

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1791

To designate certain special management areas, wildlife conservation areas, protection areas, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and a scientific research and education area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2025

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To designate certain special management areas, wildlife conservation areas, protection areas, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and a scientific research and education area in the State of Colorado, 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 “Gunnison Outdoor Re-  
5       sources Protection Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1 (1) COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED.—The term  
 2 “collaboratively developed”, with respect to a  
 3 project, means the project is developed and imple-  
 4 mented through a collaborative process that—

5 (A) includes multiple interested persons  
 6 representing diverse interests; and

7 (B)(i) is transparent and nonexclusive; or

8 (ii) meets the requirements for a resource  
 9 advisory committee under—

10 (I) for projects carried out on Na-  
 11 tional Forest System land, subsections (c)  
 12 through (f) of section 205 of the Secure  
 13 Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-  
 14 mination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125); or

15 (II) for projects carried out on Bu-  
 16 reau of Land Management land, subpart  
 17 1784 of part 1700 of title 43, Code of  
 18 Federal Regulations (or successor regula-  
 19 tions).

20 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Gun-  
 21 nison County, Colorado.

22 (3) COVERED AREA.—The term “covered area”  
 23 means each of the Special Management Areas, Wild-  
 24 life Conservation Areas, Protection Areas, and

1 Recreation Management Areas and the Scientific  
2 Research and Education Area.

3 (4) DECOMMISSION.—The term “decommis-  
4 sion”, with respect to a road, means—

5 (A) reestablishing native vegetation on the  
6 road;

7 (B) restoring any natural drainage, water-  
8 shed function, or other ecological processes that  
9 were disrupted or adversely impacted by the  
10 road by removing or hydrologically dis-  
11 connecting the road prism and reestablishing  
12 stable slope contours;

13 (C) effectively blocking the road to vehic-  
14 ular traffic, where feasible; and

15 (D) developing and implementing an effec-  
16 tive monitoring and response plan for invasive  
17 species and vehicular traffic incursions.

18 (5) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-  
19 logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in  
20 section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-  
21 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this  
22 Act).

23 (6) OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE.—The term “off-  
24 highway vehicle”—

1 (A) with respect to National Forest Sys-  
 2 tem land, has the meaning given the term in  
 3 section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regu-  
 4 lations (or a successor regulation); and

5 (B) with respect to land managed by the  
 6 Bureau of Land Management, has the meaning  
 7 given the term “off-road vehicle” in section  
 8 8340.0–5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regula-  
 9 tions (or a successor regulation).

10 (7) OVER-SNOW VEHICLE.—The term “over-  
 11 snow vehicle” has the meaning given the term in  
 12 section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-  
 13 tions (or a successor regulation).

14 (8) PROTECTION AREA.—The term “Protection  
 15 Area” means a protection area designated by section  
 16 5(a).

17 (9) RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA.—The  
 18 term “Recreation Management Area” means a recre-  
 19 ation management area designated by section 6(a).

20 (10) RESTORE.—The term “restore” has the  
 21 meaning given the term in section 219.19 of title 36,  
 22 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the  
 23 date of enactment of this Act).

24 (11) SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
 25 AREA.—The term “Scientific Research and Edu-

1 cation Area” means the Rocky Mountain Scientific  
2 Research and Education Area designated by section  
3 7(a).

4 (12) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
5 means—

6 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting  
7 through the Chief of the Forest Service), with  
8 respect to National Forest System land; and

9 (B) the Secretary of the Interior with re-  
10 spect to land managed by the Director of the  
11 Bureau of Land Management.

12 (13) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term  
13 “Special Management Area” means a special man-  
14 agement area designated by section 3(a).

15 (14) STATE.—The term “State” means the  
16 State of Colorado.

17 (15) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilder-  
18 ness area” means any area designated as wilderness  
19 by the amendments to section 2(a) of the Colorado  
20 Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Pub-  
21 lic Law 103–77) made by section 8(a).

22 (16) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term  
23 “wildland-urban interface” means land within a cov-  
24 ered area that is within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the interface and  
25 intermix areas mapped as the wildland-urban inter-

face in the document entitled “The 2010 Wildland-Urban Interface of the Conterminous United States” and published by the Department of Agriculture in 2015.

(17) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—The term “Wildlife Conservation Area” means a wildlife conservation area designated by section 4(a).

(18) WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “winter travel management plan” means a decision designating roads, trails, or areas for over-snow vehicle use in accordance with—

(A) in the case of Forest Service land within a covered area, subpart C of part 212 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(B) in the case of Bureau of Land Management land within a covered area, subpart 8342 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

### **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) AMERICAN FLAG SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service comprising approximately 36,171 acres, as

1 generally depicted as “American Flag SMA” on the  
2 map entitled “Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement Creek,  
3 and Spring Creek” and dated August 27, 2024, is  
4 designated as the “American Flag Special Manage-  
5 ment Area”.

6 (2) BECKWITHS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT  
7 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
8 eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
9 Service comprising approximately 24,031 acres, as  
10 generally depicted as “Beckwiths SMA” on the map  
11 entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield Pass” and  
12 dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the  
13 “Beckwiths Special Management Area”.

14 (3) CLEAR FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT  
15 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
16 eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
17 Service comprising approximately 37,998 acres, as  
18 generally depicted as “Clear Fork SMA” on the map  
19 entitled “Sheet 2: McClure Pass” and dated August  
20 27, 2024, is designated as the “Clear Fork Special  
21 Management Area”.

