

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1195

To promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2025

Ms. ROSEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To promote conservation, improve public land management, and provide for sensible development in Pershing County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives 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 “Pershing County Economic Development and Conserva-
6 tion Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—CHECKERBOARD LAND RESOLUTION

- Sec. 101. Findings.
- Sec. 102. Sale or exchange of eligible land.
- Sec. 103. Sale of encumbered land.
- Sec. 104. Disposition of proceeds.

TITLE II—WILDERNESS AREAS

- Sec. 201. Additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Sec. 202. Administration.
- Sec. 203. Wildlife management.
- Sec. 204. Release of wilderness study areas.
- Sec. 205. Native American cultural and religious uses.

TITLE III—TRIBAL TRUST LAND

- Sec. 301. Transfer of land to be held in trust for the Lovelock Paiute Tribe.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 4 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
 7 Resources of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
 9 of the House of Representatives.

10 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Per-
 11 shing County, Nevada.

12 (3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term “eligible land”
 13 means any land administered by the Director of the
 14 Bureau of Land Management—

15 (A) that is within the area identified on
 16 the Map as “Checkerboard Lands Resolution

1 Area” that is designated for disposal by the
2 Secretary through—

3 (i) the Winnemucca Consolidated Re-
4 source Management Plan; or

5 (ii) any subsequent amendment or re-
6 vision to the management plan that is un-
7 dertaken with full public involvement;

8 (B) that is identified on the Map as “Addi-
9 tional Lands Eligible for Disposal”; and
10 (C) that is not encumbered land.

11 (4) ENCUMBERED LAND.—The term “encum-
12 bered land” means any land administered by the Di-
13 rector of the Bureau of Land Management within
14 the area identified on the Map as “Checkerboard
15 Lands Resolution Area” that is encumbered by min-
16 ing claims, millsites, or tunnel sites.

17 (5) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-
18 titled “Pershing County Checkerboard Lands Reso-
19 lution” and dated July 8, 2024.

20 (6) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term “qualified
21 entity” means, with respect to a portion of encum-
22 bered land—

23 (A) the owner of a mining claim, millsite,
24 or tunnel site located on a portion of the en-

1 cumbered land on the date of enactment of this
2 Act; and

3 (B) a successor in interest of an owner de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A).

5 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of the Interior.

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

9 (9) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilderness
10 area” means a wilderness area designated by section
11 201(a).

12 **TITLE I—CHECKERBOARD LAND** 13 **RESOLUTION**

14 **SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

15 Congress finds that—

16 (1) since the passage of the Act of July 1, 1862
17 (12 Stat. 489, chapter 120) (commonly known as
18 the “Pacific Railway Act of 1862”), under which
19 railroad land grants along the Union Pacific Rail-
20 road right-of-way created a checkerboard land pat-
21 tern of alternating public land and privately owned
22 land, management of the land in the checkerboard
23 area has been a constant source of frustration for
24 the County government, private landholders in the
25 County, and the Federal Government;

1 (2) management of Federal land in the checker-
2 board area has been costly and difficult for the Fed-
3 eral land management agencies, creating a disincen-
4 tive to manage the land effectively;

5 (3) parcels of land within the checkerboard area
6 in the County will not vary significantly in appraised
7 value by acre due to the similarity of highest and
8 best use in the County; and

9 (4) consolidation of appropriate land within the
10 checkerboard area through sales and exchanges for
11 development and Federal management will—

12 (A) help improve the tax base of the Coun-
13 ty; and

14 (B) simplify management for the Federal
15 Government.

16 **SEC. 102. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ELIGIBLE LAND.**

17 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCE.—Notwith-
18 standing sections 202, 203 (other than subsection (b) of
19 that section), 206 (other than subsections (d) and (f) of
20 that section), and 209 of the Federal Land Policy and
21 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713, 1716,
22 1719), as soon as practicable after the date of enactment
23 of this Act, the Secretary, in accordance with this Act and
24 any other applicable law and subject to valid existing

1 rights, shall conduct sales or exchanges of the eligible land
2 as depicted on the Map.

