

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN 115TH CONGRESS

Compiled by Wilderness Watch

Last revised: 10 March 2018

Bolded Titles or bolded Comments indicate bad bills or provisions.
“Clean” means bill is free of any special provisions or management exceptions.

Bill No./Sponsor	Title (not exact)	Latest Action	Comments
H.J. Res. 35 H.J. Res. 49 H. J. Res. 69 Young (R-AK)	Hunting on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges	Trump signed it into law on 3 April 2017 as P.L. 115-20.	Would disapprove Dept. of Interior’s hunting regulations for National Wildlife Refuges in AK designed to protect wildlife from unethical practices. <i>S. J. Res. 18 is companion.</i>
HR 49 Young (R-AK)	American Energy Independence and Job Creation Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.
HR 218 Young (R-AK)	Izembek Road	Passed House on 20 July 2017.	Would force a land exchange to build a 10-mile road through the heart of the Izembek Wilderness in AK. <i>S. 101 is companion.</i>
HR 381 McClintock (R-CA)	Sky Point Naming	Referred to NR Committee. Passed Sen. ENR Committee 30 Mar 2017.	Would name a peak in the John Muir Wilderness as Sky Point.
HR 689 Polis (D-CO)	Bolts Ditch Headgate	Passed House on 6 Feb. 2017.	Would allow nonmotorized access and use of Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment by Town of Minturn within the Holy Cross Wilderness in CO. <i>S. 285 is companion.</i>
HR 699 Walden (R-OR)	Mt. Hood Wilderness Land Exchange	Trump signed into law on 10 Jan. 2018 as P.L. 115-110.	Would amend 2009 Omnibus Act to modify land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in OR. <i>S. 225 is companion.</i>
HR 827 Vargas (D-CA)	Imperial Valley Desert Conservation and Recreation Act	Referred to NR Committee	Establishes the Vinagre Wash Special Management Area in California, which shall consist of approximately 81,880 acres in Imperial County. Interior shall manage specified lands in the Management Area to preserve their character.

			Designates 3 potential Wildernesses totaling 38,440 acres plus Indian Pass Additions totaling 10,860 acres.
HR 857 Cook (R-CA)	California Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act	Referred to NR Committee	Designates 6 BLM Wildernesses totaling 250,460 acres. Adds 6 additions to Death Valley Wilderness totaling 91,596 acres. Adds 7,141 acres to San Geronio Wilderness. Contains buffer zone and military activities special provisions. Allows utility and rights-of-way to continue in San Geronio Wilderness. Contains new special provisions for cherry-stem roads and bad fire language. Designates 4 areas of potential wilderness totaling 49,300 acres. Establishes Mojave Trails National Monument and Sand to Snow National Monument. Adds 39,369 acres to Death Valley Nat'l Park. Releases 6 WSAs. Adds 4,518 acres to Joshua Tree Nat'l Park. Establishes 5 OHV recreation areas. Establishes 18,610-acre Alabama Hills National Scenic Area. Establishes 6350-acre Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa Area of Critical Env. Concern. <i>S. 32 is companion.</i>
HR 1107 Amodei (R-NV)	Pershing County Economic Development Act	Passed House 16 Jan. 2018.	Would designate 7 Wildernesses totaling 136,072 acres of BLM land in Pershing County as Wilderness. Contains bad special provisions on buffers; military overflights; installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological data collection devices; water rights; a temporary communications device in Selenite Peak Wilderness; use of aircraft/helicopters for any wildlife purpose; installation of guzzlers; and releases 48,600 acres of WSAs. <i>S. 414 is companion.</i>
HR 1285 Kilmer (D-WA)	Wild Olympics	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate 14 wildernesses totaling 126,554 acres in Olympic National Forest and designate 464 river miles across 19 rivers and major tributaries on the Olympic Peninsula as "Wild and Scenic Rivers." Also designates 5,346 acres as Potential Wilderness. Has buffer zone language. <i>S. 483 is companion.</i>

