

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN 118TH CONGRESS (Jan 3, 2023-Jan 3, 2025) FINAL
Compiled by Wilderness Watch
 Finalized 28 January 2025

Bolded Titles or bolded Comments indicate bad bills or provisions.

“Clean” means bill is free of any special provisions or management exceptions.

Bills highlighted in yellow passed one chamber of Congress.

Bills highlighted in pink became law in some form (refer to “Latest Action” and “Comments” columns for details).

If a bill did not pass out of committee or pass through both chambers of Congress, or if it wasn’t signed by the President, the bill died in this Congress. This means that the sponsor of the bill would have to reintroduce the bill into the 119th Congress, and the legislative journey generally starts from the beginning (i.e., bill gets assigned to a committee, who has to report it favorably before the chamber takes it up for a vote).

Bill No./Sponsor Title (not exact) Latest Action Comments

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HR 668 McCollum (D-MN)</p> | <p>Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act</p> | <p>Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands by the Committee on Natural Resources, 21 Feb 2023</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>HR 724 Huffman (D-CA)</p> | <p>Arctic Refuge Protection Act</p> | <p>Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands by the Committee on Natural Resources, 21 Feb. 2023</p> | <p>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).</p> |
| <p>HR 1303 Leger Fernandez (D-NM)</p> | <p>Cerro de la Olla Wilderness</p> | <p>Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands by the Committee on Natural Resources 22 Mar. 2023.</p> | <p>Would establish the 12,898-acre Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico. Allows wildlife water development structures (guzzlers) in Wilderness. S. 593 is companion.</p> |
| <p>HR 1380 Curtis (R-UT), Neguse (D-CO)</p> | <p>Protect America’s Rock Climbing (PARC) Act</p> | <p>Passed Committee on Natural Resources, 21 Jun. 2023. Reported by Committee on NR with H. Rep. 118- 749.</p> <p>18 Nov 2024 House Committee on Agriculture granted extension until 19 Dec. 2024</p> | <p>Would legalize fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness, in contrast to the prohibition against installations in the 1964 Wilderness Act.</p> <p>Included in omnibus recreation bill the EXPLORE Act. Passed into law (see HR 6492)</p> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Incorporated into omnibus EXPLORE Act (HR 6492), which passed the House April 2024, the Senate Dec 2024, and which President Biden signed into law January 4, 2025. | |
| HR 2545 Carbajal (D-CA) | Central Coast Heritage Protection Act | Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands by the Committee on Natural Resources, 8 May 2023 | 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. Buffer zones, military overflights, horses, hydrologic/meteorological/climatological collection devices, 2 existing water diversion/transport facilities & roads, electrical distribution line in San Rafael Wilderness addition. Incorporates bad wildlife practices from House Report 101-405. |
| HR 2765 Kilmer (D-WA) | Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act | Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands by Committee on Natural Resources | 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. 1254 is companion.</i> |
| HR 2989 McCarthy (R-CA) | Save Our Sequoias Act | Referred to 1) The Committee on Agriculture; and the 2) Committee on Natural Resources. The Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on 10 May 2023 and voted favorably to pass bill out of committee 17 May 2023. The Committee on Agriculture referred to Subcommittee on Forestry, 1 Jun. 2023. Committee on Natural Resources reported the bill amended H. Rep. 118- 927. Ag | Among other things, the bill directly amends the 1964 Wilderness Act to allow any activities related to reforestation (logging, planting, “vegetation competition control”) in designated Wildernesses in CA “to reestablish giant sequoias following a wildfire.” |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Committee discharged 18 Dec 2024. | |
| HR 3031 Stansbury (D-NM) | America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, 86 cosponsors | Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands by the Committee on Natural Resources, 22 May 2023. | Would designate 8.4 million acres of Wilderness in UT. <i>S.1310 is companion.</i> |
