

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN 117TH CONGRESS

Compiled by Wilderness Watch

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**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
HR 488 Stauber (R-MN)	Saving America’s Mines Act	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.
HR 577 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. Allows motorized equip/transport in potential Wilderness for range improvement , 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, with buffer zone language . 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.
HR 760 Johnson (R-LA)	Securing Our Borders and Wilderness Act	Referred to NR and Homeland Security Committees	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.
HR 803 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. 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. 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 (with lots of bad special provisions) on Forest Service-administered land in the San Gabriel Mtns of CA.</p>
HR 815 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).
HR 878 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. 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.
HR 973 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. Full of bad special provisions: buffer zones, military overflights, horses, hydrologic/meteorologic/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.
HR 999 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. Contains the usual buffer zone language , but otherwise clean bill. <i>S. 455 is companion.</i>
HR 1755 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.
HR 2522 Leger Fernandez (D-NM)	Cerro de la Olla Wilderness Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate the 13,103-acre Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in NM. Allows wildlife water development structures (“guzzlers” etc.). <i>S. 177 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
HR 2551 Curtis (R-UT)	Utah Wilderness Bill	Referred to NR Committee	This may be the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act from last Congress. <i>S. 1222 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
HR 2794 McCollum (D-MN)	Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act	Referred to NR Committee	Withdraws federal lands and minerals in 234,328-acre Rainy River watershed from mineral exploration and development, to protect Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park from mining pollution. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
HR 3176 Curtis (R-UT)	Shawnee Wilderness Act	Referred to NR and Ag Committees	Would designate 289,000 acres of Shawnee NF in IL in retaliation for Sen. Durbin re-introducing America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (S. 1535). <i>S. 1606 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 173 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. Allows motorized equip/transport in potential Wilderness for range improvement , 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, with buffer zone language . 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. <i>HR 577 is companion.</i>
S. 177 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. Allows wildlife water development structures (“guzzlers” etc.). <i>HR 2522 is companion.</i>
S. 282 Markey (D-MA)	Arctic Refuge Protection Act	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. Clean bill.
S. 455 Murray (D-WA)	Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	Referred to ENR 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 and Scenic Rivers. Contains the usual buffer zone language. <i>HR 999 is companion.</i>
S. 567 Cortez Masto (D-NV)	Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Among other things, this bill would designate 18 Wildernesses in Clark County and southern NV totaling 1,498,225 acres.
S. 877 Cantwell (D-WA)	Roadless Area Conservation Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would codify in statute the protections for inventoried roadless areas on the National Forests, similar to the 2001 Roadless Rule.
S. 1000 Kaine (D-VA)	Rough Mountain and Rich Hole Wilderness Additions	Referred to Ag Committee	Would designate 1,000-acre addition to Rough Mtn Wilderness and 4,600-acre addition to Rich Hole Wilderness on George Washington NF in VA.

S. 1222 Romney (R-UT)	Utah Wilderness Bill	Referred to ENR Committee	This may be the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act from last Congress. <i>HR 2551 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 1276 Whitehouse (D-RI)	Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)	Referred to ENR 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. <i>HR 1755 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 1411 Rosen (D-NV)	Lander County Bill	Referred to ENR Committee	Includes wilderness designations in Lander County, NV. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 1459 Padilla (D-CA)	Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Includes 3 CA Wilderness bills: HR 878 (NW CA bill), HR 973 (Central Coast Heritage Protection Act), and HR 693 (San Gabriel Mountains Act). TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 1493 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. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 1535 Durbin (D-IL)	America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Would designate 8 million acres of wilderness in southern UT. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.
S. 1606 Romney (R-UT)	Shawnee Wilderness Act	Referred to Ag Committee	Would designate 289,000 acres of Shawnee NF in IL in retaliation for Sen. Durbin re-introducing America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (S. 1535). <i>HR 3176 is companion.</i> TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.

<p>S. 1686 Lee (R-UT)</p>	<p>Mountain Bikes in Wilderness (Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Act)</p>	<p>Referred to ENR Committee</p>	<p>Would amend and weaken the 1964 Wilderness Act to open up entire National Wilderness Preservation System to bicycles and other mechanical transportation. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.</p>
<p>S. 1750 Barrasso (R-WY)</p>	<p>Wyoming WSA Development Act (Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act)</p>	<p>Referred to ENR Committee</p>	<p>Would remove protections from and open up nearly 100,000 acres of BLM-administered Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Wyoming to development. Would designate 5 Wildernesses totaling over 20,000 acres. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.</p>