

# THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN THE 115<sup>TH</sup> 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. 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

#### ALASKA

##### **Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act ([H.R. 5911](#))**

Representatives Huffman (D-CA-2), Grijalva (D-AZ-3), Lowenthal (D-CA-47), McEachin (D-VA-4), and Gallego (D-AZ-7) introduced legislation to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling by repealing the provision tucked into the 2017 tax law that mandated oil and gas leasing, development, and production in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge.

##### **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Act ([S. 820 / H.R. 1889](#))**

Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) 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.

#### ARIZONA

##### **Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act ([H.R. 360](#))**

Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3) 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.

#### CALIFORNIA

##### **California Desert Protection and Recreation Act ([S. 32 / H.R. 827](#))**

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Representative Juan Vargas (D-CA-5) 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.

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### **CALIFORNIA (CONTINUED)**

#### **Central Coast Heritage Protection Act ([S. 1959](#) / [H.R. 4072](#))**

Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) 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.

### **COLORADO**

#### **Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act ([S. 2337](#) / [H.R. 4883](#))**

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Representative Jared Polis (D-CO-2) introduced legislation in January 2018 to designate more than 90,000 acres as Wilderness Areas, Recreation Management Areas, and Wildlife Conservation Areas, preserving world-class outdoor recreation in the White River National Forest. The bill would also designate the first-ever National Historic Landscape around Camp Hale to preserve and promote the 10th Mountain Division's storied legacy.

#### **San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act ([S. 2721](#))**

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) introduced legislation to provide better management and protections for lands in San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan counties in southwestern Colorado. The bill would protect 60,000 acres in the heart of the San Juan Mountains by expanding and designating Wilderness for the Mt. Sneffels Range, Lizard Head area and McKenna Peak. The bill would also ensure management protections for areas including Ice Lakes Basin, Vermillion Peak and Naturita Canyon.

### **MONTANA**

#### **Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Act of 2017 ([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, 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.

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### **MONTANA (CONTINUED)**

#### **Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act ([S. 941](#) / [H.R. 4644](#))**

Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) and Representative Greg Gianforte (R-MT-At Large) introduced legislation to permanently withdraw federal mineral rights on public land in Custer Gallatin National Forest. The bill would protect 30,000 acres of National Forest Lands adjacent to the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park from industrial scale gold mining.

### **NEW MEXICO**

#### **Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act ([S. 2907](#))**

Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced legislation to protect one of New Mexico's greatest cultural and historic treasures: Chaco Canyon. The bill would 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.

### **NEW MEXICO**

#### **Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Conservation Act ([S. 441](#))**

Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) 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 the designation in 2014, the monument has proved to be an economic boon to southern New Mexico.

### **OREGON**

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

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4) introduced the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area Designation Act. 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.

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### **OREGON (CONTINUED)**

#### **Oregon Wildlands Act ([S. 1548](#))**

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced the Oregon Wildlands Act to secure Wilderness protection for 107,800 acres in the Wild Rogue and Devil's Staircase areas. The bill would also designate 252 miles of wild and scenic rivers, preserve 119,120 acres of the Rogue Canyon and Molalla rivers as national recreation areas, and protect the Chetco River from mining activity.

#### **Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act of 2017**

##### **([S. 192](#) / [H.R. 310](#))**

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4) introduced the Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act to protect key watersheds and fish habitat in Southwestern Oregon. This area is currently protected under a 20-year administrative mining prohibition, and this bill would permanently withdraw 106,632 acres from mining activity in Curry and Josephine Counties.

### **TENNESSEE**

#### **Tennessee Wilderness Act ([S. 973](#) / [H.R. 2218](#))**

Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Bob Corker (R-TN) and Representative David Roe (R-TN-1) introduced legislation to protect 19,556 acres of public land in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest as wilderness. The bill would preserve premium hiking areas including stretches of the Appalachian Trail.

### **UTAH**

#### **Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018 ([S. 2809](#) / [H.R. 5727](#))**

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Representative John Curtis (R-UT-3) introduced legislation to protect public lands in Emery County, Utah for their conservation and outdoor recreation values. The bill seeks to protect nearly one million acres of public land, including more than 530,000 acres of Wilderness, 380,000 acres of National Conservation Area, and 24 miles of Wild and Scenic River.

### **VIRGINIA**

#### **Virginia Wilderness Additions Act of 2017 ([S. 1975](#))**

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) introduced legislation 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 would more closely connect these two protected areas and permanently safeguard nearly 21,000 acres for wildlife and recreation.

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### WASHINGTON

#### **Methow Headwaters Protection Act ([S. 566](#))**

Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced legislation that would withdraw 340,079 acres of federal land within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from any mining activity.

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

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 would preserve salmon streams and wild lands adjacent to Olympic National Park.

### NATIONWIDE

#### **Permanent Reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund ([H.R. 502](#) / [S. 569](#))**

Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3) and Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Richard Burr (R-NC) have introduced legislation to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and provide full, dedicated and permanent funding. LWCF provides funds and matching grants to federal, state and local governments to acquire lands and waters for recreation and habitat.