

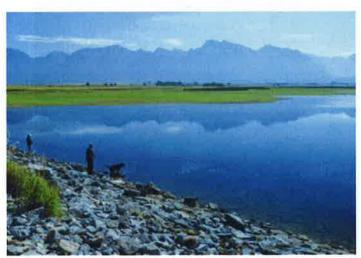
Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act - S. 1202



Safeguarding our lands and waters will safeguard invaluable benefits

Climate change poses an immediate and profound threat to the healthy natural systems that provide us with clean drinking water, clean air, food, pollination of crops, tourism and other jobs, hunting and fishing opportunities, outdoor recreation, medicine, flood protection, scenic beauty, and numerous other services.

By coordinating the agencies that manage these resources we can address these threats and continue to enjoy the services they currently provide. The SAFE Act will provide for a national preparedness strategy, increased scientific capacity and coordination to address the impending threats to our resources. This planning will also



Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) and Max Baucus (MT) have introduced the Securing America's Future and Environment (SAFE) Act which is designed to protect American communities, wildlife and natural habitat from the increasingly destructive effects of climate change.

This non-regulatory bill, recognizes the countless benefits that healthy natural resources provide to our country's health, safety, economy and well being, underscores the urgent need to help them adapt to a more rapidly changing climate and provides a road map to do so.



maximize government efficiency and reduce costs to the public.

Restoring public lands, parks and coastlines revitalizes local economies

Outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, camping, climbing, hiking, paddling, backcountry skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and other activities accounts for 8% of all consumer spending. This drives an overall annual contribution of \$730 billion to the economy, supporting 6.5 million jobs (1 of every 20 jobs in the U.S.).

By investing in our natural resources and wildlife we can continue to support a huge sector of our economy and ensure that local economies remain strong.

Protecting resources now makes them less vulnerable to costly damage from extreme weather events

Changing climates have created unusual weather events with devastating impacts. In fact, 2011 set records for extreme weather-related events, including record rainfall in a number of states with record flooding along the mid and lower Mississippi River; record to near record snowpack in the Northern Rockies and High Plains contributing to river flooding; and record wildfire in Arizona and drought in Texas.

These deadly events have been catastrophic to many Americans and caused billions of dollars in damages. They are the types of events scientists have predicted will increase in frequency or intensity as the planet continues to warm. The SAFE Act will provide the tools to help our natural resource agencies prepare for these events.



The Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act will:

- Build on the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy to forge an integrated federal program to respond to ongoing and expected impacts of climate variability and change by protecting, restoring, and conserving the natural resources of the United States.
- Maximize government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with state, local, and tribal governments and other entities in preparing for these changes.
- Ensure that increased scientific capacity is available and used to make critical decisions on how we manage the resources of the United States.



i The Outdoor Industry Foundation www.outdoorindustry.org