

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION IN 119TH 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
HOUSE			
H.R. 130 Rep. Boebert (R-CO-04) 0 cosponsors	Removes Wolves from Endangered Species Act Protection (“Trust the Science” Act)	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	Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2025	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>Companion bill is S. 316.</i>
H.R. 168 Rep. LaMalfa (R-CA-1)	Target Operations to Remove Catastrophic Hazards (or “TORCH”) Act	Introduced to House and referred to Agriculture (Ag) and NR Committees 3 Jan 2025.	Creates legislative categorical exclusions (avoiding environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act), including for “hazard tree activities” up to 3,000 acres and extends other Healthy Forest Restoration Act categorical exclusions up to 10,000 acres. While the bill is specific these CEs do not apply to Wilderness, the bill also promotes increased grazing for “wildfire risk reduction activities” despite scientific support that grazing leads to more flammable invasive grasses. This bill may increase impacts of grazing on national forests, including where grazing is permitted in Wilderness.
H.R. 471 Rep. Westerman (R-AR-04) 56 cosponsors	Fix Our Forests Act	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	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

		one hour of debate 21 Jan 2025. Passed house by recorded vote 213-204. Received in Senate 28 Jan 2025. Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation, Forestry, Natural Resources, and Biotechnology held hearing on 6 Mar 2025.	“restoration,” which is also not supported by science. This bill would increase the impacts of grazing on all federal lands, including Wilderness.
H.R. 588 Rep. McCollum (D-MN-4) 28 cosponsors	Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act	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 Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park from mining pollution.
H.R. 774 Rep. Hageman (R-WY) 0 cosponsors	Protecting Agricultural Spaces Through Effective Ranching Strategies (or "PASTURES") Act	Introduced to the House and referred onto the Natural Resources and the Ag Committees 28 Jan 2025.	Prohibiting the Secretary of Ag or Interior from imposing a penalty for cattle trespassing and grazing on public lands where grazing is newly prohibited and where private property borders public lands. If the government wants to keep private-property cattle off of public lands, this bill would put fence construction costs on the taxpayer. The Wilderness Act generally prohibits fences in Wilderness, so the impact of this bill for Wilderness is that it would allow grazing trespass without penalizing the responsible party.
H.R. 845 Rep. Boebert (R-CO-04) 33 cosponsors	Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025 (a second version of HR 130)	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee 31 Jan 2025. The House NR Committee, Subcommittee Water Wildlife, and Fisheries held a hearing on this bill 25 Mar 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. The only differences between this bill and HR 130 is that this bill has a different title and 31 original cosponsors.
H.R. 978 Rep. Stauber (R-MN-8) 11 cosponsors	To rescind Public Land Order 7919 and to reinstate mineral leases and permits on Superior National Forest	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 th Congress, which 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
H.R. 1110 Rep. LaMalfa	To require the Secretary of Agriculture to	Introduced to House and referred to House NR Committee and	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

(R-CA-01) 7 cosponsors	develop and implement a strategy to increase opportunities to utilize livestock grazing to reduce wildfires	House Ag Committee 7 Feb 2025. NR Committee, considered, marked up, and ordered to be reported favorably by unanimous consent on 12 Feb 2025 before the text of the bill was published on Congress.gov for the public. Ag Committee referred bill to Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture and Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry 7 Mar 2025.	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. This bill would increase the adverse impacts of grazing on all federal lands, including Wilderness.
H.R.1192 Rep. Scott (R-FL-18) 13 cosponsors	To ensure that Big Cypress not be designated as Wilderness.	Introduced into the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources 11 Feb 2025.	Prohibits the designation of Big Cypress National Preserve as Wilderness.
H.R. 1472 Rep. Hageman (R-WY) 0 cosponsors	Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (substantively almost identical to HR4332 of the 118 th Congress).	Introduced to the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources 21 Feb 2025.	Designates five Wildernesses (ranging in size from approximately 1,000 to 6,000 acres), totaling a little over 20,000 acres. Almost all proposed designations carve out roads from Wilderness boundaries, including cherry stems into Wilderness or roads bisecting Wilderness areas. Allows activities such as potential logging up to proposed wilderness boundaries. Companion bill is S. 681.
H.R. 1612 Rep. Hill (R-AR-2) 0 cosponsors	To designate the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness and for other purposes	Introduced to the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources 26 Feb 2025.	Adds 2,212 acres to the Flatside Wilderness, naming the addition the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness. Clean Wilderness bill.
H.R. 1728 Rep. Neguse (D-CO-2) 3 cosponsors	Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act	Introduced into the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources 27 Feb 2025.	Proposes to designate over 71,000 acres of new Wildernesses or Wilderness additions between the White River National Forest and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. One 8,036 Wilderness designation is delayed as potential Wilderness because currently there are two vacant grazing allotments. If the allotments are vacant when Wilderness is designated, the Wilderness Act prohibits grazing. This bill designates this 8,036-acre area as potential Wilderness for a period before the Wilderness designation, giving the US Forest Service an opportunity to intentionally reintroduce grazing; if grazing exists upon Wilderness designation it becomes a grandfathered activity. Also, a limited-time allowance of