22 (4) MCINTOSH MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGE-  
23 MENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, cer-  
24 tain Federal land in the County managed by the Bu-  
25 reau of Land Management and the Forest Service

1 comprising approximately 22,497 acres, as generally  
2 depicted as “McIntosh Mountain SMA” on the map  
3 entitled “Sheet 8: Gunnison Valley and Ohio Pass”  
4 and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the  
5 “McIntosh Mountain Special Management Area”.

6 (5) NORTH POVERTY GULCH SPECIAL MANAGE-  
7 MENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, cer-  
8 tain Federal land in the County managed by the  
9 Forest Service comprising approximately 5,476  
10 acres, as generally depicted as “North Poverty Gulch  
11 SMA” on the map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and  
12 Schofield Pass” and dated August 27, 2024, is des-  
13 ignated as the “North Poverty Gulch Special Man-  
14 agement Area”.

15 (6) PILOT KNOB SPECIAL MANAGEMENT  
16 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
17 eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
18 Service comprising approximately 16,973 acres, as  
19 generally depicted as “Pilot Knob SMA” on the map  
20 entitled “Sheet 2: McClure Pass” and dated August  
21 27, 2024, is designated as the “Pilot Knob Special  
22 Management Area”.

23 (7) SIGNAL PEAK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT  
24 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
25 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of



1 Land Management and the Forest Service com-  
2 prising approximately 28,345 acres, as generally de-  
3 picted as “Signal Peak SMA” on the map entitled  
4 “Sheet 9: Cabin Creek” and dated August 27, 2024,  
5 is designated as the “Signal Peak Special Manage-  
6 ment Area”.

7 (8) UNION PARK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT  
8 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
9 eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
10 Service comprising approximately 22,483 acres, as  
11 generally depicted as “Union Park SMA” on the  
12 map entitled “Sheet 5: Union Park” and dated Au-  
13 gust 27, 2024, is designated as the “Union Park  
14 Special Management Area”.

15 (9) WHETSTONE HEADWATERS SPECIAL MAN-  
16 AGEMENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
17 certain Federal land in the County managed by the  
18 Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management  
19 comprising approximately 20,676 acres, as generally  
20 depicted as “Whetstone Headwaters SMA” on the  
21 map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield Pass”  
22 and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the  
23 “Whetstone Headwaters Special Management Area”.

24 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Manage-  
25 ment Areas is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the

1 benefit of present and future generations the natural, sce-  
2 nic, scientific, cultural, watershed, recreation, and wildlife  
3 resources of the Special Management Areas.

4 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage  
6 the Special Management Areas in a manner that—

7 (A) conserves, protects, and enhances the  
8 resources of the Special Management Areas;  
9 and

10 (B) is in accordance with—

11 (i) this Act; and

12 (ii) other applicable laws.

13 (2) USES.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
15 only allow uses of the Special Management  
16 Areas that the Secretary determines would fur-  
17 ther the purpose described in subsection (b).

18 (B) VEHICLE AND BICYCLE USE.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—The use of off-high-  
20 way vehicles and bicycles in the Special  
21 Management Areas shall be permitted only  
22 on roads, trails, and areas designated for  
23 use by those vehicles on the date of enact-  
24 ment of this Act, except—

1 (I) as needed for administrative  
2 purposes;

3 (II) to respond to an emergency;

4 or

5 (III) as authorized under clauses  
6 (ii) and (iii).

7 (ii) WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT.—

8 For any portion of a Special Management  
9 Area for which the Secretary has not  
10 adopted a winter travel management plan  
11 as of the date of enactment of this Act, the  
12 Secretary—

13 (I) shall, not later than 3 years  
14 after the date of enactment of this  
15 Act, adopt a winter travel manage-  
16 ment plan with respect to the applica-  
17 ble portion of the Special Manage-  
18 ment Area; and

19 (II) may, during any period be-  
20 ginning on the date of enactment of  
21 this Act and ending on the date of  
22 adoption of a winter travel manage-  
23 ment plan for the applicable portion  
24 under subclause (I), permit the use of  
25 over-snow vehicles in the applicable

1                   portion of the Special Management  
2                   Area in accordance with the applicable  
3                   land management plan or other appli-  
4                   cable management direction.

5                   (iii) POTENTIAL TRAILS.—The Sec-  
6                   retary may permit—

7                               (I) the use of bicycles on the po-  
8                               tential trails described in paragraph  
9                               (3) if the trails are designated by the  
10                              Secretary for the use; and

11                             (II) the use of off-highway vehi-  
12                             cles on the potential trails described  
13                             in subparagraphs (A), (C), and (F) of  
14                             paragraph (3) if the trails are des-  
15                             ignated by the Secretary for the use.

16                   (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section af-  
17                   fects the potential development, in accordance with  
18                   applicable law, of—

19                             (A) a proposed trail of less than 50 inches  
20                             in width, commonly known as the “Big Grassy  
21                             Trail”, within the American Flag Special Man-  
22                             agement Area designated by subsection (a)(1);

23                             (B) the proposed trails, commonly known  
24                             as the “Crested Butte to Paonia Trail” and the  
25                             “Crested Butte to Carbondale Trail”, within

1 the Beckwiths Special Management Area des-  
2 ignated by subsection (a)(2);

3 (C) the proposed trails, commonly known  
4 as the “Antelope Ridge Trail and Connector”,  
5 the “East West Antelope Trail”, the “West An-  
6 telope Trail”, and the “Mill Creek Connector”,  
7 within the McIntosh Mountain Special Manage-  
8 ment Area designated by subsection (a)(4);

9 (D) the proposed trail, commonly known as  
10 the “Gunnison to Crested Butte Trail”, and the  
11 trails generally depicted in figure 7 of the docu-  
12 ment entitled “Candidate Conservation Agree-  
13 ment: For the Gunnison sage-grouse,  
14 *Centrocercus minimus*—Gunnison Basin Popu-  
15 lation” and dated 2012 within the Signal Peak  
16 Special Management Area designated by sub-  
17 section (a)(7);

18 (E) the proposed trails, commonly known  
19 as the “Gunnison to Crested Butte Trail” and  
20 the “Baxter Gulch to Splain’s Gulch Trail”, in  
21 the Whetstone Headwaters Special Management  
22 Area designated by subsection (a)(9); or

23 (F) the proposed trail, commonly known as  
24 the “Splain’s Gulch to Carbon Creek Trail”, in

1 the Whetstone Headwaters Special Management  
2 Area designated by subsection (a)(9).