HR 1349 McClintock (R-CA)	Mountain Bikes in Wilderness	Passed NR Committee on 13 Dec 2017.	Would amend the Wilderness Act to allow bikes, strollers, wheelbarrows, game carts, survey wheels, measuring wheels in designated Wilderness for the first time. Would also allow wheelchairs, but they are already allowed.
HR 1482 Simpson (R-ID)	Smith Gulch Bill	Referred to NR Committee	Allows permanent maintenance and replacement of commercial recreation facilities at Smith Gulch on the wild Salmon River in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in ID. <i>S. 590 is companion.</i>
HR 1889 Huffman (D-CA)	Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Wilderness Act (Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act)	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in AK as wilderness. <i>S. 820 is companion.</i>
HR 1913 Panetta (D-CA)	Joaquin Rocks Wilderness Bill	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in San Benito and Fresno Counties, CA.
HR 1944 Latta (R-OH)	Commercial Filming on Federal Lands	Referred to NR and Ag Committees	May open up all Wildernesses to commercial filming for the first time.
HR 2044 Lowenthal (D-CA)	America's Red Rock Wilderness Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate 9.2 million acres of wilderness in southern Utah. <i>S. 948 is companion.</i>
HR 2135 Maloney (D-NY)	Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate 23 million acres of Wilderness in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, plus 1800 miles of wild and scenic river segments. <i>S. 936 is companion.</i>
HR 2218 Roe (R-TN)	Tennessee Wilderness Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would expand Big Laurel Branch Wilderness and Sampson Mountain Wilderness on Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, totally 7,368 acres. <i>S. 973 is companion, but not identical.</i>
HR 2374 Kihuan (D-NV)	Eastern Nevada Economic Development and Land Management Improvement Act	Referred to NR Committee	Adjusts the boundaries of Mt. Moriah, High Schells, and Arc Dome Wildernesses in eastern NV. Unclear from text what the adjustments do. <i>S. 1046 is companion.</i>

HR 2936 Westerman (R-AR)	Resilient Federal Forests Act	Passed full House on 1 November 2017.	Among many truly bad environmental provisions, Sec. 913 of this bill seems to un-designate parts of at least two Wildernesses in OR, the Table Rock Wilderness and Soda Mountain Wilderness. H. Amdt. 472 by DeFazio excluding Wildernesses from Sec. 913 was adopted on House floor.
HR 3039 Chu (D-CA)	San Gabriel Mountains Forever Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate 31,069 acres of Wilderness and 45 miles of wild and scenic river segments in San Gabriel Mtns of CA. Allows motor vehicles and aircraft for wildlife management, has buffer zone language, horse language, law enforcement language, military overflights language, and allows installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices.
HR 3115 Nolan (D-MN)	Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act	Passed full House on 28 Nov. 2017 on a 309-99 vote.	Would force an exchange involving 6,650 acres of federal land to facilitate development of new PolyMet copper-nickel mine south of the BWCAW, and would sidestep the 4 lawsuits challenging this bad exchange.
HR 3354	Interior Appropriations	Under negotiation in March 2018.	Sec. 437 in the House version is a rider that could open up long-vacant or retired grazing allotments inside Wilderness, with damage to natural resources and wilderness values.
HR 3548 McCaul (R-TX)	Border Security for America Act	Referred to 8 committees, including Natural Resources. Homeland Sec. Comm. markup on 4 Oct 2017.	Would waive the 1964 Wilderness Act and 35 other federal laws for U.S. Customs and Border Protection within 100 miles of the southern and northern borders.
HR 3593 Johnson (R-LA)	Secure Our Borders and Wilderness Act	Referred to NR Committee and Homeland Security Committee	Would directly amend the 1964 Wilderness Act to access structures, installations and roads; use motor vehicles; use and land aircraft; deploy “temporary” infrastructure, including forward operating bases; construct and maintain roads.

