

**WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

**Compiled by Wilderness Watch**

Last revised: 19 February 2021

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

| <b>Bill No./Sponsor</b>         | <b>Title (not exact)</b>                           | <b>Latest Action</b>                            | <b>Comments</b>  |
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| <b>HR 488</b><br>Stauber (R-MN) | <b>Saving America’s Mines Act</b>                  | Referred to NR and Ag Committees                | Would prohibit the prohibition of mining on National Forests and BLM-administered lands without approval by Congress. Bill aims to protect copper-nickel mining proposals near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on Superior NF in MN.   |
| <b>HR 577</b><br>Neguse (D-CO)  | Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act | Referred to NR Committee                        | Incorporates 4 previous bills (Continental Divide, San Juan Mtns Wilderness, Thompson Divide, and Curecanti NRA Acts) and would designate 73,000 acres of Wilderness. 26,395 acres in 4 additions on White River NF, plus 8,036-acre Williams Fork Potential Wilderness on White River NF. <b>Allows motorized equip/transport in potential Wilderness for range improvement</b> , and has language to determine whether 2 vacant grazing allotments will be filled. Designates 3 Wilderness additions totaling 22,841 acres on GMUG NF, plus new 8,884-acre McKenna Peak Wilderness on BLM land, <b>with buffer zone language</b> . <b>Releases remainder of Dominguez Canyon WSA. Also removes 15.5 acres of potential wilderness in Rocky Mtn Natl Park for the Trail River Ranch within the Park. S. 173 is companion.</b> |
| <b>HR 760</b><br>Johnson (R-LA) | <b>Securing Our Borders and Wilderness Act</b>     | Referred to NR and Homeland Security Committees | <b>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.</b> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.  |
| <b>HR 803</b><br>DeGette (D-CO) | Colorado Wilderness Act                            | Referred to NR and Armed Services Committees    | Would designate 13 new Wildernesses on BLM-administered land totaling 263,994 acres, plus 20 wilderness additions totaling 477,613 acres on mostly BLM land. Also  |

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|                                  |  |                          | designated 2 potential Wildernesses totaling 35,280 acres. <b>Contains special provisions on legalizing permanent fixed climbing anchors in wilderness, buffers, military overflights, and allows competitive running events to continue in the Redcloud Peak and Handies Peak Wildernesses.</b> Also contains extensive provisions on wilderness water rights. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.  |
| <b>HR 815</b><br>Huffman (D-CA)  | Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Wilderness                               | Referred to NR Committee | Would repeal the provision from the 2017 Tax Bill requiring oil and gas leasing in the 1.56 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and would designate that coastal plain as Wilderness. Clean bill. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.   |
| <b>HR 878</b><br>Huffman (D-CA)  | Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act | Referred to NR Committee | Would designate 17 Wildernesses or wilderness additions totaling 251,023 acres on lands administered by FS and BLM in NW CA. <b>Full of bad special provisions: buffer zones, military overflights, horses, hydrologic/meteorologic/climatological collection devices, and competitive equestrian event. Also incorporates bad wildlife practices from bad House Report 101-405. CONTAINS NEW SPECIAL PROVISION LEGALIZING PERMANENT FIXED CLIMBING ANCHORS IN WILDERNESS.</b>   |
| <b>HR 973</b><br>Carbajal (D-CA) | Central Coast Heritage Protection Act                                | Referred to NR Committee | Designates 250,000 acres on the Los Padres National Forest in CA as Wilderness. Expands 9 Wildernesses on Los Padres NF, and designates 4 new Wildernesses on Carrizo Plain Natl Monument. <b>Full of bad special provisions: buffer zones, military overflights, horses, hydrologic/meteorological/climatological collection devices, 2 existing water diversion/transport facilities and their roads, and an electrical distribution line in San Rafael Wilderness addition. Also incorporates bad wildlife practices from bad House Report 101-405.</b> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE. |
| <b>HR 999</b><br>Kilmer (D-WA)   | Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act                | Referred to NR Committee | Would designate 14 new Wildernesses totaling 126,500 acres of Wilderness in Olympic National Forest, one Potential Wilderness of 5,346 acres, and 464 miles of Wild  |

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|                                  |  |  | and Scenic Rivers. <b>Contains the usual buffer zone language.</b> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.   |
| <b>S. 173</b><br>Bennet (D-CO)   | Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act | Referred to ENR Committee                          | Incorporates 4 previous bills (Continental Divide, San Juan Mtns Wilderness, Thompson Divide, and Curecanti NRA Acts) and would designate 73,000 acres of Wilderness. 26,395 acres in 4 additions on White River NF, plus 8,036-acre Williams Fork Potential Wilderness on White River NF. <b>Allows motorized equip/transport in potential Wilderness for range improvement</b> , and has language to determine whether 2 vacant grazing allotments will be filled. Designates 3 Wilderness additions totaling 22,841 acres on GMUG NF, plus new 8,884-acre McKenna Peak Wilderness on BLM land, <b>with buffer zone language.</b> <b>Releases remainder of Dominguez Canyon WSA. Also removes 15.5 acres of potential wilderness in Rocky Mtn Natl Park for the Trail River Ranch within the Park.</b> <i>HR 577 is companion.</i> |
| <b>S. 177</b><br>Heinrich (D-NM) | Cerro de la Olla Wilderness Act                    | Referred to ENR Committee                          | Would designate the Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in NM. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.   |
| <b>S. 282</b><br>Markey (D-MA)   | Arctic Refuge Wilderness Bill                      | Referred to Environment and Public Works Committee | Would designate the 1.56 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in AK as Wilderness. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.  |