



The Conservation Alliance
Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

Protected Lands and Rivers Benefit the Outdoor Industry

Protected lands and waterways are essential to the health of the outdoor industry. 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. As our customer base grows, so grows the need for an increasing “supply” of places where enthusiasts may go backpacking, climbing, skiing, paddling, fishing, birding, and other forms of recreation. We enthusiastically endorse the following conservation initiatives, which enjoy strong public support.

Introduced Bills and Resolutions

Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (H.R. 1285/S. 483)

Senator Patty Murray and Representative Derek Kilmer introduced legislation in the 115th Congress to protect 126,000 acres of Wilderness and 469 river miles on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula. The legislation would preserve salmon streams and wild lands adjacent to Olympic National Park.

Methow Valley Headwaters Mineral Withdrawal (S. 566)

Senator Patty Murray introduced legislation in the 115th Congress that would withdraw approximately 340,079 acres of federal land within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from any mining activity.

Oregon Wildlands Act (S. 1548)

The Oregon Wildlands Act, introduced by Senator Ron Wyden, would provide wilderness protection to 107,800 acres in the Wild Rogue and Devil’s Staircase areas. It would also designate 252 miles of wild and scenic rivers and preserve 119,120 acres of the Rogue Canyon and Molalla rivers as national recreation areas, and protect the Chetco River from mining activity. People visit all of these areas to hike, fish, whitewater raft, kayak, and camp.

Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area Designation Act (H.R.1308/S.513)

Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Peter DeFazio introduced The Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area Designation Act in the 115th Congress. The bill would protect 99,653 acres in Oregon’s North Umpqua River watershed as a sanctuary for some of the best wild steelhead spawning areas in the Pacific Northwest. The area provides more than 50 miles of high-quality river and stream habitat for summer and winter steelhead, chinook and coho salmon, rainbow trout, and other native species.

Kalmiopsis Rivers Mineral Withdrawal (H.R. 310/S. 192)

Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Peter DeFazio have introduced this legislation, which would permanently withdraw 106,632 acres of federal land in Southwestern Oregon from any mining activity. This area is currently protected under a 20-year administrative withdrawal. The bill would protect key watersheds and their important fish habitat.

Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Act (S. 507)

Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced legislation that would add 79,060 acres to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountain wilderness areas. This region, adjacent to the iconic Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, 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 – would create special recreation areas for snowmobiling and mountain biking, and promote the restoration of forests and habitat.

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Conservation Act (S. 441)

New Mexico Senators Tom Udall (D) and Martin Heinrich (D) introduced legislation to protect 241,786 acres of wilderness within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico. The bill would safeguard eight areas as wilderness that hold archaeological and cultural treasures, including Native American and Hispanic heritage sites. Business owners, sportsmen, tribal leaders, law enforcement, local and federal elected officials, and others supported creation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Since that designation by President Barack Obama in 2014, the monument has proved to be an economic boon to southern New Mexico.

Tennessee Wilderness Act (S. 973/H.R. 2218)

Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and Representative Phil Roe introduced legislation to protect 19,556 acres of public land in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest, preserving premium hiking areas, including stretches of the Appalachian Trail.

California Desert Protection Act (H.R. 857/S. 32)

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Paul Cook introduced legislation to protect 278,230 acres of Wilderness, expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, and designate 77 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers in the California Desert. The bill would enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation while enabling renewable energy development.

Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act (H.R. 360)

Representative Raul Grijalva has introduced legislation to designate 1.7 million acres surrounding Grand Canyon National Park as a National Monument. The bill would permanently protect this landscape from uranium mining, and preserve its recreation, cultural, and watershed values. It will also create a wildlife corridor between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Act (S. 820)

Senator Edward Markey introduced legislation in the 115th Congress to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness. This bill would permanently preserve more than 1.5 million acres of land in the iconic refuge.

Permanent Reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (H.R. 502)

Representative Raul Grijalva has introduced legislation to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF provides funds and matching grants to federal, state and local governments for the acquisition of land and water, and easements on land and water.

Public Lands Resolution (H. CON. RES. 27)

This bi-partisan Concurrent Resolution was introduced by Representatives Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Dave Reichert (R-WA) to express that it is the sense of Congress that America's Federal public lands are a national treasure that belong to all Americans and which should be maintained for future generations.

Legislative Proposals We Would Like to See in the 115th Congress

Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act

In 2016, Senator Jim Risch introduced legislation to secure congressional Wilderness designation for 13,900 acres of public land in the Scotchman Peaks area of Idaho.

California Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

During the 114th Congress, Representative Lois Capps and Senator Barbara Boxer introduced legislation 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. Visitors from around the world come to these coastal mountains and grasslands to hike, backpack, camp, bird-watch, ride horses, hunt, fish, kayak, and mountain bike.

Northwest California Mountains and Rivers

Stakeholders in California are coming together to propose legislation that would protect up to 350,000 acres of wild lands and roughly 450 miles of rivers in Northwest California.

Sutton Mountain and Painted Hills Area Preservation and Economic Enhancement Act

Senator Jeff Merkley introduced legislation in the 114th 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.

North Cascades Nooksack Wild and Scenic River Campaign

Stakeholders are coming together in Washington around a proposal to permanently protect 110 river miles and more than 35,000 acres of riverside lands of Northwest Washington's upper Nooksack River system, to benefit fish and wildlife species, and world-class recreation.

Continental Divide Wilderness and Recreation Act

Representative Jared Polis introduced legislation in 2016 to designate 58,000 acres of National Forest land in Summit and Eagle counties with federal Wilderness and recreation area protections. The bill would preserve world-class outdoor recreation, and enjoys the strong support of local ski areas and other businesses.