| HR 3173 Amodei (R-NV) | Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act | Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Committee on Agriculture, 10 May 2023. Ag referred | Among other provisions, the bill would designate 12,392- acre Burbank Canyons Wilderness in Douglas Co., and 7 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | to Subcommittee on Forestry, 1 Jun. 2023. Committee on Natural Resources referred to Subcommittee on Public Lands on 4 Mar 2024. Hearing held March 7, 2024. Ordered to be reported in the Nature of a substitute voice vote after mark-up 20 Nov 2024. Reported in House (no committee report) 18 Dec. 2024. | Wildernesses totaling 136,072 acres in Pershing Co., NV. Bill full of weakening special provisions. Releases WSAs. |
| HR 3195 Stauber (R-MN) | Mining in Watershed of BWCAW | Passed Committee on Natural Resources 17 May 2023. Committee on NR reported an amended version, H. Rep. 118-377. Placed on Union Calendar No. 308 on 9 Feb. 2024. House passed bill on 30 Apr 2024, Yeas and Nays: 212-203. On passage by recorded vote 214-199 on 1 May 2024. Received in Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. | Would rescind Public Land Order 7917 in order to allow copper-nickel sulfide mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in MN. |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>H. Con. Res. 34 Stauber (R-MN)</p> | <p>Expressing disapproval of withdrawing Superior National Forest lands from mineral and geothermal development</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee, then the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. Subcommittee hearing on 11 May 2023, and discharged back to the NR Committee. NR Committee ordered to be reported by Yeas and Nays: 17-15 on 17 May 2023. Reported by Committee on Natural Resources H. Rep. 118-928.</p> | <p>Seeks to have Congress disapprove the withdrawal of 225,504 acres of Superior NF land in NE Minnesota from mineral and geothermal laws, withdrawn to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from mining pollution. If Congress adopts a concurrent resolution on this disapproval, it will terminate the withdrawal, per the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.</p> |
| <p>HR 3437 Neguse (D-CO)</p> | <p>Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee 17 May 2023; NR Committee referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands 22 May 2023.</p> | <p>Incorporates 4 previous bills (Continental Divide, San Juan Mtns Wilderness, Thompson Divide, and Curecanti NRA Acts) and would designate a total of 80,443 acres of new Wilderness. 24,359 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 47,200 acres on GMUG NF, plus new 8,884-acre McKenna Peak Wilderness on BLM land, with buffer zone language.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | <p>Releases remainder of Dominguez Canyon and McKenna Peak WSAs. Also removes 15.5 acres of potential wilderness in Rocky Mtn Natl Park for the Trail River Ranch within the Park. S. 1634 is companion.</p> |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HR 3681 Chu (D-CA)</p> | <p>San Gabriel Mountains Protection Act</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee 25 May 2023; NR Committee referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands 9 Jun 2023.</p> | <p>Designates 4 Wildernesses on Angeles National Forest totaling 30,659 acres. Full of bad special provisions: buffer zones, military overflights, fire, hydrologic/ meteorological/climatological collection devices, competitive running races. Also incorporates bad wildlife practices from bad House Report 101-405 and would make an exception for aircraft in wilderness to accomplish those practices.</p> |
| <p>HR 3700 Huffman (D-CA)</p> | <p>Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee 25 May 2023; NR Committee referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands</p> | <p>Would designate 17 Wildernesses or wilderness additions totaling 251,023 acres on lands administered by FS and BLM in NW CA. Also designated 7 Potential Wildernesses totaling 49,692 acres. Full of bad special provisions: buffer zones, military overflights, fire, horses, hydrologic/ meteorological/climatological collection devices, and competitive equestrian event. Also incorporates bad wildlife practices from bad House Report 101-405. SEC. 302(m) CONTAINS NEW SPECIAL PROVISION LEGALIZING PERMANENT FIXED CLIMBING ANCHORS IN WILDERNESS.</p> |
