

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 279 Gallego (D-AZ)	Roadless Area Conservation Act	Subcom. hearing held 11 May 2022. Included as Sec. 208 in HR 5118 (Wildfire & Drought bill), which passed full House 29 July 2022. H. Rept. 117-419.	Would codify in statute the protections for inventoried roadless areas on the National Forests, similar to the 2001 Roadless Rule. <i>S. 877 is companion.</i>
HR 389 Case (D-HI)	Safe and Quiet Skies Act	Referred to Transportation Committee	Among other things, this bill would prohibit commercial air tours from operating within a half mile of units of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
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. <i>S. 173 is companion.</i>

<p>HR 760 Johnson (R-LA)</p>	<p>Securing Our Borders and Wilderness Act</p>	<p>Referred to NR and Homeland Security Committees</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>HR 803 DeGette (D-CO)</p>	<p>Colorado Wilderness Act</p>	<p>Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021. Also included (again) in House's National Defense Authorization Act on 14 July 2022. H. Rept. 117-6.</p>	<p>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 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, 999, and 2522 (and other bills) as Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands under this bill number to pass full House in NDAA. 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>
<p>HR 815 Huffman (D-CA)</p>	<p>Arctic Refuge Protection Act</p>	<p>Referred to NR Committee</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). <i>S. 282 is similar but not exact companion.</i></p>
<p>HR 878 Huffman (D-CA)</p>	<p>Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act</p>	<p>Passed House of Representatives on 26 Feb. 2021 as part of HR 803.</p>	<p>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/meteorological/climatological collection devices, and competitive equestrian event. Also incorporates bad</p>

			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/meteorological/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. <i>S. 1276 is companion.</i>
HR 2522 Leger Fernandez (D-NM)	Cerro de la Olla Wilderness Act	Subcommittee hearing 23 June 2022. Added to Protecting America's Wilderness Act and NDAA (HR 7900) on 14 July 2022 and passed the House.	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>
HR 2551 Curtis (R-UT)	Bonneville Trail Shoreline Advancement Act	Passed NR Committee 20 Jan. 2022. H. Rept. 117-570.948041	Would add 334 acres to the Mount Olympus Wilderness, and delete 19 acres from the Mount Naomi Wilderness, 197 acres from the Mount Olympus Wilderness, 10 acres from the Twin Peaks Wilderness, and 108 acres from the Lone Peak Wilderness. <i>S. 1222 is companion.</i>

HR 2794 McCollum (D-MN)	Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act	Passed NR Committee 13 July 2022.	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.
HR 3176 Curtis (R-UT)	Shawnee Wilderness Designation Act	Referred to NR and Ag Committees	Would designate all of Shawnee NF in IL (289,000 acres) in retaliation for Sen. Durbin re-introducing America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (S. 1535). Clean bill. <i>S. 1606 is companion.</i>
HR 3780 Lowenthal (D-CA)	America's Red Rock Wilderness Act	Referred to NR Committee	Would designate 8 million acres of wilderness in southern UT. <i>S. 1535 is companion.</i>
HR 5243 Amodei (R-NV)	Northern Nevada Economic Development, Conservation, and Military Modernization Act	Rules Committee declined to accept this bill as amendment to NDAA on 13 July 2022.	Among many other things, the bill would designate 4 BLM Wildernesses in Churchill Co. totaling 177,155 acres, and release 5 WSAs; would designate 12,392-acre BLM Burbank Canyons Wilderness in Douglas Co.; would designate 7 BLM Wildernesses totaling 136,072 acres in Pershing Co., and release 48,600 acres of WSAs in Pershing Co. All of the Wildernesses would be subject to extensive special provisions weakening the areas' protections.
HR 5399 Gooden (R-TX)	National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act	Referred to NR, Ag, and Homeland Security Committees	Prohibits Secretaries of Ag and Interior from restricting, prohibiting, or inhibiting US Customs and Border Protection from any activities within 100 miles of border with Canada or Mexico. Codifies the 2008 waiver of federal laws by Secretary of Homeland Security into federal statute, and specifically waives the Wilderness Act, NEPA, ESA, and other federal laws.
HR 6141 O'Halleran (D-NM)	Navajo Nation Bill	Referred to NR, and Energy and Commerce Committees	Would allow the Navajo Nation to waive the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act (and others) to allow for the construction of pipelines, transmission lines, etc.
HR 6935 Smith (D-WA)	Voluntary Grazing Permit Retirement Act (VGPR)	Referred to NR Committee	Would provide federal public lands commercial grazing permit holders the option to relinquish their commercial grazing permits in exchange for compensation paid by