3 (b) JOINT SELECTION REQUIRED.—After providing
4 public notice, the Secretary and the County shall jointly
5 select parcels of eligible land to be offered for sale or ex-
6 change under subsection (a).

7 (c) METHOD OF SALE.—A sale of eligible land under
8 subsection (a) shall be—

9 (1) consistent with subsections (d) and (f) of
10 section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
11 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713);

12 (2) conducted through a competitive bidding
13 process, under which adjoining landowners are of-
14 fered the first option, unless the Secretary deter-
15 mines there are suitable and qualified buyers that
16 are not adjoining landowners; and

17 (3) for not less than fair market value, based
18 on an appraisal in accordance with the Uniform
19 Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice and
20 this Act.

21 (d) LAND EXCHANGES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act and subject to the
24 joint selection requirements under subsection (b),

1 the Secretary shall offer to exchange all eligible land
2 under this section for private land.

3 (2) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The value of the eligi-
5 ble land and private land to be exchanged under
6 paragraph (1)—

7 (i) shall be equal; or

8 (ii) shall be made equal in accordance
9 with subparagraph (B).

10 (B) EQUALIZATION.—

11 (i) SURPLUS OF ELIGIBLE LAND.—

12 With respect to the eligible land and pri-
13 vate land to be exchanged under paragraph
14 (1), if the value of the eligible land exceeds
15 the value of the private land, the value of
16 the eligible land and the private land shall
17 be equalized by—

18 (I) the owner of the private land
19 making a cash equalization payment
20 to the Secretary;

21 (II) adding private land to the
22 exchange; or

23 (III) removing eligible land from
24 the exchange.

1 (ii) SURPLUS OF PRIVATE LAND.—

2 With respect to the eligible land and pri-
 3 vate land to be exchanged under paragraph
 4 (1), if the value of the private land exceeds
 5 the value of the eligible land, the value of
 6 the private land and the eligible land shall
 7 be equalized by—

8 (I) the Secretary making a cash
 9 equalization payment to the owner of
 10 the private land, in accordance with
 11 section 206(b) of the Federal Land
 12 Policy and Management Act of 1976
 13 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b));

14 (II) adding eligible land to the
 15 exchange; or

16 (III) removing private land from
 17 the exchange.

18 (3) ADJACENT LAND.—To the extent prac-
 19 ticable, the Secretary shall seek to enter into agree-
 20 ments with one or more owners of private land adja-
 21 cent to the eligible land for the exchange of the pri-
 22 vate land for the eligible land, if the Secretary deter-
 23 mines that the exchange would consolidate Federal
 24 land ownership and facilitate improved Federal land
 25 management.

1 (4) PRIORITY LAND EXCHANGES.—In acquiring
 2 private land under this subsection, the Secretary
 3 shall give priority to the acquisition of private land
 4 in higher-value natural resource areas in the County.

5 (e) MASS APPRAISALS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
 7 the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years
 8 thereafter, the Secretary shall—

9 (A) conduct a mass appraisal of eligible
 10 land to be sold or exchanged under this section;

11 (B) prepare an evaluation analysis for each
 12 land transaction under this section; and

13 (C) make available to the public the results
 14 of the mass appraisals conducted under sub-
 15 paragraph (A).

16 (2) USE.—The Secretary may use mass ap-
 17 praisals and evaluation analyses conducted under
 18 paragraph (1) to facilitate exchanges of eligible land
 19 for private land.

20 (3) APPLICABLE LAW.—An appraisal under
 21 paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with
 22 nationally recognized appraisal standards, including,
 23 as appropriate—

24 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
 25 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

1 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional
2 Appraisal Practice.

3 (4) DURATION.—An appraisal conducted under
4 paragraph (1) shall remain valid for 5 years after
5 the date on which the appraisal is approved by the
6 Secretary.

7 (f) DEADLINE FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE; EXCLU-
8 SIONS.—

9 (1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 90 days after
10 the date on which the eligible land is jointly selected
11 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall offer for
12 sale or exchange the parcels of eligible land jointly
13 selected under that subsection.