HR 3624 Smith (D-WA)	Rural Economic Vitalization Act (REVA)	Referred to NR Committee	Allows ranchers to waive grazing permits on public lands, including Wilderness, which then are permanently retired. It encourages financial compensation to ranchers for waiving grazing permits by third-party conservation interests.
HR 3668 Duncan (R-SC)	Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act	Passed Natural Resources Committee on 13 September 2017.	Contains major wilderness-damaging provisions that would allow for logging, road-building, dam construction, and any other activity if even remotely connected to hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or fish and wildlife management.
HR 3873 Gianforte (R-MT)	Alex Diekmann Peak Designation	Trump signed into law on 31 Jan. 2018 as P.L. 115-122.	Would name a peak in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness in MT as Alex Diekmann Peak. <i>S. 117 is companion.</i>
HR 3905 Emmer (R-MN)	BWCAW-Edge Mining Development	Passed full House on 30 Nov. 2017, 216-202.	Would prohibit the Forest Service from excluding any FS lands in MN from mining without approval from Congress. Would also award two expired federal mining leases to Twin Metals to develop a massive copper-nickel mine at the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
HR 4072 Carbajal (D-CA)	Central Coast Heritage Protection Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate 3 BLM Wildernesses totaling 61,536 acres and 9 Wildernesses on the Los Padres National Forest totaling 183,373 acres in CA as Wilderness. Contains buffer zone and military overflights language. Contains special horse language. Allows 2 existing water transport/diversion facilities and 1 existing electricity line to continue in San Rafael Wilderness Additions. Authorizes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas if the Secretary determines that the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, or water reservoir operation activities. <i>S. 1959 is companion.</i>

HR 4134 Simpson (R-ID)	Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness Redesignation Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would re-name the White Clouds Wilderness in ID as the Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness.
HR 4697 Cheney (R-WY)	Wyoming Wilderness Study Areas	Referred to NR Committee	Would open up the Palisades, High Lakes, and Shoal Creek Wilderness Study Areas to snowmobiling, dirt bike riding, mountain biking, and helicopter skiing.
HR 4883 Polis (D-CO)	Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act	Referred to NR Committee	Amends 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act to designate 2 wilderness additions and 2 new Wildernesses on the White River National Forest totaling 26,162 acres. Also designates 8,192-acre Williams Fork Potential Wilderness. Includes typical buffer zone and military overflight special provisions. Deletes 15.5 acres of potential wilderness from Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness. Includes Bolts Ditch Access language (HR 689) for Holy Cross Wilderness. <i>S. 2337 is companion.</i>
HR 5148 Gianforte (R-MT)	Protect Public Use of Public Lands Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would remove protection from 5 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in MT on Forest Service-administered lands totaling 449,500 acres and open them to development. <i>S. 2206 is companion.</i>
HR 5149 Gianforte (R-MT)	Unlocking Public Lands Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would remove protection from 25 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in MT on BLM-administered lands.
S.J. Res. 18 Sullivan (R-AK)	Hunting on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges	Trump signed it into law on 3 April 2017 as P.L. 115-20.	Would disapprove Dept. of Interior's hunting regulations for National Wildlife Refuges in AK designed to protect wildlife from unethical practices. <i>H. J. Res. 69 is companion.</i>
S. 32 Feinstein (D-CA)	CA Desert Protection and Recreation Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Designates 6 BLM Wildernesses totaling 250,460 acres. Adds 6 additions to Death Valley Wilderness totaling 91,596 acres. Adds 7,141 acres to San Geronio Wilderness. Contains buffer zone and military activities special provisions. Allows utility and rights-of-way to continue in San Geronio Wilderness. Contains new special provisions for cherry-stem roads and bad fire