| <p>HR 3971 Hill (R-AR)</p> | <p>Flatside-Bethune Wilderness Act</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee 9 Jun 2023; Referred to the Subcommittee on Public Lands 24 June 2024. Subcommittee held hearing 27 June 2024. Markup session and order to be reported in the nature of a substitute by subcommittee 20 Nov 2024. Reported as amended w/ House Report 118-869 and placed on Union Calendar (No. 710) on 12 Dec 2024.</p> | <p>Would add 2,215 acres to the Flatside Wilderness on the Ouachita National Forest and re-name the Wilderness as the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness.</p> |
| <p>HR 4297 Neguse (D-CO)</p> | <p>Bolts Ditch Headgate</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee; NR Committee referred to Subcommittee on Federal lands 30 Jan 2024. Subcommittee held hearing on this bill</p> | <p>Would authorize additional entities to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Headgate in Holy Cross Wilderness. S. 2156 is companion.</p> |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | <p>31 Jan 2024. Subcommittee discharged bill back to NR Committee 6 Feb 2024. NR Committee passed bill out of committee and ordered to be reported by unanimous consent 6 Feb 2024. Reported favorably by Committee on Natural Resources and placed on Union Calendar, No. 607 on 25 Oct 2024.</p> | |
| <p>HR 4332 Hageman (R-WY)</p> | <p>WY Public Lands Initiative Act</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee 23 Jun 2023</p> | <p>Would remove protection for (or “release”) BLM administered Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in WY, and designate 5 Wildernesses totaling 20,381 acres. Almost all proposed designations make exceptions for the continued use and upkeep for one or more roads, and allows potential logging up to wilderness boundaries. Allows unrestricted construction of range facilities for grazing. S. 1348 is companion.</p> |
| <p>HR 4377 Grijalva (D-AZ)</p> | <p>Barry M. Goldwater Range amendments</p> | <p>Referred to NR and Armed Services Committees 27 Jun 2023; NR Committee referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands 11 Jul 2023; Subcommittee on FL held hearing 13 Jul 2023; Subcommittee returned to NR Committee 26 Jul 2023; NR Committee Consideration and mark-up 26 Jul 2023; NR Committee reported favorably Yeas and Nays 32-0, with House Rep. 118- 747, Part I. Reported in House 19 Dec. 2024.</p> | <p>Would transfer a patented mineral claim from Secretary of Air Force to Secretary of Interior to become part of Cabeza Prieta Wilderness.</p> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HR 4872 Johnson (R-LA) | Securing Our Borders and Wilderness Act | Referred to NR and Homeland Security Committees 25 Jul 2023. Committee on Homeland Security referred to its Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement 25 Jul 2023. | Directly amends Wilderness Act to allow structures, installations, and roads; motor vehicles, motorboats, and motorized equipment; aircraft; tactical infrastructure and technology; and roads and physical barriers within any Wilderness for purposes of international land border security. |
| HR 5364 Edwards (R-NC) | TREES (Trees Remember Each Effacing Step) Act | Referred to Ag Committee 8 Sept 2023. Ag Committee Referred to Subcommittee on Forestry 21 Sept 2023. | Requires US Forest Service to install fences and barriers around old-growth trees in Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness that are within 10 feet of Joyce Kilmer Memorial Trail. |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| HR 5919 Curtis (R-UT) | Connect the Parks Act | Referred to NR Committee on 25 Oct 2023. However, this bill in its entirety was subsumed in the EXPLORE Act (HR 6492). The EXPLORE Act passed the House April 2024, passed the Senate in December 2024, and President Biden signed it into Law January 2025. | Requirements to increase broadband internet service and cellular phone service (and associated tower construction) could have many negative impacts on National Park Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness, and backcountry. S. 2018 is companion. |
| HR 5943 Leger Fernandez (D-NM) | Pecos Watershed Protection Act | Referred to NR Committee 25 Oct 2023. | Establishes the 11,599-acre Thompson Peak Wilderness on Forest Service-administered land. Has weakening special provisions on buffer zones. S. 3033 is companion. |