14 (2) POSTPONEMENT OR EXCLUSION.—The Sec-
15 retary or the County may postpone, or exclude from,
16 a sale or exchange of all or a portion of the eligible
17 land jointly selected under subsection (b) for emer-
18 gency ecological or safety reasons.

19 (g) WITHDRAWAL.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing
21 rights and mining claims, millsites, and tunnel sites,
22 effective on the date on which a parcel of eligible
23 land is jointly selected under subsection (b) for sale
24 or exchange, that parcel is withdrawn from—

1 (A) all forms of entry and appropriation
2 under the public land laws, including the min-
3 ing laws;

4 (B) location, entry, and patent under the
5 mining laws; and

6 (C) operation of the mineral leasing and
7 geothermal leasing laws.

8 (2) TERMINATION.—The withdrawal of a parcel
9 of eligible land under paragraph (1) shall termi-
10 nate—

11 (A) on the date of sale or, in the case of
12 exchange, the conveyance of title of the parcel
13 of eligible land under this section; or

14 (B) with respect to any parcel of eligible
15 land selected for sale or exchange under sub-
16 section (b) that is not sold or exchanged, not
17 later than 2 years after the date on which the
18 parcel was offered for sale or exchange under
19 this section.

20 (h) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 shall finalize maps and legal descriptions of the par-
24 cels of eligible land to be sold or exchanged under
25 this section.

1 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal de-
 2 scriptions finalized under paragraph (1) shall be on
 3 file and available for public inspection in appropriate
 4 offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

5 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the
 6 County may, by mutual agreement—

7 (A) make minor boundary adjustments to
 8 the eligible land to be sold or exchanged under
 9 this section; and

10 (B) correct any minor errors, including
 11 clerical and typographical errors, on the Map or
 12 any maps, acreage estimates, or legal descrip-
 13 tions finalized under this subsection.

14 **SEC. 103. SALE OF ENCUMBERED LAND.**

15 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCE.—Notwith-
 16 standing sections 202, 203, 206, and 209 of the Federal
 17 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
 18 1712, 1713, 1716, 1719), not later than 90 days after
 19 the date of enactment of this Act and subject to valid ex-
 20 isting rights held by third parties, the Secretary shall offer
 21 to convey to qualified entities, for fair market value, the
 22 remaining right, title, and interest of the United States,
 23 in and to the encumbered land as depicted on the Map.

24 (b) COSTS OF SALES TO QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—As
 25 a condition of each conveyance of encumbered land under

1 this section, the qualified entity shall pay all costs related
2 to the conveyance of the encumbered land, including the
3 costs of surveys and other administrative costs associated
4 with the conveyance.

5 (c) OFFER TO CONVEY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date on which the Secretary receives a fair
8 market offer from a qualified entity for the convey-
9 ance of encumbered land, the Secretary shall accept
10 the fair market value offer.

11 (2) APPRAISAL.—Fair market value of the in-
12 terest of the United States in and to encumbered
13 land shall be determined by an appraisal conducted
14 in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Pro-
15 fessional Appraisal Practice.

16 (d) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
17 date of acceptance by the Secretary of an offer from a
18 qualified entity under subsection (c)(1) and completion of
19 a sale for all or part of the applicable portion of encum-
20 bered land to the qualified entity, the Secretary, by deliv-
21 ery of an appropriate deed, patent, or other valid instru-
22 ment of conveyance, shall convey to the qualified entity
23 all remaining right, title, and interest of the United States
24 in and to the applicable portion of the encumbered land.

1 (e) MERGER.—Subject to valid existing rights held
 2 by third parties, on delivery of the instrument of convey-
 3 ance to the qualified entity under subsection (d), the prior
 4 interests in the locatable minerals and the right to use
 5 the surface for mineral purposes held by the qualified enti-
 6 ty under a mining claim, millsite, tunnel site, or any other
 7 Federal land use authorization applicable to the encum-
 8 bered land included in the instrument of conveyance, shall
 9 merge with all right, title, and interest conveyed to the
 10 qualified entity by the United States under this section
 11 to ensure that the qualified entity receives fee simple title
 12 to the purchased encumbered land.