			language. Designates 4 areas of potential wilderness totaling 49,300 acres. Establishes Mojave Trails National Monument and Sand to Snow National Monument. Adds 39,369 acres to Death Valley Nat'l Park. Releases 6 WSAs. Adds 4,518 acres to Joshua Tree Nat'l Park. Establishes 5 OHV recreation areas. Establishes 18,610-acre Alabama Hills National Scenic Area. Establishes 6350-acre Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa Area of Critical Env. Concern. <i>HR 857 is companion.</i>
S. 49 Murkowski (R-AK)	AK Oil and Gas Production Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Among other things, would open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.
S. 101 Murkowski (R-AK)	Izembek Road	Referred to ENR Committee	Would force a land exchange to build a 10-mile road through the heart of the Izembek Wilderness in AK. <i>HR 218 is companion.</i>
S. 117 Daines (R-MT)	Alex Diekmann Peak Designation Act	Trump signed into law on 31 Jan. 2018 as P.L. 115-122.	Would name a currently unnamed peak in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness as Alex Diekmann Peak. <i>HR 3873 is companion.</i>
S. 213 Murkowski (R-AK)	Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Re-naming	Passed ENR Committee 30 Mar 2017.	Would re-name the Lake Clark Wilderness in AK as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness.
S. 225 Wyden (D-OR)	Mt. Hood Wilderness Land Exchange	Trump signed into law on 10 Jan. 2018 as P.L. 115-110.	Would amend 2009 Omnibus Act to modify land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in OR. <i>HR 699 is companion.</i>
S. 285 Gardner (R-CO)	Bolts Ditch Headgate	Passed ENR Committee 30 Mar 2017.	Would allow nonmotorized access and use of Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment by Town of Minturn within the Holy Cross Wilderness in CO. <i>HR 689 is companion.</i>
S. 414 Heller (R-NV)	Pershing County Economic Development Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate 7 Wildernesses totaling 136,072 acres of BLM land in Pershing County as Wilderness. Contains bad special provisions on buffers; military overflights; installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological data collection devices;

			water rights; a temporary communications device in Selenite Peak Wilderness; use of aircraft/helicopters for any wildlife purpose; installation of guzzlers; and releases 48,600 acres of WSAs. HR 1107 is companion.
S. 432 Heinrich (D-NM)	Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness	Passed Senate 21 Dec. 2017.	Designates Cerro del Yuta Wilderness (13,420 acres) in Taos Co., NM, and Rio San Antonio Wilderness (8,120 acres) in Rio Arriba Co., NM, on BLM lands. Contains buffer zone language. Releases rest of San Antonio WSA.
S. 436 Heinrich (D-NM)	Navaho Nation/San Juan County Wildernesses	Public Lands Subcomm. hearing on 26 July 2017.	Designates the 7,242-acre Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness on BLM land in San Juan Co., NM. Releases rest of Ah-shi-sle-pah WSA. Adds 2,250 acres to Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness. Contains buffer zone language.
S. 441 Udall (D-NM)	Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Conservation Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Designates 8 wildernesses on BLM land in Dona Ana County, NM, totaling 241,786 acres. Has buffer zone and military overflights language. Allows continued paragliding in Portillo Mtns Wilderness. Allows installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatologic collection devices if the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, or water reservoir operation activities. Has border security language. Releases remaining WSAs in Dona Ana Co.
S. 483 Murray (D-WA)	Wild Olympics	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate 14 wildernesses totaling 126,554 acres in Olympic National Forest and designate 464 river miles across 19 rivers and major tributaries on the Olympic Peninsula as "Wild and Scenic Rivers." Also designates 5,346 acres as Potential Wilderness. Has buffer zone language. HR 1285 is companion.
S. 507 Tester (D-MT)	Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would add 2 additions to Bob Marshall Wilderness totaling 47,206 acres, 1 addition to Mission Mtns W of 4,462 acres, and 1 addition to Scapegoat W of 27,392 acres. Requires access to private inholdings (apparently no exchange

