

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

Compiled by Wilderness Watch

Last revised: 19 March 2021

**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
<b>HR 488</b> 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> Neguse (D-CO)	Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act	Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021 as part of HR 803.	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> 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 allow Customs and Border Protection to access structures, installations and roads; execute search and rescue operations; use motor vehicles; use and land aircraft; deploy tactical infrastructure and; construct and maintain roads and physical barriers.</b>
<b>HR 803</b> DeGette (D-CO)	Colorado Wilderness Act	Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021.	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

			<p>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.</p> <p>The House packaged HR 577, 878, 973, and 999 (and other bills) as Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands under this bill number to pass full House. Also designates 1,000-acre addition to Rough Mtn Wilderness and 4,600-acre addition to Rich Hole Wilderness on George Washington NF in VA. Also designates 4 Wildernesses totaling 30,659 acres <b>(with lots of bad special provisions)</b> on Forest Service-administered land in the San Gabriel Mtns of CA.</p>
<b>HR 815</b> Huffman (D-CA)	Arctic Refuge Protection Act	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 (free of special weakening provisions).
<b>HR 878</b> Huffman (D-CA)	Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act	Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021 as part of HR 803.	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> Carbajal (D-CA)	Central Coast Heritage Protection Act	Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021 as part of HR 803.	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/meteorologic/climatological collection devices, 2</b>

			<b>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>
<b>HR 999</b> Kilmer (D-WA)	Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021 as part of HR 803.	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 and Scenic Rivers. <b>Contains the usual buffer zone language</b> , but otherwise clean bill. <i>S. 455 is companion.</i>
<b>HR 1755</b> Maloney (D-NY)	Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)	Referred to NR Committee	Designates 20.6 million acres of Wilderness in ID, MT, OR, WA, and WY. Designates 1,810 miles of wild and scenic rivers, 1.022 million acres of wildland recovery areas, and 3.5 million acres of biological connecting corridors. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
<b>S. 173</b> 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> Heinrich (D-NM)	Cerro de la Olla Wilderness Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate the 13,103-acre Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in NM. <b>Allows wildlife water development structures (“guzzlers” etc.).</b>

<p><b>S. 282</b> Markey (D-MA)</p>	<p>Arctic Refuge Protection Act</p>	<p>Referred to Environment and Public Works Committee</p>	<p>Would designate the 1.56 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in AK as Wilderness. Clean bill.</p>
<p><b>S. 455</b> Murray (D-WA)</p>	<p>Wild Olympics Wilderness &amp; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act</p>	<p>Referred to ENR Committee</p>	<p>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 and Scenic Rivers. <b>Contains the usual buffer zone language.</b> <i>HR 999 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.</p>