

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1799

To designate certain public lands in the Sonoran Desert of the State of Arizona as national conservation areas and wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2013

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To designate certain public lands in the Sonoran Desert of the State of Arizona as national conservation areas and wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act of 2013”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Belmont-Harquahala and Gila Bend National Conservation Areas.

Sec. 4. Designation of wilderness areas.

Sec. 5. Special management areas.
Sec. 6. Maps and legal descriptions.
Sec. 7. Management of national conservation areas, wilderness areas, and special management areas.
Sec. 8. Acquisition of land.
Sec. 9. Border security.
Sec. 10. Water rights.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

3 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
4 means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians which is recognized as eligible by the Secretary for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

9 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan developed under section 3 for each national conservation area and section 5 for each special management area.

13 (3) NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS.—The term “National Conservation Areas” means the Belmont-Harquahala National Conservation Area and the Gila Bend National Conservation Area established by section 3.

18 (4) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

1 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 (6) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.—The term
4 “Special Management Areas” means the Sentinel
5 Plain Special Management Area and the Rainbow
6 Valley Special Management Area established by sec-
7 tion 5.

8 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
9 of Arizona.

10 (8) WILDERNESS AREAS.—The term “Wilder-
11 ness Areas” means the wilderness areas designated
12 by section 4.

13 **SEC. 3. BELMONT-HARQUAHALA AND GILA BEND NATIONAL**
14 **CONSERVATION AREAS.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established in the
16 State:

17 (1) BELMONT-HARQUAHALA NATIONAL CON-
18 SERVATION AREA.—The Belmont-Harquahala Na-
19 tional Conservation Area, consisting of approxi-
20 mately 276,100 acres, as generally depicted on the
21 map entitled “Belmont-Harquahala National Con-
22 servation Area” and dated [_____ 2013].

23 (2) GILA BEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION
24 AREA.—The Gila Bend National Conservation Area,
25 consisting of approximately 406,298 acres, as gen-

1 erally depicted on the map entitled “Gila Bend
2 Mountains National Conservation Area” and dated
3 [_____ 2013].

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the National Con-
5 servation Areas is to conserve, and thereby to protect, re-
6 store, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of
7 present and future generations the unique and important
8 resources and values of the land, including the ecological,
9 geological, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, nat-
10 ural, scientific, recreational, wilderness, wildlife, riparian,
11 historical, educational, and scenic resources of the public
12 land.

13 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION
14 AREAS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
16 the National Conservation Areas—

17 (A) as components of the National Land-
18 scape Conservation System;

19 (B) in a manner that conserves, and there-
20 by protects, and enhances the resources and
21 values of the National Conservation Areas de-
22 scribed in subsection (b); and

23 (C) in accordance with—

(i) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(ii) this Act; and

(iii) any other applicable laws.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive management plan for the long-term protection and management of each of the National Conservation Areas.

(B) PURPOSES.—Each management plan shall—

(i) describe the appropriate management and uses of the National Conservation Areas consistent with the conservation purpose as specified in subsection (b) and (c);

(ii) be developed with extensive public input; and

(iii) take into consideration any information developed in studies of the land within the National Conservation Areas

(3) USES —

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the National Conservation Areas as the Secretary determines would further the conservation purpose for which the National Conservation Areas are established.

(B) USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), use of motorized vehicles in the National Conservation Areas shall be allowed only—

(I) before the effective date of each management plan prepared pursuant to paragraph (2), on roads and trails designated for use of motorized vehicles in the management plan that applies on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(II) after the effective date of each management plan prepared pursuant to paragraph (2), on roads and trails designated for use of motorized vehicles in that management plan.

(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE USE.—Clause (i) shall limit the use of motor vehicles in the

1 National Conservation Areas for adminis-
2 trative purposes or to respond to an emer-
3 gency.

4 (iii) LIMITATION.—This subparagraph
5 shall not apply to the Wilderness Areas.

6 (C) NEW ROADS.—No additional road shall
7 be built within the National Conservation Areas
8 after the date of enactment of this Act unless
9 the road is identified in the Management Plans
10 as necessary for public safety or resource pro-
11 tection.

12 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes of
14 the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following
15 areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and
16 as components of the National Wilderness Preservation
17 System:

18 (1) HUMMINGBIRD SPRINGS WILDERNESS ADDI-
19 TIONS.—Certain public land in Maricopa County,
20 Arizona, consisting of approximately 17,000 acres,
21 as generally depicted on the map entitled “Hum-
22 mingbird Springs Wilderness Additions” and dated
23 [_____ 2013], which is incorporated in, and
24 shall be considered to be a part of, the Humming-
25 bird Springs Wilderness, as designated by section

1 101(a)(12) of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of
2 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note 460ddd; 104 Stat.
3 4469).