3 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS.**

4 (a) DESIGNATION.—

5 (1) CABIN CREEK WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
6 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
7 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of  
8 Land Management and the Forest Service com-  
9 prising approximately 29,518 acres, as generally de-  
10 picted as “Cabin Creek WCA” on the map entitled  
11 “Sheet 9: Cabin Creek” and dated August 27, 2024,  
12 is designated as the “Cabin Creek Wildlife Conserva-  
13 tion Area”.

14 (2) FLAT TOP WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
15 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
16 eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
17 Service comprising approximately 28,844 acres, as  
18 generally depicted as “Flat Top WCA” on the map  
19 entitled “Sheet 8: Gunnison Valley and Ohio Pass”  
20 and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the  
21 “Flat Top Wildlife Conservation Area”.

22 (3) LAKE GULCH AND CEBOLLA CREEK WILD-  
23 LIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—Subject to valid exist-  
24 ing rights, certain Federal land in the County man-  
25 aged by the Bureau of Land Management com-

prising approximately 50,535 acres, as generally depicted as “Lake Gulch and Cebolla Creek WCA” on the map entitled “Sheet 11: Lake Fork” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the “Lake Gulch and Cebolla Creek Wildlife Conservation Area”.

(4) MATCHLESS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 12,975 acres, as generally depicted as “Matchless WCA” on the map entitled “Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement Creek, and Spring Creek” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the “Matchless Wildlife Conservation Area”.

(5) MUNSEY CREEK WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 3,281 acres, as generally depicted as “Munsey Creek WCA” on the map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield Pass” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the “Munsey Creek Wildlife Conservation Area”.

(6) PINNACLES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-

1        eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
2        Service and the Bureau of Land Management com-  
3        prising approximately 27,935 acres, as generally de-  
4        picted as “Pinnacles WCA” on the map entitled  
5        “Sheet 8: Gunnison Valley and Ohio Pass” and  
6        dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the “Pin-  
7        nacles Wildlife Conservation Area”.

8            (7) POWDERHORN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
9        AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
10       eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of  
11       Land Management comprising approximately 27,668  
12       acres, as generally depicted as “Powderhorn WCA”  
13       on the map entitled “Sheet 11: Lake Fork” and  
14       dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the  
15       “Powderhorn Wildlife Conservation Area”.

16           (8) SAWTOOTH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
17       AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
18       eral land in the County and in Saguache County,  
19       Colorado, managed by the Bureau of Land Manage-  
20       ment comprising approximately 43,109 acres, as  
21       generally depicted as “Sawtooth WCA” on the map  
22       entitled “Sheet 11: Lake Fork” and dated August  
23       27, 2024, is designated as the “Sawtooth Wildlife  
24       Conservation Area”.



1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Wildlife Con-  
2 servation Areas are—

3 (1) to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore  
4 for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future  
5 generations the wildlife and wildlife habitat of the  
6 Wildlife Conservation Areas; and

7 (2) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the  
8 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-  
9 tions the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, water-  
10 shed, and recreation resources of the Wildlife Con-  
11 servation Areas.

12 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage  
14 the Wildlife Conservation Areas in a manner that—

15 (A) furthers the purposes of the Wildlife  
16 Conservation Areas; and

17 (B) is in accordance with—

18 (i) this Act; and

19 (ii) other applicable laws.

20 (2) USES.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
22 only allow uses of the Wildlife Conservation  
23 Areas that the Secretary determines would fur-  
24 ther the purposes described in subsection (b).

25 (B) VEHICLE AND BICYCLE USE.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The use of off-high-  
2 way vehicles and bicycles in the Wildlife  
3 Conservation Areas shall be permitted only  
4 on roads, trails, and areas designated for  
5 the uses on the date of enactment of this  
6 Act.

7 (ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding  
8 clause (i)—

9 (I) off-highway vehicles and bicy-  
10 cles may be permitted—

11 (aa) as needed for adminis-  
12 trative purposes; or

13 (bb) to respond to an emer-  
14 gency;

15 (II) for any portion of a Wildlife  
16 Conservation Area for which the Sec-  
17 retary has not adopted a winter travel  
18 management plan as of the date of  
19 enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
20 retary—

21 (aa) shall, not later than 3  
22 years after the date of enactment  
23 of this Act, adopt a winter travel  
24 management plan for the applica-

1 ble portion of the Wildlife Con-  
2 servation Area; and

3 (bb) may, during the period  
4 beginning on the date of enact-  
5 ment of this Act and ending on  
6 the date of adoption of a winter  
7 travel management plan for the  
8 applicable portion under item  
9 (aa), permit the use of over-snow  
10 vehicles in the applicable portion  
11 of the Wildlife Conservation Area  
12 in accordance with the applicable  
13 land management plan or other  
14 applicable management direction;

15 (III) except as authorized under  
16 subclause (I), the use of off-highway  
17 vehicles and bicycles shall be prohib-  
18 ited in the Matchless Wildlife Con-  
19 servation Area designated by sub-  
20 section (a)(4); and

21 (IV) the Secretary may permit  
22 the use of bicycles on the potential  
23 trails described in paragraph (3) if  
24 the trails are designated by the Sec-  
25 retary for the use.