| HR 5962 Neguse (D-CO) | Re-name Mount Evans Wilderness as Mount Blue Sky Wilderness | Referred to NR Committee 25 Oct 2023. | Would re-name the Mount Evans Wilderness in CO as the Mount Blue Sky Wilderness following the official name change of the mountain itself. <i>S. 3044 is companion.</i> |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HR 6216 Horsford (D-NV)</p> | <p>Nevada military and public lands bill</p> | <p>Referred to NR and Armed Services Committees 3 Nov 2023.</p> | <p>Among other things, would designate 736,188 acres as the Southern Paiute Wilderness in NV. Has weakening special provisions on water rights, data collection stations, military overflights, guzzlers, and motor vehicles and aircraft for nonconforming wildlife-management activities. <i>S. 3134 is companion.</i></p> |
| <p>HR 6285 Stauber (R-MN)</p> | <p>Alaska's Right to Produce Act</p> | <p>Received in Senate 2 May 2024, read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Passed NR Committee on 6 Dec 2023 with Yeas and Nays: 24-17. House passed 1 May 2024 Yeas and Nays: 214-199. Received in Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 2 May 2024.</p> | <p>Would re-issue cancelled oil and gas leases on coastal plain of Arctic NWF, prohibit the Administration from cancelling or pausing oil leases there, withdraw the Sept 2023 SEIS, and nullify some Biden Administration actions, including creating special protected areas.</p> |
| <p>HR 6314 Smith (D-WA)</p> | <p>Voluntary Grazing Permit Retirement Act (VGPR)</p> | <p>Referred to Committee on Natural Resources</p> | <p>Would allow for the voluntary retirement of grazing permits on federal land, including Wilderness.</p> |
| <p>HR 6441 4 co-sponsors</p> | <p>Ranching Without Red Tape Act of 2023</p> | <p>Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and</p> | <p>Would allow ranchers to propose minor range improvements (not defined). If BLM does not respond</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | <p>Poultry; Referred to Subcommittee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Forestry 24 Jan 2024.</p> <p>Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, who referred to Subcommittee on Public Lands 18 Nov. 2024. Hearing held 19 Nov 2024.</p> | <p>within 30 days, proposals are <i>automatically</i> approved. Minor range improvements approved without BLM input could violate the Wilderness Act and Congressional Grazing Guidelines, among other environmental laws. Also, many BLM range offices go on fire detail and cannot respond within 30 days at certain times of the year, so this absence could be exploited to get range improvements approved that otherwise might not have been approved. <i>Companion bill is S. 3322.</i></p> |
|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HR 6492 Westerman (R-AR) 51 Co-sponsors, bi partisan</p> | <p>Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (EXPLORE Act)</p> | <p>Ordered to be reported favorably out of Committee on Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent 17 Jan 2024. Committee on Ag referred to Subcommittee on Forestry and Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development 24 Jan 2024. Discharged from all committees, reported as amended by the Committee on Natural Resources, and placed on the union calendar No. 365 on 5 Apr 2024. Passed by House voice vote 9 Apr 2024. Senate passed House version on 19 Dec 2024. President signed bill on 4 Jan 2025.</p> | <p>Includes anti-wilderness sections, including the PARC Act on fixed climbing anchors and Connect the Parks Act (all of 5919). Similar to S. 873.</p> <p>EXPLORE Act became law on Jan 4, 2025 Public Law 118-234</p> |
| <p>HR 6718 McCarthy (R-CA)</p> | <p>City of Ridgecrest Land Exchange</p> | <p>Referred to NR Committee 12 Dec 2023.</p> | <p>Would legislate a land exchange of 500 acres of federal BLM land in/near the City of Ridgecrest for 640 acres of privately-owned land within the Owen Peak Wilderness.</p> |
| <p>HR 7754 Neguse (D-CO)</p> | <p>To amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, and for other purposes</p> | <p>Introduced and referred to House Committee on Natural Resources 20 Mar 2024.</p> | <p>Expands the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. <i>S. 3985 is the companion bill.</i></p> |