13 **SEC. 104. DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.**

14 (a) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Of the proceeds
 15 from the sale of land under this title—

16 (1) 5 percent shall be disbursed to the State for
 17 use in the general education program of the State;

18 (2) 10 percent shall be disbursed to the County
 19 for use as determined through normal County budg-
 20 eting procedures; and

21 (3) the remainder shall be deposited in a special
 22 account in the Treasury of the United States, to be
 23 known as the “Pershing County Special Account”,
 24 which shall be available to the Secretary, in con-
 25 sultation with the County, for—

1 (A) the acquisition of land from willing
2 sellers (including interests in land) in the Coun-
3 ty—

4 (i) within a wilderness area;

5 (ii) that protects other environ-
6 mentally significant land;

7 (iii) that secures public access to Fed-
8 eral land for hunting, fishing, and other
9 recreational purposes; or

10 (iv) that improves management of
11 Federal land within the area identified as
12 “Checkerboard Lands Resolution Area” on
13 the Map; and

14 (B) the reimbursement of costs incurred by
15 the Secretary in preparing for the sale or ex-
16 change of land under this title.

17 (b) INVESTMENT OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—Any
18 amounts deposited in the special account established
19 under subsection (a)(3)—

20 (1) shall earn interest in an amount determined
21 by the Secretary of the Treasury, based on the cur-
22 rent average market yield on outstanding marketable
23 obligations of the United States of comparable ma-
24 turities; and

1 (2) may be expended by the Secretary in ac-
2 cordance with this section.

3 (c) REPORTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September
5 30 of the fifth fiscal year after the date of enact-
6 ment of this Act, and every 5 fiscal years thereafter,
7 the Secretary shall submit to the State, the County,
8 and the appropriate congressional committees a re-
9 port on the operation of the special account estab-
10 lished under subsection (a)(3) for the preceding 5
11 fiscal years.

12 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under
13 paragraph (1) shall include, for the fiscal year cov-
14 ered by the report—

15 (A) a statement of the amounts deposited
16 into the special account;

17 (B) a description of the expenditures made
18 from the special account for the fiscal year, in-
19 cluding the purpose of the expenditures;

20 (C) recommendations for additional au-
21 thorities to fulfill the purpose of the special ac-
22 count; and

23 (D) a statement of the balance remaining
24 in the special account at the end of the fiscal
25 year.

1 **TITLE II—WILDERNESS AREAS**

2 **SEC. 201. ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS**
3 **PRESERVATION SYSTEM.**

4 (a) ADDITIONS.—In accordance with the Wilderness
5 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following parcels of Fed-
6 eral land in the State are designated as wilderness and
7 as components of the National Wilderness Preservation
8 System:

9 (1) CAIN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITION.—
10 Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of
11 Land Management, comprising approximately
12 12,339 acres, as generally depicted on the map enti-
13 tled “Proposed Cain Mountain Wilderness” and
14 dated July 8, 2024, which is incorporated in, and
15 considered to be a part of, the Cain Mountain Wil-
16 derness designated by sections 2905(b)(1)(C) and
17 2932(a)(1) of the James M. Inhofe National De-
18 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Pub-
19 lic Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3040; 136 Stat. 3048).

20 (2) BLUEWING WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal
21 land managed by the Bureau of Land Management,
22 comprising approximately 24,900 acres, as generally
23 depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Bluewing
24 Wilderness” and dated July 8, 2024, which shall be
25 known as the “Bluewing Wilderness”.

1 (3) SELENITE PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain
2 Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Man-
3 agement, comprising approximately 22,822 acres, as
4 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
5 Selenite Peak Wilderness” and dated July 8, 2024,
6 which shall be known as the “Selenite Peak Wilder-
7 ness”.

8 (4) MOUNT LIMBO WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
9 eral land managed by the Bureau of Land Manage-
10 ment, comprising approximately 11,855 acres, as
11 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
12 Mt. Limbo Wilderness” and dated July 8, 2024,
13 which shall be known as the “Mount Limbo Wilder-
14 ness”.