(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section affects the potential development, in accordance with applicable law, of—

(A) the proposed trail, commonly known as the “Gunnison to Crested Butte Trail”, in the Flat Top Wildlife Conservation Area designated by subsection (a)(2);

(B) the proposed trail, commonly known as the “Crested Butte to Carbondale Trail”, in the Munsey Creek Wildlife Conservation Area designated by subsection (a)(5); or

(C) the proposed trails, commonly known as the “Tenderfoot Mountain to Bambi’s Trail” and the “Big Loop Trail”, in the Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Area designated by subsection (a)(8).

## **SEC. 5. DESIGNATION OF PROTECTION AREAS.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) CASTLE PROTECTION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service comprising approximately 6,390 acres, as generally depicted as “Castle Protection Area” on the map entitled “Sheet 8: Gunnison Valley and Ohio Pass” and dated Au-

gust 27, 2024, is designated as the “Castle Protection Area”.

(2) DEER CREEK PROTECTION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service comprising approximately 3,136 acres, as generally depicted as “Deer Creek Protection Area” on the map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield Pass” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the “Deer Creek Protection Area”.

(3) GRANITE BASIN PROTECTION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 9,666 acres, as generally depicted as “Granite Basin Protection Area” on the map entitled “Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement Creek, and Spring Creek” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the “Granite Basin Protection Area”.

(4) SOUTH POVERTY GULCH PROTECTION AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the County managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 1,350 acres, as generally depicted as “South Poverty Gulch Protection Area” on

1 the map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield  
2 Pass” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as  
3 the “South Poverty Gulch Protection Area”.

4 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Protection  
5 Areas are—

6 (1) to protect the natural and undeveloped  
7 character of the Protection Areas; and

8 (2) to conserve and protect for the benefit and  
9 enjoyment of present and future generations the  
10 natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, watershed, recre-  
11 ation, and wildlife resources of the Protection Areas.

12 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage  
14 the Protection Areas in a manner that—

15 (A) furthers the purposes of the Protection  
16 Areas described in subsection (b); and

17 (B) is in accordance with—

18 (i) this Act; and

19 (ii) other applicable laws.

20 (2) USES.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
22 only allow uses of the Protection Areas that the  
23 Secretary determines would further the pur-  
24 poses described in subsection (b).

25 (B) VEHICLE USE.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
2 in clause (ii), as needed for administrative  
3 purposes, or to respond to an emergency,  
4 the use of off-highway vehicles in the Pro-  
5 tection Areas is prohibited.

6 (ii) OVER-SNOW VEHICLES.—The Sec-  
7 retary may permit the use of over-snow ve-  
8 hicles in the Deer Creek Protection Area  
9 designated by subsection (a)(2) on roads,  
10 trails, and areas designated for the use on  
11 the date of enactment of this Act.

12 (C) BICYCLES.—The Secretary may permit  
13 the use of bicycles in the Protection Areas  
14 only—

15 (i) on roads and trails designated for  
16 the use on the date of enactment of this  
17 Act;

18 (ii) as needed for administrative pur-  
19 poses;

20 (iii) to respond to an emergency; or

21 (iv) if designated by the Secretary for  
22 the use on the potential trails described in  
23 paragraph (3).

1           (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section af-  
 2           fects the potential development, in accordance with  
 3           applicable law, of—

4                   (A) the proposed trail, commonly known as  
 5                   the “Deer Creek to Brush Creek Connector  
 6                   Trail”, within the Deer Creek Protection Area  
 7                   designated by subsection (a)(2);

8                   (B) the proposed trail, commonly known as  
 9                   the “Eccher Exit Trail”, within the Granite  
 10                  Basin Protection Area designated by subsection  
 11                  (a)(3); or

12                  (C) the proposed trail, commonly known as  
 13                  the “Lower Loop Trail Extension”, in the  
 14                  South Poverty Gulch Protection Area des-  
 15                  ignated by subsection (a)(4).

16 **SEC. 6. DESIGNATION OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT**  
 17 **AREAS.**

18           (a) DESIGNATION.—

19                   (1) DOUBLE TOP RECREATION MANAGEMENT  
 20                  AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-  
 21                  eral land in the County managed by the Forest  
 22                  Service comprising approximately 14,734 acres, as  
 23                  generally depicted as “Double Top RMA” on the  
 24                  map entitled “Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement Creek,  
 25                  and Spring Creek” and dated August 27, 2024, is



1 designated as the “Double Top Recreation Manage-  
2 ment Area”.

3 (2) HORSE RANCH PARK RECREATION MANAGE-  
4 MENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, cer-  
5 tain Federal land in the County managed by the  
6 Forest Service comprising approximately 3,513  
7 acres, as generally depicted as “Horse Ranch Park  
8 RMA” on the map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and  
9 Schofield Pass” and dated August 27, 2024, is des-  
10 ignated as the “Horse Ranch Park Recreation Man-  
11 agement Area”.

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Recreation  
13 Management Areas are—

14 (1) to provide for, and improve the manage-  
15 ment of, recreation resources in the Recreation Man-  
16 agement Areas for the benefit and enjoyment of  
17 present and future generations; and

18 (2) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the  
19 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-  
20 tions the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, water-  
21 shed, and wildlife resources of the Recreation Man-  
22 agement Areas.

23 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage  
2       the Recreation Management Areas in a manner  
3       that—

4           (A) furthers the purposes of the Recre-  
5       ation Management Areas described in sub-  
6       section (b); and

7           (B) is in accordance with—

8                 (i) this Act; and

9                 (ii) other applicable laws.