			<p>motorized equip/transport in potential Wilderness while setting up grazing. Allows low level military overflights for all new Wilderness acreage, and has no-buffer-zone language. Makes exceptions for unnamed potentially incompatible local government activities in Wilderness for fire and flood events.</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. Companion bill is S. 764.</p>
<p>H.R. 1729 Rep. Neguse (D-CO-2) 0 cosponsors</p>	<p>To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado.</p>	<p>Introduced into the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources 27 Feb 2025.</p>	<p>Authorizes additional entities to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Headgate in Holy Cross Wilderness. Companion bill is S. 365.</p>
<p>H.R. 1820 Rep. Ciscomani (R-AZ-6) 22 cosponsors</p>	<p>Federal Lands Amplified Security for the Homeland (FLASH) Act</p>	<p>Introduced into the House and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and also to Committees on Agriculture, Budget, and Homeland Security 4 Mar 2025. Committee on Homeland Security referred to Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement 4 Mar 2025. Committee on NR referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, who held hearings on 11 Mar 2025.</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>H.R. 2238 Rep Vasquez (D-NM-2) 2 cosponsors</p>	<p>To allow holders of certain grazing permits to make minor range improvements and to</p>	<p>Introduced to the House and referred to Committee on NR and Committee on Ag 18 Mar 2025.</p>	<p>Text not available on Congress.gov yet, but likely this is a reintroduction of the Ranching Without Red Tape Act of 2023, which would allow ranchers to propose undefined "minor" range improvements. If BLM does not respond within 30 days, requests</p>

	require Secretaries of Ag and Interior respond to requests for range improvements within 30 days		are <i>automatically</i> approved. BLM range offices go on fire detail during fire season 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. Minor range improvements on public lands that are approved without BLM input could violate the Wilderness Act and Congressional Grazing Guidelines, among other environmental laws, and could require public legal action to remedy.
H.R. 2420 Rep. Dean (D-PA-4) 7 cosponsors	Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act	Introduced and referred to House Committee on Natural Resources on 27 Mar 2025.	Reintroduction of NREPA from 117 th Congress. 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 on Congress.gov as of date of this update. <i>Companion bill S. 1198.</i>
H.R. 2467 Rep. Stansbury (D-NM-1) 41 Cosponsors	America’s Red Rocks Wilderness Bill	Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources 27 Mar 2025.	Likely reintroduction of H.R. 3031 from last Congress, which would designate 8.4 million acres of Wilderness in Utah. Text not yet available on Congress.gov as of date of this update. <i>Companion bill is S. 1193.</i>
SENATE			
S. 140 Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) 4 cosponsors	Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025	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 Wilderness could be targeted for increased grazing recommendations.
S. 211 Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) 5 cosponsors	Amending the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (“Resiliency for Ranching and Natural Conservation Health Act”)	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 23 Jan 2025.	Would allow Secretary to re-allocate a grazing permittee to a vacant allotment no environmental review and with no end-date to what the bill calls “temporary.” As grazing is allowed in Wilderness, this would open up Wilderness to increased grazing.
S. 316 Sen. Lummis (R-WY) 5 cosponsors	A bill to direct Secretary of Interior to remove Endangered Species Act protection	Read twice and referred to Committee on Public Works 29 Jan 2025.	Forces the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a 2017 regulation that removes Endangered Species Act protection for grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Population and prohibits judicial review of delisting.

	for Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears (“Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2025”		<i>Companion bill is H.R. 281.</i>
S. 365 Sen. Bennet (D-CO) 1 cosponsor	A bill to allow additional entities to be eligible to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness	Read twice and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 3 February 2025.	Authorizes additional entities to complete maintenance on Bolts Ditch and Headgate in Holy Cross Wilderness. <i>Companion bill is HR 1729.</i>
S. 681 Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) 1 cosponsor	Wyoming Public Lands Initiative	Read twice and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 20 Feb 2025.	Designates five Wildernesses (ranging in size from approximately 1,000 to 6,000 acres), totaling a little over 20,000 acres. Almost all proposed designations carve out roads from Wilderness boundaries, including cherry stems into Wilderness or roads bisecting Wilderness areas. Allows activities such as potential logging up to proposed wilderness boundaries. <i>Companion bill is H.R. 1472.</i>
S. 764 Sen. Bennet (D-CO) 1 cosponsor	Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 27 Feb 2025.	Proposes to designate over 71,000 acres of new Wildernesses or Wilderness additions between the White River National Forest and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. One 8,036 Wilderness designation is delayed as potential Wilderness because currently there are two vacant grazing allotments. If the allotments are vacant when Wilderness is designated, the Wilderness Act prohibits grazing. This bill designates this 8,036-acre area as potential Wilderness for a period before the Wilderness designation, giving the US Forest Service an opportunity to intentionally reintroduce grazing; if grazing exists upon Wilderness designation it becomes a grandfathered activity. Also, a limited-time allowance of motorized equip/transport in potential Wilderness while setting up grazing. Allows low level military overflights for all new Wilderness acreage, and has no-buffer-zone language. Makes exceptions for unnamed potentially incompatible local government activities in Wilderness for fire and flood events. 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. Companion bill is H.R. 1728
S. 1193 Sen. Durbin (D-IL) 0 cosponsors	America's Red Rocks Wilderness Bill	Red twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 27 Mar 2025.	Likely reintroduction of S. 1310 from 118 th Congress. Would designate 8.4 million acres of Wilderness in Utah. Text not yet available on Congress.gov as of date of this update. <i>Companion bill is H.R. 2467.</i>
S. 1198 Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI) 8 cosponsors	Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 27 Mar 2025.	Reintroduction of NREPA (S. 1531) from 118 th Congress. Would designate 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 available yet on Congress.gov as of the date of this update. <i>Companion bill is H.R. 2420.</i>