4 (2) WOOLSEY PEAK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—

5 Certain public land in Maricopa County, Arizona,
6 consisting of approximately 33,523 acres, as gen-
7 erally depicted on the map entitled "Woolsey Peak
8 Wilderness Additions" and dated [_____ 2013],
9 which is incorporated in, and shall be considered to
10 be a part of, the Woolsey Peak Wilderness, as des-
11 ignated by section 101(a)(15) of the Arizona Desert
12 Wilderness Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note
13 460ddd; 104 Stat. 4469).

1 [_____ 2013], which shall be known as the
2 “Saddle Mountain Centennial Wilderness”.

3 (5) GILA BEND WILDERNESS.—Certain public
4 land in Maricopa County, Arizona, comprising ap-
5 proximately 68,800 acres, as generally depicted on
6 the map entitled “Gila Bend Wilderness” and dated
7 [_____ 2013], which shall be known as the
8 “Gila Bend Wilderness”.

9 (6) SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT
10 WILDERNESS.—Certain public land in Maricopa
11 County, Arizona, within the Sonoran Desert Na-
12 tional Monument, comprising approximately 128,300
13 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled
14 “Sonoran Desert National Monument Wilderness”
15 and dated [_____ 2013], which shall be known
16 as the “Sonoran Desert National Monument Wilder-
17 ness”.

18 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.—Subject to
19 valid existing rights, the Wilderness Areas designated by
20 this Act shall be managed by the Secretary in accordance
21 with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this
22 Act, except that—

23 (1) any reference in the Wilderness Act to the
24 effective date of that Act shall be considered to be
25 a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

1 (2) any reference in the Wilderness Act to the
2 Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a
3 reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

4 **SEC. 5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established in the
6 State:

7 (1) SENTINEL PLAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
8 AREA.—

9 (A) The Sentinel Plain Special Manage-
10 ment Area, consisting of approximately 120,600
11 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled
12 “Sentinel Plain Special Management Area” and
13 dated [_____ 2013].

14 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Sen-
15 tinel Plain Special Management Area is to en-
16 sure ecological connectivity and movement of
17 wildlife between the Barry M. Goldwater Air
18 Force Range and the Gila Bend National Con-
19 servation Area; to secure native habitat for na-
20 tive species; and to provide recreation and de-
21 velopment opportunities that are compatible
22 with native species and with Department of De-
23 fense activities related to the Barry M. Gold-
24 water Air Force Range.

(2) RAINBOW VALLEY SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

13 (b) MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

19 (2) PURPOSES.—Each management plan
20 shall—

1 (B) be drafted with consultation from
2 local, regional, and state jurisdictions;

3 (C) be developed with extensive public
4 input;

5 (D) take into consideration any informa-
6 tion developed in studies and plans for the land
7 within each special management area;

8 (E) shall consider cooperative management
9 alternatives between the Bureau of Land Man-
10 agement and local, regional, and state jurisdic-
11 tions that further the purposes outlined in sec-
12 tion 5(a); and

13 (F) for the purposes of ensuring ecological
14 connectivity and movement of wildlife through
15 the Rainbow Valley and Sentinel Plain Special
16 Management Areas, the management plans
17 shall—

18 (i) prioritize landscape permeability,
19 wildlife connectivity and continued move-
20 ment of wildlife between the Sierra
21 Estrella Mountains and the Sonoran
22 Desert National Monument across Rain-
23 bow Valley, and between the Barry M.
24 Goldwater Air Force Range and the Gila

1 Bend National Conservation Area across
2 Sentinel Plain, respectively;

3 (ii) identify the means to maintain
4 permeability, connectivity and wildlife
5 movement in the area including, but not
6 limited to, wildlife crossing structures and
7 other infrastructure improvements and the
8 criteria to implement such alternatives;

9 (iii) incorporate current scientific
10 knowledge of wildlife movement for a variety
11 of identified focal species; and

12 (iv) establish a monitoring program to
13 determine the effectiveness of the plan for
14 wildlife connectivity.

15 **SEC. 6. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps
18 and legal descriptions of the National Conservation Areas,
19 the Wilderness Areas, and the Special Management Areas
20 with—

21 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

23 (2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

1 (b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and legal de-
2 scriptions filed under subsection (a) shall have the same
3 force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the
4 Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in
5 the maps and legal descriptions.

6 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal de-
7 scriptions filed under subsection (a) shall be available for
8 public inspection in—

9 (1) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of
10 Land Management; and
11 (2) the appropriate office of the Bureau of
12 Land Management in the State.

13 SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION
14 AREAS, WILDERNESS AREAS, AND SPECIAL
15 MANAGEMENT AREAS.