10       (2) USES.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
12       only allow uses of the Recreation Management  
13       Areas that the Secretary determines would fur-  
14       ther the purposes described in subsection (b).

15           (B) VEHICLE AND BICYCLE USE.—

16                 (i) DOUBLE TOP.—

17                         (I) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
18       vided in subclause (II), the use of off-  
19       highway vehicles and bicycles in the  
20       Double Top Recreation Management  
21       Area designated by subsection (a)(1)  
22       shall be permitted only on roads and  
23       trails designated for the use on the  
24       date of enactment of this Act.

25                         (II) EXCEPTIONS.—

1 (aa) OVER-SNOW VEHI-  
2 CLES.—Except as provided in  
3 item (bb), the use of over-snow  
4 vehicles shall not be permitted in  
5 the Double Top Recreation Man-  
6 agement Area designated by sub-  
7 section (a)(1).

8 (bb) ADMINISTRATIVE  
9 USE.—Nothing in this section  
10 limits the use of off-highway ve-  
11 hicles in the Double Top Recre-  
12 ation Management Area des-  
13 ignated by subsection (a)(1) as  
14 necessary for administrative pur-  
15 poses or to respond to an emer-  
16 gency (including as appropriate  
17 for administrative support and  
18 emergency response during the  
19 Grand Traverse skiing event, as  
20 permitted by the Grand Mesa,  
21 Uncompahgre, and Gunnison Na-  
22 tional Forests).

23 (ii) HORSE RANCH PARK.—

24 (I) VEHICLE USE.—

1 (aa) IN GENERAL.—Except  
 2 as provided in item (bb), the use  
 3 of off-highway vehicles in the  
 4 Horse Ranch Park Recreation  
 5 Management Area designated by  
 6 subsection (a)(2) is prohibited.

7 (bb) EXCEPTIONS.—The  
 8 Secretary may permit the use of  
 9 over-snow vehicles in the Horse  
 10 Ranch Park Recreation Manage-  
 11 ment Area designated by sub-  
 12 section (a)(2)—

13 (AA) only on roads,  
 14 trails, and areas designated  
 15 for the use on the date of  
 16 enactment of this Act; or

17 (BB) as needed for ad-  
 18 ministrative purposes or to  
 19 respond to an emergency.

20 (II) BICYCLES.—The Secretary  
 21 may permit the use of bicycles in the  
 22 Horse Ranch Park Recreation Man-  
 23 agement Area designated by sub-  
 24 section (a)(2) only—

1 (aa) on roads, trails, and  
2 areas designated for the use on  
3 the date of enactment of this  
4 Act;

5 (bb) as needed for adminis-  
6 trative purposes;

7 (cc) to respond to an emer-  
8 gency; or

9 (dd) if designated by the  
10 Secretary for the use on the po-  
11 tential trails described in sub-  
12 clause (III).

13 (III) LIMITATION.—Nothing in  
14 this section affects the potential devel-  
15 opment, in accordance with applicable  
16 law, of the proposed trail commonly  
17 known as the “Crested Butte to  
18 Paonia Trail”, the proposed trail com-  
19 monly known as the “Crested Butte  
20 to Carbondale Trail”, or the proposed  
21 trail commonly known as the “Dark  
22 Canyon Loop Trail”, in the Horse  
23 Ranch Park Recreation Management  
24 Area designated by subsection (a)(2).

1 **SEC. 7. DESIGNATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCI-**  
2 **ENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AREA.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
4 certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service com-  
5 prising approximately 12,250 acres, as generally depicted  
6 as “Rocky Mountain Scientific Research and Education  
7 Area” on the map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield  
8 Pass” and dated August 27, 2024, is designated as the  
9 “Rocky Mountain Scientific Research and Education  
10 Area”.

11 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Scientific Re-  
12 search and Education Area are—

13 (1) to encourage and preserve conditions nec-  
14 essary for ecological, evolutionary, geological, biogeo-  
15 chemical, climatological, biological, meteorological,  
16 and other natural science research and education;

17 (2) to provide opportunities for the use of con-  
18 tinually emerging techniques and methodologies in  
19 the conduct of the research and education described  
20 in paragraph (1); and

21 (3) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the  
22 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-  
23 tions the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, water-  
24 shed, recreation, and wildlife resources of the Sci-  
25 entific Research and Education Area.

26 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage  
2           the Scientific Research and Education Area in a  
3           manner that—

4                   (A) furthers the purposes of the Scientific  
5           Research and Education Area described in sub-  
6           section (b); and

7                   (B) is in accordance with—

8                           (i) this Act; and

9                           (ii) other applicable laws.

10          (2) USES.—

11               (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
12           only allow uses of the Scientific Research and  
13           Education Area that the Secretary determines  
14           would further the purposes described in sub-  
15           section (b).

16               (B) VEHICLE USE.—Except as needed for  
17           administrative purposes or to respond to an  
18           emergency, the use of off-highway vehicles in  
19           the Scientific Research and Education Area  
20           shall be permitted only on roads designated for  
21           the use on the date of enactment of this Act.

22               (C) BICYCLES.—The use of bicycles in the  
23           Scientific Research and Education Area shall be  
24           permitted only—

1 (i) on roads and trails designated for  
 2 the use by the Secretary on the date of en-  
 3 actment of this Act; or

4 (ii) on trails designated for the use by  
 5 the Secretary after the date of enactment  
 6 of this Act if the Secretary determines that  
 7 the use is consistent with the purposes de-  
 8 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-  
 9 section (b).