| <p>HR 8206 Scott (R-FL)</p> | <p>To ensure that Big Cypress National Preserve may not be designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.</p> | <p>Introduced and referred to House Committee on Natural Resources 1 May 2024; referred to Subcommittee on Public Lands 24 June 2024. Subcommittee held hearing 27 Jun 2024</p> | <p>Prohibiting Big Cypress National Preserve from designation as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.</p> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HR 8535 Houchin (R-IN)</p> | <p>Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area and Wilderness Establishment Act of 2024</p> | <p>Introduced to House 23 May 2024. Referred to Ag Committee and to Subcommittees on Forestry and on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.</p> | <p>Establishes the Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area of 29,382 acres on the Hoosier NF surrounding the Wilderness, and adds 15,300 acres to the 12,472-acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness. Creates “non-wilderness” corridors that bisects proposed Wilderness and on which allows mountain bikes and continued motorized use. Exceptions for installations and access to those installations without listing installations.</p> |
| <p>HR 9400 DeGette (D-CO)</p> | <p>Colorado Wilderness Act of 2024</p> | <p>Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources 23 Aug 2024</p> | <p>Would designated over 929,000 acres of Wilderness with the following nonconforming exceptions: buffer zones; low level military overflights and “aerial navigation training exercises”; competitive running events can continue in proposed Redcloud Peak Wilderness and proposed Handies Peak Wilderness, exceptions for installations that include “water resource facilities,” perpetual maintenance and report of those installations, motorized use to access those installations, and maintenance and repair of motorized routes.</p> |
| <p>HR 9678 Ciscomani (R-AZ 6)</p> | <p>Federal Lands Amplified Security for the Homeland (FLASH) Act</p> | <p>Introduced 19 Sept. 2024 and referred to following committees: Natural Resources, Agriculture, Budget, and Homeland Security</p> | <p>Would allow constructing and maintaining roads and other structures in Wilderness; would allow tactical structure and technology; and would allow motorized equipment, motor vehicles, and motorboats to access the structures, installations, and roads the bill permits in Wilderness. Would also allow states to place "movable, temporary" structures in Wilderness without authorization, and creates low hurdles for the federal government to easily authorize the continued existence of these structures into the future.</p> |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HR 10082 Bentz (R-OR-2)</p> | <p>Oregon Owyhee Wilderness and Community Protection Act</p> | <p>Introduced and referred to House Natural Resources Committee 1 Nov 2024. House NR referred to Federal Lands Subcommittee 18 Nov. 2024. Hearing held 19 Nov. 2024.</p> | <p><i>Comparable to S. 1890, but would designate 926,588 acres of Wilderness.</i></p> <p>Has same bad wildlife provisions as S. 1890, including aircraft and motor vehicle use, and incorporates bad language from House Report 101-405. Releases WSAs.</p> <p>Allows continued motorized use on roads in Wilderness, allows mechanized and motorized equipment for several activities, including grazing administration in excess of the activities traditionally allowed.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| <p>S. 282 Markey (D-MA)</p> | <p>Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Wilderness</p> | <p>Referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works 7 Feb 2023.</p> | <p>Would designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska as Wilderness. Clean bill.</p> |
| <p>S. 440 Wyden (D-OR)</p> | <p>Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act</p> | <p>Referred to ENR Committee 15 Feb 2023. ENR Committee ordered to report bill favorably without amendment 17 May 2023. ENR Committee, reported by Senator Manchin without amendment and with written S. Rep. 118-51. Placed on Senate Leg Calendar under general orders on 11 July 2023 (Calendar No. 123).</p> | <p>Would expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness by 59,512 acres. Would establish the 98,150-acre Rogue Canyon Recreation Area and 29,884-acre Molalla Recreation Area on BLM administered land. Clean bill.</p> |
| <p>S. 593 Heinrich (D-NM)</p> | <p>Cerro de la Olla Wilderness</p> | <p>Passed ENR Committee on 11 July 2023. Sen. Rpt. 118-54. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General orders 11 Jul 2023</p> | <p>Would establish the 12,898-acre Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico. Allows wildlife water development structures (guzzlers) in Wilderness. <i>HR 1303 is companion.</i></p> |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | (Calendar No. 126). | |
| S. 745 Kaine (D-VA) | Virginia Wilderness Additions Act of 2023 | Referred to Ag Committee 9 Mar 2023. | Would designate 1,000-acre addition to Rough Mtn Wilderness and 4,600-acre addition as Potential Wilderness to Rich Hole Wilderness on George Washington NF in VA. Clean bill. |