			option); allows installation or maintenance of hydrological, meteorological, or climatological instrumentation in any wilderness addition; specifically allows commercial outfitter/guide activity (“may be authorized”); and has special provisions on buffers.
S. 590 Risch (R-ID)	Smith Gulch Bill	Passed ENR Committee 30 Mar 2017.	Allows permanent maintenance and replacement of commercial recreation facilities at Smith Gulch on the wild Salmon River in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in ID. <i>HR 1482 is companion.</i> Also included in S. 1460.
S. 733 Murkowski (R-AK)	Sportsmen’s Act	Passed ENR Committee 30 Mar 2017.	Unclear of impacts on ban on commercial filming in Wilderness.
S. 820 Markey (D-MA)	Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Wilderness Act	Referred to Environment and Public Works Committee	Would designate the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in AK as wilderness. <i>HR 1889 is companion.</i>
S. 936 Whitehouse (D-NJ)	Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate 23 million acres of Wilderness in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, plus 1800 miles of wild and scenic river segments. <i>HR 2135 is companion.</i>
S. 948 Durbin (D-IL)	America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate 9.2 million acres of wilderness in southern Utah. <i>HR 2044 is companion.</i>
S. 973 Alexander (R-TN)	Tennessee Wilderness Act	Passed Ag Committee on 9 Nov. 2017; headed for Sen floor.	Would designate and expand 9 Wildernesses on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee totaling 19,556 acres. <i>HR 2218 is companion, but not identical.</i>
S. 1046 Heller (R-NV)	Eastern Nevada Economic Development and Land Management Improvement Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Adjusts the boundaries of Mt. Moriah, High Schells, and Arc Dome Wildernesses in eastern NV. Unclear from text what the adjustments do. <i>HR 2374 is companion.</i>
S. 1460 Murkowski (R-AK)	Energy and Natural Resources Act	On General Orders on Senate floor.	Includes some other wilderness designation bills, incl. Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wildernesses in NM (S.

			432), additions to Cherokee NF Wildernesses in TN (S. 973), re-naming Lake Clark Wilderness as Jay S. Hammond Wilderness in AK (S. 213), naming Sky Point Mountain in CA. Also includes Senate Sportsmen's Act (but without wilderness-damaging provisions) (S. 733), filming on federal land, bolts ditch access (S. 285), and Smith Gulch bill, ID (S. 590) .
S. 1548 Wyden (D-OR)	Oregon Wildlands Act	Subcommittee hearing held 26 July 2017.	Would expand Wild Rogue Wilderness by 56,100 acres and Devil's Staircase Wilderness by 30,540 acres, each addition containing both FS- and BLM-administered land. Contains typical buffer zone language.
S. 1959 Harris (D-CA)	Central Coast Heritage Protection Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate 3 BLM Wildernesses totaling 61,536 acres and 9 Wildernesses on the Los Padres National Forest totaling 183,373 acres in CA as Wilderness. Contains buffer zone and military overflights language. Contains special horse language. Allows 2 existing water transport/diversion facilities and 1 existing electricity line to continue in San Rafael Wilderness Additions. Authorizes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas if the Secretary determines that the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, or water reservoir operation activities. HR 4072 is companion.
S. 1975 Kaine (D-VA)	Virginia Wilderness Additions Act	Referred to Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.	Adds 1,000 acres to Rough Mtn Wilderness and 4,600 acres to Rich Hole Wilderness on George Washington NF in VA. Allows motorized equipment and mechanized transport in Rich Hole Addition for water quality improvement activities approved in 2016 FS Decision Notice.
S. 2206 Daines (R-MT)	Protect Public Use of Public Lands Act	Subcommittee hearing held 7 Feb. 2018.	Would remove protection from 5 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in MT on Forest Service-administered lands totaling 449,500 acres and open them to development. <i>HR 5148 is companion.</i>

<p>S. 2337 Bennett (D-CO)</p>	<p>Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act</p>	<p>Referred to ENR Committee.</p>	<p>Amends 1993 Colorado Wilderness Act to designate 2 wilderness additions and 2 new Wildernesses on the White River National Forest totaling 26,162 acres. Also designates 8,192-acre Williams Fork Potential Wilderness. Includes typical buffer zone and military overflight special provisions. Deletes 15.5 acres of potential wilderness from Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness. Includes Bolts Ditch Access language (S. 285) for Holy Cross Wilderness. <i>HR 4883 is companion.</i></p>
<p>HR 3354</p>	<p>Interior Appropriations</p>	<p>Under negotiation in March 2018.</p>	<p>Sec. 430 of the Senate version is a rider that could open up long-vacant or retired grazing allotments inside Wilderness, with damage to natural resources and wilderness values.</p>