

Calendar No. 477

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1470**

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

JULY 23, 2026

Reported by Mr. LEE, without amendment

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Continental Divide Na-
5 tional Scenic Trail Completion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (2) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the Con-
6 tinental Divide National Scenic Trail.

7 (3) TRAIL COMPLETION TEAM.—The term
8 “Trail Completion Team” means the joint Forest
9 Service-Bureau of Land Management Trail comple-
10 tion team established under section 4(a).

11 **SEC. 3. COMPLETION OF CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL**
12 **SCENIC TRAIL.**

13 Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Sec-
14 retary and the Secretary of the Interior shall seek to com-
15 plete the Trail as a continuous route not later than 10
16 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 4. TRAIL COMPLETION TEAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Sec-
20 retary of the Interior shall establish a joint Forest Service-
21 Bureau of Land Management Trail completion team to
22 work in coordination with the administrator of the Trail—

23 (1) to facilitate the completion and optimization
24 of the Trail, consistent with the purposes of the
25 Trail; and

1 (2) to assist in the development of the com-
2 prehensive development plan for the Trail under sec-
3 tion 5.

4 (b) CONSULTATION.—As appropriate, the Trail Com-
5 pletion Team shall consult with other Federal agencies,
6 affected State, Tribal, and local governments, landowners,
7 affected land-grant mercedes owners and users, acequias,
8 and other interested parties in—

9 (1) the completion and optimization of the
10 Trail; and

11 (2) the development and completion of the com-
12 prehensive development plan for the Trail under sec-
13 tion 5.

14 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE**
15 **CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL SCENIC**
16 **TRAIL.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
18 date of establishment of the Trail Completion Team under
19 section 4(a), the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive
20 development plan for the Trail.

21 (b) PLAN INCLUSIONS.—The comprehensive develop-
22 ment plan under subsection (a) shall—

23 (1) identify any gaps in the Trail for which the
24 Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior have not
25 been able to acquire land;

1 (2) identify opportunities for the use of ease-
2 ments acquired from willing sellers to facilitate com-
3 pletion of the Trail; and

4 (3) include general and site-specific Trail devel-
5 opment plans, including anticipated costs of the
6 plans.

7 **SEC. 6. PARTNERSHIPS.**

8 The Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall
9 seek to enter into agreements with volunteer and nonprofit
10 organizations, as appropriate, to facilitate the completion
11 and administration of the Trail.

12 **SEC. 7. EFFECT.**

13 Nothing in this Act—

14 (1) provides any authority to acquire land or in-
15 terests in land for inclusion in the Trail beyond the
16 authorities provided for the Trail in the National
17 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.), includ-
18 ing acquisition by eminent domain; or

19 (2) makes the acquisition of land or interests in
20 land for the Trail a priority over other land acquisi-
21 tion authorizations.

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