| S. 873 Manchin (D-WV) | America's Outdoor Recreation Act | Passed ENR Committee 17 May 2023 with amendments. S. Rpt. 118-79 on 26 Jul 2023. Many of this bill's provisions were included in the House's EXPLORE Act (including the fixed anchor climbing), which passed the House April 2024, which passed the Senate Dec 2024, and which President Biden signed into law Jan 2025. | Sec. 122 has revised language essentially mandating fixed climbing anchors in Wilderness. |
| S. 1254 Murray (D-WA) | Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act | Introduced and referred to ENR 20 April 2023. Ordered to be reported favorably ENR Committee 14 Dec. 2023 with amendment. S. Rep. 118-184. Passed out of ENR and placed on the | 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>HR 2765 is companion.</i> |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | general legislative calendar 18 June 2024. | |
| S. 1310 Durbin (D-IL) | America's Red Rock Wilderness Act | Referred to ENR Committee on 26 April 2023. | Would designate 8.4 million acres of Wilderness in UT. <i>HR 3031 is companion.</i> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 1348 Barrasso (R-WY) 1 co-sponsor</p> | <p>Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act of 2023</p> | <p>Introduced and referred to ENR 27 April 2023. Ordered out of ENR Committee 14 Dec. 2023 with direction for an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Reported out of committee with amendment in the nature of substitute, and placed on general legislative calendar 18 June 2024. Passed Senate with an amendment by voice vote on 20 Dec. 2024. Received in House 24 Dec 2024.</p> | <p>Would remove protection for (or “release”) BLM administered Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in WY, and designate 5 Wildernesses totaling 20,381 acres. Three of the five Wildernesses are under 5,000-acres each, and many seem bisected by roads and trails that are excluded from the Wilderness designation so as to allow continued motorized and mechanized use in the area. HR 4332 is companion.</p> |
| <p>S. 1531 Whitehouse (D-RI)</p> | <p>Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)</p> | <p>Referred to ENR Committee 10 May 2023.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>S. 1634 Bennett (D-CO) 2 Co-sponsors</p> | <p>Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act</p> | <p>Passed ENR Committee with amendments 14 Dec. 2023. Committee reported with amendments and written Senate Report 118-231. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.</p> | <p>Incorporates 4 previous bills (Continental Divide, San Juan Mtns Wilderness, Thompson Divide, and Curecanti NRA Acts) and would designate a total of 80,443 acres of new Wilderness. 24,359 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 47,200 acres on GMUG NF, plus new 8,884-acre McKenna Peak Wilderness on BLM land, with buffer zone language. Releases remainder of Dominguez Canyon and McKenna Peak WSAs. Also removes 15.5 acres of potential wilderness in Rocky Mtn Natl Park for the Trail River Ranch within the Park. Buffer zone language for all proposed Wildernesses. Allows low-level military overflights for Continental Divide proposed Wildernesses. HR 3437 is companion.</p> |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 1776 Padilla (D-CA)</p> | <p>Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act</p> | <p>Passed ENR Committee with amendment in the nature of a substitute 14 Dec 2023. Reported out of committee 24 Sept 2024 with Senate Report 118--232</p> | <p>Includes 3 House bills: Northwest CA Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests (HR 3700), Central Coast Heritage Act (HR 2545), and San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills, and Rivers Protection (HR 3681). Wildernesses are designated. Lots of bad special provisions included.</p> |
| <p>S. 1890 Wyden (D-OR)</p> | <p>Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act</p> | <p>Passed ENR Committee 14 Dec. 2023. Reported favorably by Senate ENR and placed on the Senate legislative calendar 10 Sept 2024. Passed Senate with an amendment by voice vote 20 Dec. 2024.</p> | <p>Among many other things, would designate 27 Wildernesses totaling 1,097,731 acres in Malheur County. Has bad wildlife provisions including aircraft and motor vehicle use, and incorporates bad language from House Report 101-405. Releases WSAs.</p> |
