

September 25, 2025

Secretary Doug Burgum
US Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Secretary Brooke Rollins
US Dept. of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.,
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Burgum and Secretary Rollins:

On behalf of America's millions of hunters, anglers, wildlife professionals, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts, we write to express our appreciation for your leadership in expanding access to public lands. We also want to offer our support for implementing two important laws that elevate the role of geospatial information in transportation planning and public access: the *Modernizing Access to our Public Land Act (MAPLand Act)* of 2022 and Section 127 of the *Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (EXPLORE Act)* of 2025. As experts in and champions of the deployment of technology to benefit natural resources and their users, you are uniquely positioned to further the shared goals included in this historic legislation.

Smartphones, GPS, and digital mapping applications have transformed the way Americans experience the outdoors. With the tap of a screen, people can now see whether a road or trail is open, the dates of seasonal closures, and what types of vehicles or uses are allowed. This technology not only improves trip planning for hunting, fishing, shooting, off-roading, and other activities—it also enhances compliance and helps conserve natural resources by ensuring users understand the rules.

Unfortunately, significant gaps remain. In many areas, digital maps do not yet exist, or roads and trails have not been designated, leaving blank spots that represent lost opportunities for recreation.

To address these challenges, the hunting, fishing, and shooting sports community worked with Congress to pass the MAPLand Act (Public Law No: 117-114) and Section 127 of the EXPLORE Act (Public Law No: 118-234). Together, these laws direct federal land management agencies to:

- Provide digital information on the open/closed status of roads and trails on public land.
- Publish digital records of the dates of seasonal closures.
- Digitally specify the classes of vehicles and recreational uses allowed.
- Create motor vehicle use maps (Forest Service) and ground transportation linear feature maps (BLM) that are publicly accessible for each unit of public land.
- Digitize federal access easements and rights-of-way across private lands—critical linkages that make the public land transportation system accessible to the public.

As your departments implement the above elements of these important statutes, all of which are consistent with Trump administration priorities, we humbly request that you issue agency directives to complete the following actions:

1. Advance ongoing transportation planning that specifically takes into consideration the access needs of big game hunters and the habitat needs of big game species, particularly on winter range;
2. Prioritize budget line items and discretionary resources to meet the timelines specified in the laws for the benefit of hunters, anglers, and the communities they support;
3. Identify and address human resource needs to ensure effective implementation, maximizing returns on taxpayer investments and benefiting local and regional economies; and
4. Engage designees of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council to seek consensus recommendations on more detailed elements of the legislation.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this [issue of critical importance to our community](#). We stand ready to assist in any way possible to ensure successful implementation of the MAPLand and EXPLORE Acts and to enhance recreational access on our nation's public lands.

Respectfully,

American Sportfishing Association
Angler Action Foundation
Archery Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Boone and Crockett Club
Camp Fire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl
Houston Safari Club
International Hunter Education Association –
USA
Masters of Foxhounds Association
Mule Deer Foundation
National Deer Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation

National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
North American Falconers Association
Pheasants Forever
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Safari Club International
Sportsmen's Alliance
The Conservation Fund
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute