



The Conservation Alliance

Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

The Conservation Alliance Legislative Priorities in the 116th 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 235+ outdoor-inspired businesses, we enthusiastically endorse the following conservation initiatives.

Bills Introduced in the 116th Congress:

NATIONAL

Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2019 / [S.1311](#) and [H.R. 2491](#)

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and 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 would 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.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act / [S.1081](#) and [H.R. 3195](#)

After the LWCF was permanently reauthorized with the passage of the Public Lands Package in February of 2019, Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Representatives Jeff Van Drew (D-NJ-2), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1) introduced the LWCF Permanent Funding Act to provide full, authorized and dedicated funding to the program in perpetuity. The bill would ensure the full \$900 million is directed to the program during the annual appropriations process.

ALASKA

Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act / [H.R.1146](#)

Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) introduced legislation to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling by repealing the provision tucked into the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that mandated oil and gas leasing, development, and production within the Coastal Plain of the Refuge.

Arctic Refuge Protection Act / [S. 2461](#)

Senators Edward Markey (D-MA); Maria Cantwell (D-WA); Tom Udall (D-NM); Michael Bennet (D-CO); Charles Schumer (D-NY); and Tom Carper (D-DE) 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.

ARIZONA

Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act / [H.R.1317](#)

Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3) introduced legislation 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.

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 in late January 2019. The bill would 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.

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 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, birdwatch, ride horses, hunt, fish, kayak, and mountain bike.

Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act / [S. 1110](#) and [H.R. 2250](#)

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA-2) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) introduced legislation to permanently protect 350,000 acres of Wilderness and National Recreation Areas and 450 Wild & Scenic river miles. The proposal would 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.

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 to protect wild places outside of Los Angeles. The bill would 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.

MONTANA

Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Act / [S.1765](#)

Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced legislation 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 – would create special recreation areas for snowmobiling and mountain biking, and promote the restoration of forests and habitat.

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 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.

OREGON

Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act / [S.1262](#)

Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced legislation to establish a 98,000 acre Rogue Canyon Recreation Area next to the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area, a 30,000-acre Molalla Recreation Area in Clackamas County next to the Table Rock Wilderness Area, expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area, and expand the existing Wild Rogue Wilderness Area by about 60,000 acres. The bill would make permanent a USFS and BLM 20-year mineral withdrawal by permanently prohibiting mining on 100,000 acres of Forest Service land near the existing Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area protecting the headwaters of many National Wild and Scenic Rivers in Southwestern Oregon.

Sutton Mountain and Painted Hills Area Preservation and Economic Enhancement Act / [S.1597](#)

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced legislation 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.

WASHINGTON

Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act / [S.1382](#) and [H.R.2642](#)

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA-6) introduced legislation last 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.

Bills We Would Like to See Introduced in the 116th Congress:

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.

MONTANA

Montana's Last Best Wild Rivers

Legislation would add approximately 50 rivers, 500 river miles, and 160,000 acres of riverside lands in western Montana to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Over the past eight years a coalition of national and local organizations has engaged stakeholders, secured endorsements from thousands of Montanans and Montana-based businesses, and all nine of Montana's Native American Tribes.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Wilderness Additions Act of 2017

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 would more closely connect these two protected areas and permanently safeguard nearly 21,000 acres for wildlife and recreation.

OREGON

Owyhee Canyonlands

In the 115th Congress Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced legislation addressing conservation of Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands. In the 116th Congress we are hopeful that Oregon's delegation will introduce comprehensive legislation to protect the Owyhee for its incredible habitat and recreation values. 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.

Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers

In October 2019, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) announced he is taking nominations from Oregonians through Jan. 20, 2020 for rivers in the state that deserve addition to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers list. We look forward to seeing comprehensive legislation introduced in early 2020.