



NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE
CHAIR RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

H.R. 803: Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act

The *Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act* is one of many actions House Democrats are taking to conserve our public lands and waters, promote outdoor recreation for all Americans, and protect communities from the impacts of the climate crisis. The bill designates approximately 1.5 million acres of public land as wilderness and incorporates more than 1,200 river miles into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). The bill would also withdraw more than 1.2 million acres of public land from new drilling and mining, ensuring that iconic landscapes like the Grand Canyon and Colorado's Thompson Divide are permanently protected for future generations to enjoy.

Communities across the country are already feeling the impacts of climate change and existing inequalities make it so that the most vulnerable Americans are the most likely to be hit the hardest. President Biden has proposed ambitious climate goals, including protecting 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030 (30x30), but only Congress can permanently protect public lands as wilderness. These designations will also help further the Administration's renewed focus on advancing environmental justice by improving access to clean water, clean air, and healthy outdoor recreation, while supporting local economies and historically underserved communities.

The provisions included in this bill all received bipartisan votes of support in the House during the 116th Congress:

- Title I includes the text of the Colorado Wilderness Act (H.R. 803 - Rep. DeGette, D-CO) which would designate approximately 660,000 acres of public land as wilderness including many of Colorado's mid-elevation ecosystems that serve as critical habitats for a variety of plants and wildlife.
- Title II includes the text of the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (H.R. 878 - Rep. Huffman, D-CA) which would designate approximately 306,500 acres of public land as wilderness, protect approximately 480 river miles as components of the NWSRS, while supporting Northern California's economy through improved wildfire resiliency and expanded recreational opportunities.
- Title III includes the text of the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (H.R. 999 - Rep. Kilmer, D-WA) which would designate approximately 131,900 acres of public land as wilderness and protect 458 river miles as components of the NWSRS.
- Title IV includes the text of the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (H.R. 973 - Rep. Carbajal, D-CA) which would designate approximately 287,500 acres of public land as wilderness, protect 230 river miles as components of the NWSRS, and connect coastal communities with the designation of a new trail.
- Title V includes the text of the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (H.R. 693 - Rep. Chu, D-CA) which would expand the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by 109,000 acres, establish a new recreation area, designate approximately 30,700 acres of public land as wilderness and protect 45 river miles as components of the NWSRS.
- Title VI includes the text of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act (H.R. 1075 - Rep. Schiff, D-CA) which would expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by approximately 191,000 acres, protecting important natural and cultural resources while expanding outdoor access for one of America's most densely populated cities.
- Title VII includes the text of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act (H.R. 577 - Rep. Neguse, D-CO) which would permanently protect approximately 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado through an assortment of locally driven designation intended to support the state's multi-billion dollar recreation economy.
- Title VIII includes the text of the Grand Canyon Protection Act (H.R. 1052 - Rep. Grijalva, D-AZ) which would permanently ban new mining claims on approximately 1 million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park, while helping to protect the clean water resources critical to the livelihoods of local tribal communities.