costs for hunters, sports shooters, and fisherman; destroy jobs; and cause economic harm to the outdoor sportsmen and recreation industry.
- The bill protects the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle by reiterating and clarifying existing law to clearly limit EPA’s authority under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). It amends the TSCA to allow for the sale of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle that is subject to federal excise tax.

Eliminates Government Red Tape for the Importation of Specific, Legal Hunting Trophies

- The bill allows for the importation of certain legally taken hunting trophies that, through no fault of the sportsmen, have become trapped in bureaucratic red tape. It amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow a limited number of certain hunting trophies taken legally in sport hunt in Canada to be brought to the U.S. It is focused squarely on resolving specific, existing cases ensnared in red tape, and doesn’t open the door to unlimited future imports.

Broad Support

- The bill enjoys widespread support from dozens of the leading national hunting, shooting and fishing organizations including the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance, and the Wildlife Management Institute. To see the full list click [here](#).