15 (5) NORTH SAHWAVE WILDERNESS.—Certain
16 Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Man-
17 agement, comprising approximately 13,875 acres, as
18 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
19 North Sahwave Wilderness” and dated July 8, 2024,
20 which shall be known as the “North Sahwave Wil-
21 derness”.

22 (6) GRANDFATHERS WILDERNESS.—Certain
23 Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Man-
24 agement, comprising approximately 35,339 acres, as
25 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed

1 Grandfathers Wilderness” and dated July 8, 2024,
2 which shall be known as the “Grandfathers Wilder-
3 ness”.

4 (7) FENCEMAKER WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
5 eral land managed by the Bureau of Land Manage-
6 ment, comprising approximately 14,942 acres, as
7 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
8 Fencemaker Wilderness” and dated July 8, 2024,
9 which shall be known as the “Fencemaker Wilder-
10 ness”.

11 (b) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of any portion of a
12 wilderness area that is bordered by a road shall be 100
13 feet from the centerline of the road.

14 (c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
17 shall file a map and legal description of each wilder-
18 ness area.

19 (2) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description
20 prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same
21 force and effect as if included in this Act, except
22 that the Secretary may correct clerical and typo-
23 graphical errors in the map or legal description.

24 (3) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal de-
25 scription prepared under paragraph (1) shall be on

1 file and available for public inspection in the appro-
2 priate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

3 (4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing
4 rights, the wilderness areas designated by subsection
5 (a) are withdrawn from—

6 (A) all forms of entry, appropriation, and
7 disposal under the public land laws;

8 (B) location, entry, and patent under the
9 mining laws; and

10 (C) disposition under all laws relating to
11 mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral ma-
12 terials.

13 **SEC. 202. ADMINISTRATION.**

14 (a) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
15 the wilderness areas shall be administered by the Sec-
16 retary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
17 1131 et seq.), except that with respect to the wilderness
18 areas—

19 (1) any reference in that Act to the effective
20 date shall be considered to be a reference to the date
21 of enactment of this Act; and

22 (2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary
23 of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference
24 to the Secretary.

1 (b) LIVESTOCK.—The grazing of livestock in the wil-
2 derness areas, if established before the date of enactment
3 of this Act, shall be allowed to continue, subject to such
4 reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Sec-
5 retary considers to be necessary in accordance with—

6 (1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16
7 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

8 (2) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of
9 the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular
10 Affairs of the House of Representatives accom-
11 panying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (House
12 Report 101–405).

13 (c) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTER-
14 ESTS.—Any land or interest in land within the boundary
15 of a wilderness area that is acquired by the United States
16 after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to
17 and administered as part of the wilderness area.

18 (d) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Congress does not intend for
20 the designation of the wilderness areas to create pro-
21 tective perimeters or buffer zones around the wilder-
22 ness areas.

23 (2) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact
24 that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or
25 heard from areas within a wilderness area shall not

1 preclude the conduct of those activities or uses out-
2 side the boundary of the wilderness area.

3 (e) MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this title
4 restricts or precludes—

5 (1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over
6 the wilderness areas, including military overflights
7 that can be seen or heard within the wilderness
8 areas;

9 (2) flight testing and evaluation; or

10 (3) the designation or creation of new units of
11 special use airspace, or the establishment of military
12 flight training routes, over the wilderness areas.

13 (f) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGE-
14 MENT.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilder-
15 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may take
16 such measures in the wilderness areas as are necessary
17 for the control of fire, insects, and diseases (including, as
18 the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordina-
19 tion of the activities with a State or local agency).

20 (g) CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.—In ac-
21 cordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)
22 and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary
23 may prescribe, the Secretary may authorize the installa-
24 tion and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or cli-
25 matological data collection devices in the wilderness areas

1 if the Secretary determines that the facilities and access
2 to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood con-
3 trol, or water reservoir operation activities.