10 (d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section limits the au-  
 11 thority of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory to  
 12 conduct scientific research or education activities inside or  
 13 outside the boundaries of the Scientific Research and Edu-  
 14 cation Area.

15 **SEC. 8. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.**

16 (a) DESIGNATION.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wil-  
 17 derness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 107 Stat. 756;  
 18 114 Stat. 1955; 116 Stat. 1055; 128 Stat. 3823) is  
 19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “1993,” and  
 21 inserting “1993, and approximately 2,096 acres, as  
 22 generally depicted as ‘Crystal Creek Wilderness Ad-  
 23 dition’ and ‘Lottis Creek Wilderness Addition’ on  
 24 the map entitled ‘Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement



1 Creek, and Spring Creek’ and dated August 27,  
2 2024,”;

3 (2) in paragraph (9)—

4 (A) by striking “Gunnison” and inserting  
5 “Gunnison and White River”; and

6 (B) by striking “1993,” and inserting  
7 “1993, and approximately 11,780 acres, as gen-  
8 erally depicted as ‘Poverty Gulch Wilderness  
9 Addition’, ‘Treasure Wilderness Addition’, and  
10 ‘Erickson Springs Wilderness Addition’ on the  
11 map entitled ‘Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield  
12 Pass’ and dated August, 27, 2024,”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(23) MATCHLESS WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-  
15 eral land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and  
16 Gunnison National Forests comprising approxi-  
17 mately 8,656 acres, as generally depicted as ‘Match-  
18 less Wilderness’ on the map entitled ‘Sheet 4: Brush  
19 Creek, Cement Creek, and Spring Creek’ and dated  
20 August, 27, 2024, which shall be known as the  
21 ‘Matchless Wilderness’.

22 “(24) EAST CEMENT WILDERNESS.—Certain  
23 Federal land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and  
24 Gunnison National Forests comprising approxi-  
25 mately 7,684 acres, as generally depicted as ‘East

1 Cement Wilderness’ on the map entitled ‘Sheet 4:  
2 Brush Creek, Cement Creek, and Spring Creek’ and  
3 dated August 27, 2024, which shall be known as the  
4 ‘East Cement Wilderness’.

5 “(25) STAR PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-  
6 eral land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunni-  
7 son, and the White River National Forests com-  
8 prising approximately 7,210 acres, as generally de-  
9 picted as ‘Star Peak Wilderness’ on the map entitled  
10 ‘Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement Creek, and Spring  
11 Creek’ and dated August 27, 2024, which shall be  
12 known as the ‘Star Peak Wilderness’.

13 “(26) MAROON BELLS-SNOWMASS WILDERNESS  
14 ADDITION.—Certain Federal land in the Grand  
15 Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National For-  
16 ests comprising approximately 3,321 acres, as gen-  
17 erally depicted as ‘Deer Creek Wilderness Addition’  
18 and ‘Ashcroft Wilderness Addition’ on the map enti-  
19 tled ‘Sheet 4: Brush Creek, Cement Creek, and  
20 Spring Creek’ and dated August 27, 2024, which  
21 shall be incorporated in, and managed as part of,  
22 the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness.

23 “(27) WEST ELK WILDERNESS ADDITION.—  
24 Certain Federal land in the Gunnison Field Office  
25 administered by the Bureau of Land Management,

1 in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison  
 2 National Forests and in the Curecanti National  
 3 Recreation Area, comprising approximately 58,603  
 4 acres, as generally depicted as ‘Lamborn Wilderness  
 5 Addition’, ‘Castle Wilderness Addition’, ‘Beaver Wil-  
 6 derness Addition’, ‘Steuben Creek Wilderness Addi-  
 7 tion’, ‘East Elk Creek Wilderness Addition’, ‘Dillon  
 8 Mesa Wilderness Addition’, ‘Soap Creek Wilderness  
 9 Addition’, and ‘Curecanti Wilderness Addition’ on  
 10 the map entitled ‘Sheet 7: West Elk Additions’ and  
 11 dated August 27, 2024, which shall be incorporated  
 12 in, and managed as part of, the West Elk Wilder-  
 13 ness.

14 “(28) UNCOMPAHGRE WILDERNESS ADDI-  
 15 TIONS.—Certain Federal land in the Grand Mesa,  
 16 Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests com-  
 17 prising approximately 13,948 acres, as generally de-  
 18 picted as ‘Uncompahgre Wilderness Additions’ on  
 19 the map entitled ‘Sheet 10: Uncompahgre Additions’  
 20 and dated August 27, 2024, which shall be incor-  
 21 porated in, and managed as part of, the  
 22 Uncompahgre Wilderness.

23 “(29) POWDERHORN WILDERNESS ADDITION.—  
 24 Certain Federal land in the Gunnison Field Office  
 25 administered by the Bureau of Land Management

1 comprising approximately 9,604 acres, as generally  
2 depicted as ‘Powderhorn Wilderness Addition’ on the  
3 map entitled ‘Sheet 11: Lake Fork’ and dated Au-  
4 gust 27, 2024, which shall be incorporated in, and  
5 managed as part of, the Powderhorn Wilderness.”.

6 (b) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any reference in the Wilder-  
7 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) or the Colorado Wilder-  
8 ness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 103–  
9 77) to the effective date of that Act shall be considered  
10 to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act for  
11 purposes of administering the wilderness areas.

12 (c) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—In accordance  
13 with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
14 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may carry out any measure  
15 within the wilderness areas that the Secretary determines  
16 to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, sub-  
17 ject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary deter-  
18 mines to be appropriate.

