The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance Legislative Priorities in the 117th Congress

Protected lands and waterways are essential to the health of businesses inspired by the outdoors. Outdoor recreationists look to our Wilderness and roadless areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other protected lands and waterways to participate in many forms of human-powered outdoor recreation. On behalf of our membership of 260 outdoor-inspired businesses, we enthusiastically endorse the following initiatives.

Legislation Introduced in the 117th Congress:

NATIONAL

Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act / H.R. 803
Introduced by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-1), the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act designates approximately 1.49 million acres of public land as wilderness and incorporates more than 1,000 river miles into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Among other protections, the bill combines the following Conservation Alliance endorsed bills: The Colorado Wilderness Act; the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act; the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act; the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act; the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act; the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act; and the Virginia Wilderness Additions Act. ***The bill passed the House of Representatives on February 26, 2021.***

Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2021 / H.R. 279
Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-7) introduced legislation to provide lasting protection for nearly 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System. The bill will codify the 2001 Roadless Rule, which limits costly roadbuilding and destructive logging on roadless landscapes across the National Forest System in order to protect recreation opportunities, provide critical habitat for 2100 threatened or endangered species, lessen wildland fire risk, and supply clean drinking water to tens of millions of Americans.

ALASKA

Arctic Refuge Protection Act / S.282 and H.R. 815
Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) introduced legislation to establish the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area, permanently protecting it from oil and gas exploration.

COLORADO

Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act / S.241 and H.R.823
Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Congressman Joe Neguse (D-CO-02) introduced the CORE Act to protect approximately 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado – including 73,000 acres of new wilderness and 80,000 acres of new recreation and conservation management areas, establishing new wilderness areas and safeguarding existing outdoor recreation opportunities to boost the economy for future generations. The bill unites and improves four previously introduced bills: the Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act, the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act, the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act, and the Curecanti National Recreation Area Boundary Establishment Act. ***The House version of***

the bill passed the House of Representatives with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.

NEVADA

Ruby Mountains Protection Act / S. 609
Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced the Ruby Mountains Protection Act to withdraw approximately 450,000 acres of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National forest from oil and gas development and expand protections for the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

OREGON

River Democracy Act of 2021 / S. 192
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the River Democracy Act of 2021 to protect more than 4,600 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon with Wild and Scenic river designation.

WASHINGTON

Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act / S.455 and H.R. 999
Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6) introduced legislation to protect 126,000 acres of Wilderness and 469 river miles on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. The legislation will preserve salmon streams and wild lands adjacent to Olympic National Park. ***The House version of the bill passed with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.***

Bills We Would Like to See Introduced in the 117th Congress:

NATIONAL

Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2021 / S.1311
Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to provide lasting protection for nearly 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System. The bill will codify the 2001 Roadless Rule, which limits costly roadbuilding and destructive logging on roadless landscapes across the National Forest System in order to protect recreation opportunities, provide critical habitat for 2100 threatened or endangered species, lessen wildland fire risk, and supply clean drinking water to tens of millions of Americans.

ARIZONA

Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act / H.R.1317 and **S. 3127**
Senator Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) and Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to protect the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona. The bill would withdraw more than one million acres of public land surrounding the Grand Canyon from mineral extraction and any other form of disposal or appropriation. ***The House version of the bill passed the House of Representatives with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.***

CALIFORNIA

Central Coast Heritage Protection Act / S.1111 and H.R.2199
Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) introduced legislation in the 166th Congress to protect 245,665 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protecting Wild and Scenic rivers, and designating the Condor National Recreation Trail. ***The House version of the bill passed the House of Representatives with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.***

Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, & Working Forests Act / S. 1110 and H.R. 2250
Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to permanently protect 350,000 acres of Wilderness and National Recreation Areas and 450 Wild & Scenic river miles. The proposal will conserve special places on public lands, restore forests and fish habitat, enhance recreation opportunities, boost local economies, and protect communities by reducing the risks of wildfire in Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties. ***The House version of the bill passed the House of Representatives with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.***

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act / S.1109 and H.R.2215
Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Representative Judy Chu (D-CA-27) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to protect wild places outside of Los Angeles. The bill will expand the San Gabriel Mountain National Monument to include portions of the Angeles National Forest,

establish a new National Recreation Area, and designate 30,000 acres of the San Gabriel Mountains area as wilderness and 45.5 miles of river as Wild and Scenic. ***The House version of the bill passed the House of Representatives with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.***

COLORADO

Gunnison County Public Lands Initiative
A coalition of stakeholders from ten diverse community groups in Gunnison County, CO has developed a comprehensive proposal for the future of the county's public lands. The coalition has been coordinating with Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO). Legislation mirroring the county's proposal would designate 140,000 acres of Wilderness and 656,000 acres of proposed special management areas in the west-central Colorado.

MINNESOTA

Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act / H.R. 5598
Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) introduced the Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act in the 116th Congress to permanently protect America's most visited Wilderness from sulfide-ore copper mining. The bill will permanently protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park, and their headwaters in the Superior National Forest from harmful and toxic mineral extraction, preserving the 1.1 million acres and 1,200 miles of canoe routes for future generations.

MONTANA

Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Act / S.1765
Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to add 79,060 acres to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountain wilderness areas. This region, adjacent to the iconic Bob Marshall Wilderness, is frequented by hikers, campers, cross-country skiers, hunters, and anglers. The legislation – the result of more than a decade of on-the-ground collaboration among a wide variety of stakeholders – will create special recreation areas for snowmobiling and mountain biking, and promote the restoration of forests and habitat.

Montana Headwaters Legacy Act
Building off the momentum of the East Rosebud Creek Wild and Scenic designation in 2018, the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act is a montana-made bill that would protect 336 river mies within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by designating segments of 17 streams as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

NEW MEXICO

Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act / S.1079 and H.R.2181
Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM), and Representative Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to protect one of New Mexico's greatest cultural and historic treasures: Chaco Canyon. The bill will ensure the protection of Chaco ruins and the greater landscape surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historic Park by withdrawing over 316,000 acres of federally managed minerals from future oil and gas leasing and development.

OREGON

Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee / S.2828
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act in the 116th Congress to protect more than 1.1 million acres of public lands in Malheur County's Owyhee Canyonlands. The rugged Owyhee country consists of more than two million acres of wild lands that are home to over 200 species including the imperiled Greater sage-grouse. Its recreation opportunities are endless, from fishing in blue-ribbon trout streams to hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and climbing. The bill will protect many iconic landmarks - including rock formations of Leslie Gulch, the confluence of three important desert rivers at Three Forks and the lava flows of Jordan Craters – as Wilderness.

Sutton Mountain and Painted Hills Area Preservation & Economic Enhancement Act / S.1597
Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced legislation in the 116th Congress to designate roughly 58,000 acres of wilderness in the John Day river basin. The proposed Wilderness areas encircle the Painted Hills Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The legislation is supported by local elected officials, landowners, whitewater rafting and boating communities, and hunters and anglers.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Wilderness Additions Act / S.247
Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) introduced legislation last Congress to protect 5,600 acres of Wilderness through an expansion of Rich Hole and Rough Mountain Wilderness Areas in the George Washington National Forest. The bill will more closely connect these two protected areas and permanently safeguard nearly 21,000 acres for wildlife and recreation. ***The bill passed the House of Representatives with the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on February 26, 2021.***