4 (h) WATER RIGHTS.—

5 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (A) the wilderness areas are located—

7 (i) in the semiarid region of the Great
8 Basin; and

9 (ii) at the headwaters of the streams
10 and rivers on land with respect to which
11 there are few, if any—

12 (I) actual or proposed water re-
13 source facilities located upstream; and

14 (II) opportunities for diversion,
15 storage, or other uses of water occur-
16 ring outside the land that would ad-
17 versely affect the wilderness values of
18 the land;

19 (B) the wilderness areas are generally not
20 suitable for use or development of new water re-
21 source facilities; and

22 (C) because of the unique nature of the
23 wilderness areas, it is possible to provide for
24 proper management and protection of the wil-

1 derness and other values of land in ways dif-
2 ferent from those used in other laws.

3 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is
4 to protect the wilderness values of the wilderness
5 areas by means other than a federally reserved water
6 right.

7 (3) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
8 this title—

9 (A) constitutes an express or implied res-
10 ervation by the United States of any water or
11 water rights with respect to the wilderness
12 areas;

13 (B) affects any water rights in the State
14 (including any water rights held by the United
15 States) in existence on the date of enactment of
16 this Act;

17 (C) establishes a precedent with regard to
18 any future wilderness designations;

19 (D) affects the interpretation of, or any
20 designation made under, any other Act; or

21 (E) limits, alters, modifies, or amends any
22 interstate compact or equitable apportionment
23 decree that apportions water among and be-
24 tween the State and other States.

1 (4) NEVADA WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall
2 follow the procedural and substantive requirements
3 of State law in order to obtain and hold any water
4 rights not in existence on the date of enactment of
5 this Act with respect to the wilderness areas.

6 (5) NEW PROJECTS.—

7 (A) DEFINITION OF WATER RESOURCE FA-
8 CILITY.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,
10 the term “water resource facility” means
11 irrigation and pumping facilities, res-
12 ervoirs, water conservation works, aque-
13 ducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hy-
14 dropower projects, transmission and other
15 ancillary facilities, and other water diver-
16 sion, storage, and carriage structures.

17 (ii) EXCLUSION.—In this paragraph,
18 the term “water resource facility” does not
19 include wildlife guzzlers.

20 (B) RESTRICTION ON NEW WATER RE-
21 SOURCE FACILITIES.—Except as otherwise pro-
22 vided in this Act, on and after the date of en-
23 actment of this Act, neither the President nor
24 any other officer, employee, or agent of the
25 United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or

1 issue a license or permit for the development of
2 any new water resource facility within the wil-
3 derness areas.

4 (i) TEMPORARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title pre-
6 vents the placement of a temporary telecommuni-
7 cations device for law enforcement or agency admin-
8 istrative purposes in the Selenite Peak Wilderness in
9 accordance with paragraph (2).

10 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Any tem-
11 porary telecommunications device authorized by the
12 Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

13 (A) be carried out in accordance with—

14 (i) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
15 1131 et seq.); and

16 (ii) all other applicable laws (including
17 regulations);

18 (B) to the maximum practicable, be located
19 in such a manner as to minimize impacts on the
20 recreational and other wilderness values of the
21 area; and

22 (C) be for a period of not longer than 7
23 years.

1 **SEC. 203. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
3 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)),
4 nothing in this title affects or diminishes the jurisdiction
5 of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management,
6 including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping,
7 in the wilderness areas.

8 (b) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In furtherance of
9 the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16
10 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct any man-
11 agement activities in the wilderness areas that are nec-
12 essary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations
13 and the habitats to support the populations, if the activi-
14 ties are carried out—

15 (1) consistent with relevant wilderness manage-
16 ment plans; and

17 (2) in accordance with—

18 (A) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
19 seq.); and

20 (B) appropriate policies, such as those set
21 forth in Appendix B of the report of the Com-
22 mittee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the
23 House of Representatives accompanying H.R.
24 2570 of the 101st Congress (House Report
25 101–405), including noxious weed treatment
26 and the occasional and temporary use of motor-

1 ized vehicles if the use, as determined by the
2 Secretary, would promote healthy, viable, and
3 more naturally distributed wildlife populations
4 that would enhance wilderness values with the
5 minimal impact necessary to reasonably accom-
6 plish those tasks.