| <p>S. 2018 Barasso (R-WY)</p> | <p>Connect Our Parks Act</p> | <p>Passed ENR Committee 9 Jan 2024 with amendment in the nature of a substitute and with S. Report No. 118- 154. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under general orders 9 Jan 2024 (Calendar No. 306).</p> <p>Senate passed by Unanimous Consent 18 Dec. 2024.</p> <p>But, this bill was subsumed in the House's version of the EXPLORE Act (HR 6492), which passed the House April 2024, which passed the Senate Dec 2024, and which President Biden signed into law Jan 2025.</p> | <p>Requirements to increase broadband internet service and cellular phone service (and associated tower construction) could have many negative impacts on National Park Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness, and backcountry. <i>HR 5919 is companion. Was wrapped into House's EXPLORE Act.</i></p> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 2149 Tester (D-MT)</p> | <p>Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act</p> | <p>Ordered to be passed by ENR Committee 21 Sept. 2023. ENR Committee reported bill favorably without amendment with S. Report No. 118-155 on 9 Jan 2024.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 2156 Bennett (D-CO)</p> | <p>Bolts Ditch Headgate</p> | <p>Referred to ENR Committee 22 Jun 2023. Energy and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Public Land, Forests, and Mining held hearing on 12 June 2024. Ordered to be reported favorably out of committee without amendment. Reported out 21 Nov. 2024 and placed on legislative calendar 21 Nov. 2024.</p> | <p>Would authorize additional entities to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Headgate in Holy Cross Wilderness. <i>HR 4297 is companion.</i></p> |
| <p>S. 2216 Daines (R-MT)</p> | <p>Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act (Removing Protection for Wilderness Study Areas in MT)</p> | <p>ENR Committee ordered favorable passage 21 Sept. 2023. ENR Committee reported favorably, by Sen. Manchin, with an amendment 9 Jan 2024. Sen. Report No. 118-156.</p> | <p>Removes Wilderness Study Area (WSA) protection for the 81,000-acre Middle Fork Judith WSA, the 11,380- acre Hoodoo Mountain WSA, and the 11,580-acre Wales Creek WSA in MT.</p> |
| <p>S. 2630 Kaine (D-VA)</p> | <p>Shenandoah Mountain Act</p> | <p>Referred to Ag Committee 27 Jul 2023.</p> | <p>Among other things, would designate 4 new Wildernesses and 1 wilderness addition totaling 33,857 acres on George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Has weakening provisions on buffer zones.</p> |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 2990 Braun (R-IN)</p> <p>S. 4402</p> | <p>Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area and Wilderness Establishment Act of 2023</p> <p>Same general bill (with slightly amended provision unrelated to features in right column, which remain unchanged)</p> | <p>Referred to Ag Committee</p> | <p>Establishes the Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area of 29,382 acres on the Hoosier NF surrounding the Wilderness, and adds 15,300 acres to the 12,472-acre Charles C. Deam Wilderness. Creates “non-wilderness” corridors that bisects proposed Wilderness and on which allows mountain bikes and continued motorized use. Exceptions for installations and access to those installations without listing installations.</p> |
| <p>S. 3033 Heinrich (D-NM)</p> | <p>Pecos Watershed Protection Act</p> | <p>Referred to ENR Committee 4 Oct 2023. Hearing before ENR Committee’s Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining 25 Oct 2023. ENR reported bill favorably to Senate 23 Jul. 2024.</p> | <p>Establishes the 11,599-acre Thompson Peak Wilderness on Forest Service-administered land. Has weakening special provisions on buffer zones. <i>HR 5943 is companion.</i></p> |
| <p>S. 3044 Hickenlooper (D CO)</p> | <p>Re-name Mount Evans Wilderness as Mount Blue Sky Wilderness</p> | <p>ENR Committee ordered to report bill without amendment favorably 14 Dec. 2023.</p> | <p>Would re-name the Mount Evans Wilderness in CO as the Mount Blue Sky Wilderness following the official name change of the mountain itself. <i>HR 5962 is companion.</i></p> |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 3134 Cortez Masto (D NV)</p> | <p>Promoting National Security and Preserving Access to Public Land in Southern Nevada Act</p> | <p>Referred to ENR Committee 25 Oct 2023.