



## ***TITLE I: COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2020 (DEGETTE - H.R. 2546)***

*Supports Access to Clean Water, Pristine Wildlife Habitats, and Colorado's Recreation Economy*

### **Summary of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2020**

Title I would protect approximately 600,000 acres of public land in Colorado as wilderness, with approximately 560,555 acres designated as new wilderness areas, 7,042 acres designated as expanded wilderness, and 30,305 acres designated as potential wilderness. The majority of these lands are currently managed for their wilderness quality by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, or National Park Service. Title I would preserve valid existing rights in accordance with the Wilderness Act, and the State of Colorado would maintain its responsibilities regarding wildlife and fisheries. Importantly, the title includes numerous special provisions that protect existing military activities, such as low-level military helicopter operations and high-altitude aviation training in and around the proposed designations. Title I would not affect the use or allocation of any water, water rights, or interest in water.

The wilderness designations in Title I, as compared to the introduced version, have been reduced by approximately 140,000 acres in order to remove oil and gas priority leasing areas, avoid existing mineral and hard rock leases, and to accommodate road and water infrastructure. Title I is the product of over two decades of stakeholder engagement and collaboration and includes changes agreed to in consultation with federal land management agencies, representatives of the outdoor recreation community, and the National Guard Bureau.

### **List of Supporters and Endorsing Organizations**

*Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Organizations (68) including:* The Sierra Club; National Parks Conservation Association; National Wildlife Federation; Natural Resources Defense Council; Nordic Council; Quiet Use Council; Conservation Colorado; Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center; American Hiking Society; Ancient Forest Rescue; Backcountry Skiers Alliance; Biodiversity Legal Foundation; Blue River Anglers; Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Center for Environmental Citizenship; Center for Independence; Clean Water Advocacy Center; Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund; Earthlaw; EnAct; Sheep Mountain Alliance; Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance; Wild Connections; Wilderness Education Institute; Wilderness Land Trust; Wilderness Workshop; Wildlands Restoration Volunteers; Windstar Foundation; Osprey Packs, Inc.; and the Winter Wildlands Alliance.

*Local Organizations and Businesses (182) including:* Ridgway-Ouray Community Council; Animas Riverkeeper; Beaver Lake Retreat Center; Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition; Colorado Mountain Club; Colorado Audubon Council; Colorado Native Plant Society; Colorado Wild; Colorado Wildlife Federation; Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center; Community Alliance of the Yampa Valley; Environment Colorado; Friends of the Yampa; Friends of Westwater, Inc.; Frying Pan Anglers; Grand Valley Citizen's Alliance; High Country Citizen's Alliance; Mesa County Wilderness Coalition; Roaring Fork Anglers; Thorne Ecological Institute; Western Colorado Alliance; Western Resource Advocates; and the Western Slope Environmental Resource Council.

### **Links**

- [Press Release](#): DeGette Unveils New Colorado Wilderness Protection Plan
- [Frequently Asked Questions and List of Proposed Designations](#)
- [Overview Map](#): The Colorado Wilderness Act of 2019
- [Press Packet](#): Colorado Wilderness Act