19 (d) WEST ELK WILDERNESS BOUNDARY MODIFICA-  
20 TION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the West  
22 Elk Wilderness in the County is modified to exclude  
23 the approximately 15 acres generally depicted as  
24 “West Elk Wilderness Boundary Pullback” on the

1 map entitled “Sheet 3: Kebler and Schofield Pass”  
 2 and dated August 27, 2024.

3 (2) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing  
 4 rights, the Federal land excluded from the boundary  
 5 of the West Elk Wilderness under paragraph (1) is  
 6 withdrawn from—

7 (A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under  
 8 the public land laws;

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

11 (C) operation of the mineral leasing, min-  
 12 eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

13 (e) RELEASE.—Congress finds that, for the purposes  
 14 of subsection (c) of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy  
 15 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the land  
 16 within the Powderhorn Wilderness Study Area not des-  
 17 ignated as wilderness by this section (or an amendment  
 18 made by this section)—

19 (1) has been adequately studied for wilderness  
 20 designation; and

21 (2) is no longer subject to that subsection.

22 **SEC. 9. NORTH FORK VALLEY WATERSHED.**

23 (a) WITHDRAWAL.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing  
 25 rights, the Federal land in Delta County, Colorado,

1 as generally depicted as “Oil and Gas Withdrawal”  
2 on the map entitled “Sheet 6: North Fork Valley”  
3 and dated August 27, 2024, is withdrawn from oper-  
4 ation of the mineral leasing laws with respect to oil  
5 and gas.

6 (2) EFFECT.—Nothing in paragraph (1) pre-  
7 vents the Secretary of the Interior from authorizing  
8 the use or destruction of methane gas that would  
9 leak or be vented into the atmosphere from—

10 (A) an active or inactive coal mine subject  
11 to a Federal coal lease; or

12 (B) an abandoned underground coal mine  
13 or the site of a former coal mine—

14 (i) that is not subject to a Federal  
15 coal lease; and

16 (ii) with respect to which the Federal  
17 interest in land includes mineral rights to  
18 the methane gas.

19 (b) NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY RESTRICTION.—Sub-  
20 ject to valid existing rights, the Federal land in Delta  
21 County, Colorado, as generally depicted as “Oil and Gas  
22 No Surface Occupancy” on the map entitled “Sheet 1:  
23 Electric Mountain” and dated August 27, 2024, shall be  
24 subject to a no surface occupancy restriction with respect

1 to oil and gas exploration, development, production, and  
 2 distribution.

3 (c) GUNNISON RIVER MOTORIZED BOATS AND BOAT  
 4 RAMP USE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the limita-  
 6 tion on transfer in the Gunnison Gorge National  
 7 Conservation Area Approved Resource Management  
 8 Plan dated November 2004, the Secretary of the In-  
 9 terior, in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16  
 10 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and subject to paragraph (2)  
 11 and such terms and conditions as the Secretary of  
 12 the Interior may require, may transfer the special  
 13 recreation use permit for the use of motorized boats  
 14 within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area, if the  
 15 use was established before the date of designation of  
 16 the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area.

17 (2) BOAT RAMP.—The Secretary of the Interior  
 18 may only transfer the special recreation use permit  
 19 described in paragraph (1) under that paragraph if  
 20 the Secretary of the Interior determines that—

21 (A) the right of the public to the perma-  
 22 nent and reasonable use of the boat ramp for  
 23 the Gunnison River at the Gunnison Forks Day  
 24 Use Area in Delta County, Colorado, has been

1           acquired by a Federal agency or a State or local  
2           government; and

3                   (B) any fees to be charged by the Federal  
4           agency or the State or local government for  
5           public use of the boat ramp described in sub-  
6           paragraph (A) would be reasonable.

7   **SEC. 10. LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE UTE MOUN-**  
8                   **TAIN UTE TRIBE.**

9           (a) TRUST.—

10                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11           the date of enactment of this Act and subject to  
12           valid existing rights, on request by the Ute Moun-  
13           tain Ute Tribe (referred to in this section as the  
14           “Tribe”), the Secretary of the Interior shall take  
15           into trust for the benefit of the Tribe the approxi-  
16           mately 19,080 acres of land in the County, owned in  
17           fee by the Tribe, as generally depicted on the map  
18           entitled “Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Pinecrest  
19           Ranch—Fee to Trust Legislation” and dated Sep-  
20           tember 20, 2024.

21                   (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The land taken into  
22           trust by paragraph (1) shall—

23                           (A) be part of the reservation of the Tribe;  
24                   and



1 (B) be administered in accordance with the  
2 laws and regulations generally applicable to  
3 property held in trust by the United States for  
4 the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

5 (3) RESTRICTION ON USE FOR GAMING ACTIVI-  
6 TIES.—The land taken into trust by paragraph (1)  
7 shall not be eligible for, or considered to have been  
8 taken into trust for, any gaming activity under any  
9 Federal law, including the Indian Gaming Regu-  
10 latory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and regulations  
11 promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior or the  
12 National Indian Gaming Commission under that  
13 Act.

14 (b) SURVEY.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
15 of enactment of this Act, if any land is taken into trust  
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall  
17 complete a survey to establish the boundaries of the land  
18 taken into trust under that subsection.

19 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall affect the  
20 rights, title, interests, or jurisdiction of the County in  
21 County Road 25 or its right-of-way.

22 **SEC. 11. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

23 (a) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after  
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall file a map and a legal description of the cov-  
2 ered areas and wilderness areas with—

3 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural  
4 Resources of the Senate; and

5 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources  
6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (2) FORCE OF LAW.—Each map and legal de-  
8 scription filed under paragraph (1) shall have the  
9 same force and effect as if included in this Act, ex-  
10 cept that the Secretary may correct any typo-  
11 graphical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

12 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and  
13 legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be  
14 on file and available for public inspection in the ap-  
15 propriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management  
16 or the Forest Service, as applicable.