16 (a) MILITARY USE.—Nothing in this Act restricts or
17 precludes—

18 (1) overflights of military aircraft over the Na-
19 tional Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, or Spe-
20 cial Management Areas designated by this Act in-
21 cluding military overflights that can be seen or
22 heard within the areas;

23 (2) flight testing and evaluation; or

24 (3) the designation or creation of new units of

25 special use airspace, or the establishment of military

1 flight training routes, over the National Conserva-
2 tion Areas, Wilderness Areas, or Special Manage-
3 ment Areas.

4 (b) HUNTING, FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

5 (1) HUNTING.—Nothing in this section or the
6 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) shall affect
7 hunting, under applicable State and Federal laws
8 and regulations, within a covered wilderness area.

9 (2) JURISDICTION.—As provided in section
10 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
11 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this section or the Wilder-
12 ness Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdic-
13 tion or responsibilities of the State of Arizona with
14 respect to fish and wildlife in the State.

15 (3) WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.—Management ac-
16 tivities to maintain or restore fish and wildlife popu-
17 lations and the habitats to support such populations
18 may be carried out within a covered wilderness area,
19 where consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
20 1131 et seq.) and other applicable laws.

21 (4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
22 shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the
23 State of Arizona for management of fish and wildlife
24 within a covered wilderness area. The cooperative
25 agreement shall specify the terms and conditions

1 under which the State or a designee of the State
2 may use wildlife management activities in a covered
3 wilderness area consistent with the Wilderness Act
4 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and other applicable laws.

5 (c) LIVESTOCK GRAZING.—

6 (1) GRAZING IN NATIONAL CONSERVATION
7 AREAS OR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.—Except
8 as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall
9 issue and administer any grazing leases or permits
10 in the National Conservation Areas or Special Man-
11 agement Areas in accordance with the laws (includ-
12 ing regulations) applicable to the issuance and ad-
13 ministration of such leases and permits on other
14 land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land
15 Management.

16 (2) GRAZING IN WILDERNESS AREAS.—The
17 grazing of livestock in a wilderness area designated
18 by this Act, if established as of the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue—

20 (A) subject to any reasonable regulations,
21 policies, and practices that the Secretary deter-
22 mines to be necessary; and

23 (B) in accordance with—

24 (i) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness
25 Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

7 (d) ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS.—The Secretary
8 shall provide any owner of private property—

(1) within the boundary of a national conservation area or special management area designated by this Act adequate access to the property; and

16 (e) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—The designation of
17 the National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, and
18 Special Management Areas is subject to valid rights in ex-
19 istence on the date of enactment of this Act.

20 (f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
21 all public land within the National Conservation Areas,
22 Wilderness Areas, and Special Management Areas, and all
23 land and interests in land acquired by the United States
24 within the National Conservation Areas, Wilderness
25 Areas, or Special Management Areas is withdrawn from—

1 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal
2 under the public land laws;

3 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
4 laws; and

5 (3) right-of-way, leasing, or disposition under
6 all laws relating to—

7 (A) minerals; or

8 (B) solar, wind, and geothermal energy.

9 (g) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle cre-
11 ates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the
12 National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, or
13 Special Management Areas.

14 (2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE NATIONAL CONSERVA-
15 TION AREAS, WILDERNESS AREAS, AND SPECIAL
16 MANAGEMENT AREAS.—The fact that an activity or
17 use on land outside a National Conservation Area,
18 Wilderness Area, or Special Management Area can
19 be seen or heard within the area shall not preclude
20 the activity or use outside the boundary of the areas.

21 (h) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—Subject to such
22 terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be
23 desirable and appropriate, the Secretary may undertake
24 such measures as are necessary to control fire, insects,
25 and diseases—

1 (1) in the Wilderness Areas, in accordance with
2 section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
3 1133(d)(1)); and

4 (2) except as provided in paragraph (1), in the
5 National Conservation Areas and Special Manage-
6 ment Areas in accordance with this Act and any
7 other applicable laws.

8 (i) INVASIVE SPECIES AND NOXIOUS WEEDS.—In ac-
9 cordance with any applicable laws and subject to such
10 terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be
11 desirable and appropriate, the Secretary may prescribe
12 measures to control nonnative invasive plants and noxious
13 weeds within the National Conservation Areas and Special
14 Management Areas.

