

## WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN 119<sup>TH</sup> 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.

Pink highlights mean both chambers of Congress passed it  
(look to “Latest Action” to see if President signed it and the public law number of the new law).

Yellow highlights indicate passed by one chamber of Congress.

Bill No./Sponsor	Title (not exact)	Latest Action	Comments
<b>HOUSE</b>			
H.R. 130 Rep. Boebert (R-CO-04) 0 cosponsors	<b>Removes Wolves from Endangered Species Act Protection (“Trust the Science” Act)</b>	Introduced to House and referred to House Natural Resources (NR) Committee 3 Jan 2025	Directs Secretary of Interior to reissue the rule removing wolves (outside of Northern Rockies) from Endangered Species Act protection. Prohibits judicial review of rule reinstatement.
H.R. 281 Rep. Hagerman (R-WY-at large) 4 cosponsors	<b>Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2025</b>	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee 9 Jan 2025	Directs the Secretary of Interior to reissue the 2017 rule (82 Fed. Reg. 30502) removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Population of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act protection. Prohibits judicial review of rule reinstatement. <i>Possible companion S. 316 (though text not yet available for S. 316)</i>
H.R. 471 Rep. Westerman (R-AR-04) 56 cosponsors	<b>Fix Our Forests Act</b>	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee and Ag Committee 16 Jan 2025. House Rules Committee passed resolution fast-tracking this bill for consideration of House with one hour of debate 21 Jan 2025. Passed house by recorded vote 213-204. <i>Currently no companion bill, but rumors that could be fast-tracked for an up-or-down vote by the Senate. No reliable info on whether this this happening</i>	Directs Secretary of Agriculture to utilize livestock grazing to reduce wildfire risk, a strategy not supported by science. This direction includes allowing permittees to use vacant grazing allotments during drought, wildfire, or other “natural disasters” that disrupt grazing where permitted. The bill increases temporary permits and increase grazing after fire for “restoration,” which is also not supported by science. <b>This bill would increase the impacts of grazing on all federal lands, including Wilderness.</b>
H.R. 588 Rep. MCollum (D-MN-4)	Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee 21 Jan 2025.	Withdraws federal lands and minerals in 225,504 acres of Rainy River watershed in the Superior National Forest (Minnesota) from mineral exploration and development, to protect Boundary Waters

22 cosponsors	and Pollution Prevention Act		Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park from mining pollution.
H.R. 845 Rep. Boebert (R-CO-04) 31 cosponsors	<b>To require Sec of Interior to reissue rule removing wolf from Endangered Species Act protection</b> (a second version)	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee 31 Jan 2025	As of date of last revision, text not yet available on Congress.gov, so not clear how this is different from H.R. 130
H.R. 978 Rep. Stauber (R-MN-8) 11 cosponsors	<b>To rescind Public Land Order 7919 and to reinstate mineral leases and permits on Superior National Forest</b>	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee 5 Feb 2025	As of date of last revision, text not yet available on Congress.gov. This is likely a reintroduction of a bill from the 118 <sup>th</sup> Congress, which <b>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</b>
H.R. 1110 Rep. LaMalfa (R-CA-01) 4 cosponsors	<b>To require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and implement a strategy to increase opportunities to utilize livestock grazing to reduce wildfires</b>	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee 7 Feb 2025. NR Committee, considered, marked up, and ordered to be reported favorably by unanimous consent before the text of the bill was published on Congress.gov for the public.	The original text of the bill is the same as what appears in the Fix Our Forests Act, but during mark-up, bill's author offered a substantially broader version of the bill also includes utilizing grazing to eradicate invasive annual grasses (which grazing often introduces and a strategy not supported by science) and using electric fencing, allowing variances in grazing permits. <b>This bill would increase the adverse impacts of grazing on all federal lands, including Wilderness.</b>
H.R. 1192 Rep. Scott (R-FL-18) 13 cosponsors	<b>To ensure that Big Cypress National Preserve may not be designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, or for other purposes</b>	Introduced to the House and Referred to the House NR Committee 11 Feb 2025	As of the date of last revision, text not yet available on Congress.gov. But, this is likely a reintroduction of the bill from the 118 <sup>th</sup> Congress, which would prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from designation as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<b>SENATE</b>			
S. 140 Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) 4 cosponsors	<b>Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025</b>	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 16 Jan 2025	Directs Secretary of Agriculture to develop and submit to both House and Senate natural resource committees a "strategy to analyze and identify opportunities to use livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool." Presuming grazing will lessen wildfire activity is a scientifically unsound assumption. Grazing

			is allowed in Wilderness, so <b>Wilderness could be targeted for increased grazing recommendations.</b>
S. 316 Sen. Lummis (R-WY) 4 cosponsors	<b>A bill to direct Secretary of Interior to reissue delisting decision for Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from Endangered Species Act protection</b>	Read twice and referred to Committee on Public Works 29 Jan 2025	As of date of last revision, text not yet available on Congress.gov. <i>Based on title of the bill, looks to be companion to H.R. 281.</i>
S. 365 Sen. Bennet (D-CO) 1 cosponsor	<b>A bill to allow additional entities to be eligible to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness</b>	Read twice and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 3 February 2025	As of date of last revision, text not yet available on Congress.gov. This appears to be reintroduction of bill from 118 <sup>th</sup> Congress, which <b>would authorize additional entities to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Headgate in Holy Cross Wilderness.</b>