7 (c) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—In accordance with sec-
8 tion 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1))
9 and in accordance with appropriate policies such as those
10 set forth in Appendix B of the Committee on Interior and
11 Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accom-
12 panying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (House Report
13 101–405), the State may continue to use aircraft, includ-
14 ing helicopters, to survey, capture, transplant, monitor,
15 and provide water for wildlife populations.

16 (d) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—
17 Subject to subsection (f), the Secretary shall authorize
18 structures and facilities, including existing structures and
19 facilities, for wildlife water development projects, including
20 guzzlers, in the wilderness areas if—

21 (1) the structures and facilities will, as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values
23 by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally
24 distributed wildlife populations; and

1 (2) the visual impacts of the structures and fa-
2 cilities on the wilderness areas can reasonably be
3 minimized.

4 (e) HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may des-
6 ignate areas in which, and establish periods during
7 which, for reasons of public safety, administration,
8 or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fish-
9 ing, or trapping will be permitted in the wilderness
10 areas.

11 (2) CONSULTATION.—Except in emergencies,
12 the Secretary shall consult with the appropriate
13 State agency and notify the public before taking any
14 action under paragraph (1).

15 (f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The State, includ-
16 ing a designee of the State, may conduct wildlife manage-
17 ment activities in the wilderness areas—

18 (1) in accordance with the terms and conditions
19 specified in the cooperative agreement between the
20 Secretary and the State entitled “Wildlife Manage-
21 ment in Nevada BLM Wilderness Areas” and signed
22 September 2024, including any amendments to the
23 cooperative agreement agreed to by the Secretary
24 and the State; and

1 (2) subject to all applicable laws (including reg-
2 ulations).

3 **SEC. 204. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.**

4 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for the purposes
5 of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
6 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), the approximately
7 48,600 acres of public land in the portions of the China
8 Mountain, Mt. Limbo, Selenite Mountains, and Tobin
9 Range wilderness study areas that have not been des-
10 ignated as wilderness by subsection (a) of section 201 and
11 the portion of the Augusta Mountains wilderness study
12 area within the County that has not been designated as
13 wilderness by that subsection have been adequately stud-
14 ied for wilderness designation.

15 (b) RELEASE.—The public land described in sub-
16 section (a)—

17 (1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the
18 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
19 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

20 (2) shall be managed in accordance with the ap-
21 plicable land use plans adopted under section 202 of
22 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
23 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

1 **SEC. 205. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS**
 2 **USES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title alters or di-
 4 minishes the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe (as defined
 5 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
 6 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

7 (b) CULTURAL USES.—Nothing in this title precludes
 8 the traditional collection of pine nuts in a wilderness area
 9 for personal, noncommercial use consistent with the Wil-
 10 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

11 **TITLE III—TRIBAL TRUST LAND**

12 **SEC. 301. TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR**
 13 **THE LOVELOCK PAIUTE TRIBE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
 15 all right, title, and interest of the United States in and
 16 to the land described in subsection (b) shall be—

17 (1) held in trust by the United States for the
 18 benefit of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe; and

19 (2) part of the reservation of the Lovelock Pai-
 20 ute Tribe.

21 (b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in
 22 subsection (a) is the approximately 10 acres of land ad-
 23 ministered by the Bureau of Land Management in the
 24 State, as depicted on the map prepared under subsection
 25 (d).

1 (c) SURVEY.—Not later than 180 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a
3 survey to establish the boundaries of the land taken into
4 trust under subsection (a).

5 (d) MAP.—As soon as practicable after the date on
6 which the Secretary completes the survey under subsection
7 (c), the Secretary shall prepare a map that depicts the
8 boundaries of the land established under that subsection.

9 (e) GAMING PROHIBITED.—The land taken into trust
10 under subsection (a) shall not be eligible, or considered
11 to have been taken into trust, for class II gaming or class
12 III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the
13 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