15 (j) NATIVE AMERICAN USES AND INTERESTS.—To
16 the extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure access
17 to the National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas,
18 and Special Management Areas by members of an Indian
19 tribe for traditional cultural purposes, including spiritual
20 or food-gathering activities. In implementing this para-
21 graph, the Secretary, upon the request of an Indian tribe,
22 may temporarily close to the general public use of one or
23 more specific portions of a national conservation area, wil-
24 derness area, or special management area in order to pro-
25 tect the privacy of traditional cultural activities in such

1 areas by members of the Indian tribe. Any such closure
2 shall be made to affect the smallest practicable area for
3 the minimum period necessary for such purposes. Such ac-
4 cess shall be consistent with the purpose and intent of
5 Public Law 95–341 (42 U.S.C. 1996), commonly referred
6 to as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

7 (k) UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Nothing in this Act
8 precludes the Secretary from renewing an existing utility
9 right-of-way through a national conservation area or spe-
10 cial management area in a manner that minimizes harm
11 to the purposes of the national conservation area or special
12 management area described in subsection (b) and section
13 5(a)—

14 (1) in accordance with—
15 (A) the National Environmental Policy Act
16 of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and
17 (B) any other applicable law; and
18 (2) subject to such terms and conditions as the
19 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

20 (l) MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS
21 FACILITIES.—The provisions of this Act shall not be con-
22 strued to prevent—
23 (1) the maintenance of communications facili-
24 ties, in existence on the date of the enactment of

1 this Act and located in a national conservation area;

2 or

3 (2) limited motorized access to such facilities
4 when non-motorized access means are not reasonably
5 available or when time is of the essence, subject to
6 such conditions as the Secretary considers to be de-
7 sirable.

8 (m) MAINTENANCE OF AGUA CALIENTE ROAD.—In
9 preparing resource management and travel management
10 plans for the Lower Sonoran Field Office, the Secretary
11 shall provide for protection of the existing, low-standard
12 (BLM Maintenance Level 3) Agua Caliente which provides
13 access to the wilderness and high conservation value lands
14 designated by this Act, and shall assure that the wilder-
15 ness environment and atmosphere enjoyed by users of this
16 road, which Congress finds is well-matched to the rugged
17 and wild character of the wilderness beyond the roadside,
18 is not degraded by incompatible development within the
19 road corridor or by improvement of the road itself other
20 than as he determines necessary for public safety.

21 **SEC. 8. ACQUISITION OF LAND.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire non-
23 public land within the boundaries of the National Con-
24 servation Areas, the Wilderness Areas, or the Special

1 Management Areas established by this Act only through
2 exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

3 (b) MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired under this sec-
4 tion shall—

5 (1) become part of the National Conservation
6 Areas, the Wilderness Areas, or the Special Manage-
7 ment Areas involved; and

8 (2) be managed in accordance with this Act and
9 any other applicable laws.

10 **SEC. 9. BORDER SECURITY.**

11 Nothing in this Act—

12 (1) prevents the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
13 rity from undertaking law enforcement and border
14 security activities—

15 (A) in the National Conservation Areas
16 and Special Management Areas outside the Wil-
17 derness Areas, or

18 (B) in accordance with section 4(c) of the
19 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(c)), within the
20 Wilderness Areas, including the ability to use
21 motorized access within a Wilderness Area
22 while in pursuit of a suspect;

23 (2) affects the 2006 Memorandum of Under-
24 standing among the Department of Homeland Secu-
25 rity, the Department of the Interior, and the De-

1 partment of Agriculture regarding cooperative na-
2 tional security and counterterrorism efforts on pub-
3 lic land along the borders of the United States; or

4 (3) prevents the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
5 rity from conducting any low-level overflights over
6 the National Conservation Areas and Special Man-
7 agement Areas or the Wilderness Areas that may be
8 necessary for law enforcement and border security
9 purposes.

10 **SEC. 10. WATER RIGHTS.**

11 (a) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—With respect to each
12 wilderness area designated by this Act, Congress hereby
13 reserves a quantity of water sufficient to fulfill the pur-
14 poses of this Act. The priority date of such reserved rights
15 shall be the date of enactment of this Act.

16 (b) PROTECTION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary and all
17 other officers of the United States shall take steps nec-
18 essary to protect the rights reserved by subsection (a), in-
19 cluding the filing by the Secretary of a claim for the quan-
20 tification of such rights in any present or future appro-
21 priate stream adjudication in the courts of the State in
22 which the United States is or may be joined and which
23 is conducted in accordance with the McCarran Amend-
24 ment (43 U.S.C. 666).

1 (c) NO RELINQUISHMENT OR REDUCTION.—Nothing
2 in this section shall be construed as a relinquishment or
3 reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by
4 the United States in the State on or before the date of
5 enactment of this Act.

6 (d) RESERVATION FOR SPECIFIC WILDERNESS.—
7 The Federal water rights reserved by this section are spe-
8 cific to the wilderness located in the State designated by
9 this Act. Nothing in this section related to reserved Fed-
10 eral water rights shall be construed as establishing a
11 precedent with regard to any future designations, nor shall
12 it constitute an interpretation of any other Act or any des-
13 ignation made pursuant thereto.