</p> | <p>Among other things, would designate the 736,188-acre Southern Paiute Wilderness on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Clark and Lincoln Counties, NV. Among other things, would designate 736,188 acres as the Southern Paiute Wilderness in NV. Has weakening special provisions on water rights, data collection stations, military overflights, guzzlers, and motor vehicles and aircraft for nonconforming wildlife-management activities. <i>H.R. 6216 is companion bill.</i></p> |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>S. 3322 Barrasso (R-WY)</p> | <p>Ranching Without Red Tape Act of 2023</p> | <p>Introduced and referred onto ENR 15 November 2023. ENR held hearings 12 June 2024.</p> | <p>Allows permittees to request construction of new grazing facilities on allotments with automatic approval if BLM cannot respond to the request within 30 days. This sets up situations where permittees could request and receive automatic approval for structures in Wilderness otherwise prohibited under the 1964 Wilderness Act or Congressional Grazing Guidelines. Would waste agency time, permittee resources, and taxpayer money to correct unlawful construction after it has occurred. <i>Companion bill is H.R.6441.</i></p> |
| <p>S. 3593 Rosen (D-NV)</p> | <p>Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act</p> | <p>Introduced and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 16 Jan 2024. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining hearing held 12 June 2024. Ordered to be reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by ENR and placed on legislative calendar 21 Nov. 2024. On 19 Dec 2024 on the floor of the Senate, Sen. Rosen asked for unanimous consent to vote and pass bill, but Sen. Barrasso objected, so bill was not voted on.</p> | <p>Designates five wildernesses in northwestern Nevada, and removes eleven other Wilderness Study Areas and areas managed for potential wilderness from protection. Has weakened special provisions on water rights; military overflights; data collection stations; water guzzlers and water development projects for wildlife; and state wildlife-management activities, including motorized vehicles and aircraft for those activities.</p> |
| <p>S. 3985 Hickenlooper (D CO)</p> | <p>To amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, and for other purposes.</p> | <p>Read twice and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 20 Mar 2024. Energy Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and mining held hearing on 12 June 2024. Ordered to be reported</p> | <p>Expands the Sarvis Creek Wilderness. <i>HR 7754 is the companion bill.</i></p> |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | favorably out of committee without amendment and placed on legislative calendar 21 Nov. 2024. | |
| S. 4454 Barrasso (R-WY) 1 cosponsor | Would create an “operational grazing flexibility” program on BLM-managed public land | Read twice and referred to ENR on 4 June 2024. ENR held hearing on bill 12 June 2024. ENR ordered for bill to be reported out of committee favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and placed on legislative calendar 21 Nov. 2024. | Allows for interim adjustments to grazing plans that are not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act and do not require monitoring before or during the adjustments. The changes in these land-management policies and practices could increase of grazing in Wilderness, could allow new installations in Wilderness to accommodate maintaining or increasing grazing numbers, and could allow increases in motorized use for grazing-activities in Wilderness. |
| S. 4457 Cortez Masto (D NV) | Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act | Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 4 June 2024. Hearing held by Subcommittee on Public Lands Forests, and Mining. Committee on Natural Resources ordered bill to be reported out of committee with an amendment in the nature of a substitute 19 Nov. 2024. Reported out of committee and placed on legislative calendar 21 Nov. 2024. | Proposes Wilderness additions to amend the 2002 Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002. In amending this law, the wilderness administration provisions of the 2002 law would apply to the wilderness additions, which means allowances for military overflights, water guzzlers, water development projects for wildlife, and state wildlife-management activities, with motorized vehicles and aircraft for those activities. |
| S. 4561 Lee (R-UT) | Human Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act | Read twice and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 17 June 2024. | Amends the Wilderness Act to allow for bicycles and other nonmotorized travel. |