			private parties. The federal agency would then be directed to permanently retire the associated commercial grazing allotment from any further commercial livestock grazing activity. This bill has the potential to begin eliminating the harmful effects of livestock grazing within designated Wildernesses as well as other federal public lands.
HR 7509 DeFazio (D-OR)	Wild Rogue Conservation and Recreation Enhancement Act	Referred to NR Committee	Expands the Wild Rogue Wilderness by 59,512 acres, to be administered by both the Forest Service and BLM. <i>S. 1589 is companion.</i>
HR 7665 Blumenauer (D-OR)	REC Act of 2022	Referred to NR Committee	Would add 3 additions of Forest Service-administered land to Mt. Hood Wilderness totaling 5,427 acres, and 2 additions of Forest Service and BLM land to Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness totaling 2,156 acres. Would re-name sections of Mark Hatfield Wilderness as Nancy Russell Columbia River Gorge Wilderness. Clean bill.
HR 8168 McCarthy (R-CA)	Save Our Sequoias Act	Referred to NR and Ag Committees	Would amend Sec. 4(d)(1) of the 1964 Wilderness Act to allow manipulation and reforestation of Giant Sequoia groves in designated Wildernesses.
HR 8719 Grijalva (D-AZ)	Great Bend of the Gila Conservation Act	Subcommittee hearing held 14 Sept. 2022.	Would designate the 9,809-acre Gila Bend Wilderness, the 23,464-acre Rd Rock Canyon Wilderness, and the 23,712-acre Ringtail Wilderness in Arizona.
HR 9103 Hill (R-AR)	Flatside Wilderness Additions Act	Referred to NR Committee	Adds 2,215 acres to Flatside Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and re-names it as the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness.
S. 173 Bennet (D-CO)	Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act	Failed to report from full comm. on 10-10 vote on 3 May 2022.	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	Passed full committee on 3 May 2022.	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. <i>HR 815 is similar but not exact companion.</i>
S. 455 Murray (D-WA)	Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	Failed to report from full comm. on 10-10 vote on 3 May 2022.	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	Subcommittee hearing 16 June 2021.	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. <i>HR 279 is companion.</i>
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)	Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act	Passed full committee on 3 May 2022. S. Rept. 117-153.	Would add 334 acres to the Mount Olympus Wilderness, and delete 19 acres from the Mount Naomi Wilderness, 197 acres from the Mount Olympus Wilderness, 10 acres from the Twin Peaks Wilderness, and 108 acres from the Lone Peak Wilderness. <i>HR 2551 is companion.</i>

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>
S. 1411 Rosen (D-NV)	Lander County Land Management and Conservation Act	Subcommittee hearing 19 Oct. 2021.	Would designate 2 BLM-administered Wildernesses totaling 14,102 acres in Lander County, NV. Has bad special provisions on buffer zones; military overflights; hydrologic, meteorological, or climatological data collection stations; water rights; wildlife management; wildlife water development projects (guzzlers); and releases 2 WSAs to development totaling 11,865 acres.
S. 1459 Padilla (D-CA)	Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California (PUBLIC) Lands Act	Subcommittee hearing 19 Oct. 2021.	Includes 3 CA Wilderness bills: HR 878 (NW CA bill), HR 973 (Central Coast Heritage Protection Act), and HR 693 (San Gabriel Mountains Act).
S. 1493 Tester (D-MT)	Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act	Subcommittee hearing 19 Oct. 2021. Failed to report favorably from ENR Comm. on 21 July 2022; Manchin can bring to floor.	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.
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. <i>HR 3780 is companion.</i>
S. 1589 Wyden (D-OR)	Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act	On General Orders, Calendar No. 298.	Would expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness in OR by 59,512 acres with both BLM- and FS-administered land. <i>HR 7509 is companion.</i>
S. 1606 Romney (R-UT)	Shawnee Wilderness Designation Act	Referred to Ag Committee	Would designate all of Shawnee NF in IL (289,000 acres) in retaliation for Sen. Durbin re-introducing America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (S. 1535). Clean bill. <i>HR 3176 is companion.</i>

S. 1686 Lee (R-UT)	Mountain Bikes in Wilderness (Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Act)	Subcommittee hearing 16 June 2021.	Would amend and weaken the 1964 Wilderness Act to open up entire National Wilderness Preservation System to bicycles and other mechanical transportation.
S. 1750 Barrasso (R-WY)	Wyoming WSA Development Act (Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act)	Subcommittee hearing 7 June 2022.	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.
S. 2980 Heinrich (D-NM)	Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act	Failed to pass ENR Comm on 21 July 2022 on 10-10 vote; Manchin can bring to floor.	Authorizes voluntary donation of grazing permits from federal public lands in New Mexico.
S. 3266 Manchin (D-WV)	Outdoor Recreation Act	Passed full committee on 3 May 2022. S. Rept. 117-158.7	Sec. 103 requires FS to develop climbing guidance for all National Forest System lands within 18 months of passage.
S. 3911 Kaine (D-VA)	Shenandoah Mountain Act	Referred to Ag Committee	Among other things, designates 4 new Wildernesses and 1 wilderness addition totaling 33,841 acres. Contains buffer zone special provisions.
S. 4470 Daines (R-MT)	WSA Release bill	Referred to ENR Committee	Would remove protection from 3 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Montana totaling 103,960 acres, 2 administered by BLM and 1 by Forest Service. Text not yet available.
S. 4752 Wyden (D-OR)	Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Among many other provisions, would designate 30 Wildernesses totaling 1,133,841 acres. Releases remaining WSAs. Incorporates H. Rept. 101-405 with liberal provisions on grazing (Congressional Grazing Guidelines) and H. Rept. 98-40 with bad provisions on fire allowing pre-suppression activities.
S. 4860 Wyden (D-OR)	Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act	Referred to ENR Committee	Among many other provisions, would designate 30 Wildernesses totaling 1,133,841 acres. Releases remaining WSAs. Incorporates H. Rept. 101-405 with liberal provisions on grazing (Congressional Grazing Guidelines) and H. Rept. 98-40 with bad provisions on fire allowing pre-suppression activities.