17 (b) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire  
19 any land or interest in land within a covered area  
20 or wilderness area only through exchange, donation,  
21 or purchase from a willing seller.

22 (2) MANAGEMENT.—Any land or interest in  
23 land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be incor-  
24 porated in, and administered as a part of, the cov-

1       ered area or wilderness area in which the land or in-  
2       terest in land is located.

3       (c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
4 the covered areas and wilderness areas are withdrawn  
5 from—

6           (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-  
7       posal under the public land laws;

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

10          (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mining  
11       materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

12       (d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this Act af-  
13 fects the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with  
14 respect to fish and wildlife in the State.

15       (e) GRAZING.—The laws (including regulations) and  
16 policies followed by the Secretary in issuing and admin-  
17 istering grazing permits or leases on land under the juris-  
18 diction of the Secretary shall continue to apply within a  
19 covered area.

20       (f) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGE-  
21 MENT.—In accordance with this Act, the Secretary may—

22           (1) carry out any measures that the Secretary  
23       determines to be necessary to manage wildland fire,  
24       and treat hazardous fuels, insects, and diseases, in  
25       the covered areas; and

1           (2) coordinate the measures with the appro-  
 2       priate State or local agency, as the Secretary deter-  
 3       mines to be necessary.

4       (g) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—No project shall be carried  
 6       out in a covered area for the purpose of harvesting  
 7       commercial timber.

8           (2) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—Any vegeta-  
 9       tion management project carried out in a covered  
 10      area outside of the wildland-urban interface that in-  
 11      cludes the harvest or sale of merchantable materials  
 12      shall—

13                   (A) be collaboratively developed;

14                   (B) limit the sale of merchantable mate-  
 15      rials to small diameter trees or biomass; and

16                   (C) in accordance with the best available  
 17      science—

18                           (i) restore ecological integrity;

19                           (ii) maximize the retention of old  
 20      growth and large trees, as appropriate for  
 21      the forest type; and

22                           (iii) focus on prescribed fire as the  
 23      primary means to achieve modified  
 24      wildland fire behavior, as measured by the

1                   projected reduction of uncharacteristically  
2                   severe wildfire effects for the forest type.

3       (h) ROADS AND TRAILS.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
5       graph (2), no road shall be constructed in a covered  
6       area.

7           (2) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1)  
8       prevents the Secretary from—

9           (A) constructing a temporary road in a  
10       Protection Area, Recreation Management Area,  
11       or Special Management Area as the Secretary  
12       determines to be necessary as a minimum re-  
13       quirement for carrying out a vegetation man-  
14       agement project in accordance with this Act;

15          (B) responding to an emergency; or

16          (C) authorizing the transportation of sci-  
17       entific research equipment within the Scientific  
18       Research and Education Area.

19       (3) DECOMMISSIONING OF TEMPORARY  
20       ROADS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on  
21       which an applicable vegetation management project  
22       is completed, the Secretary shall decommission any  
23       temporary road constructed under paragraph (2)(A)  
24       for the applicable vegetation management project.

1           (4) REROUTING.—Nothing in this Act prevents  
2           the Secretary from rerouting a trail within a covered  
3           area to protect public safety or natural resources  
4           from degradation, as determined to be appropriate  
5           by the Secretary.

6           (i) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act affects the  
7           use or allocation of any absolute or conditional water right  
8           that is—

9           (1) decreed under the laws of the State; and

10          (2) in existence on the date of enactment of this  
11          Act.

12          (j) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

13          (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act estab-  
14          lishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around  
15          a covered area or wilderness area.

16          (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that a non-  
17          wilderness activity or use on land outside of a cov-  
18          ered area or wilderness area can be seen or heard  
19          from an area within a covered area or wilderness  
20          area shall not preclude the conduct of the activity or  
21          use outside the boundary of the covered area or wil-  
22          derness area.

23          (k) SEASONAL CLOSURES.—As appropriate and in  
24          accordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall develop

1 and implement seasonal closures for off-highway vehicles  
 2 and bicycles to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in—

3 (1) the McIntosh Mountain Special Manage-  
 4 ment Area designated by section 3(a)(4);

5 (2) the Signal Peak Special Management Area  
 6 designated by section 3(a)(7);

7 (3) the Cabin Creek Wildlife Conservation Area  
 8 designated by section 4(a)(1);

9 (4) the Flat Top Wildlife Conservation Area  
 10 designated by section 4(a)(2);

11 (5) the Lake Gulch and Cebolla Creek Wildlife  
 12 Conservation Area designated by section 4(a)(3);

13 and

14 (6) the Pinnacles Wildlife Conservation Area  
 15 designated by section 4(a)(6).

16 (l) RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—As appropriate and in ac-  
 18 cordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall  
 19 conduct wet meadow and riparian restoration  
 20 projects to improve climate resiliency and wildlife  
 21 habitat in—

22 (A) the McIntosh Mountain Special Man-  
 23 agement Area designated by section 3(a)(4);

24 (B) the Signal Peak Special Management  
 25 Area designated by section 3(a)(7);

1 (C) the Flat Top Wildlife Conservation  
2 Area designated by section 4(a)(2);

3 (D) the Lake Gulch and Cebolla Creek  
4 Wildlife Conservation Area designated by sec-  
5 tion 4(a)(3);

6 (E) the Pinnacles Wildlife Conservation  
7 Area designated by section 4(a)(6); and

8 (F) the Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation  
9 Area designated by section 4(a)(8).

10 (2) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the  
11 projects described in paragraph (1), the Secretary  
12 shall seek to collaborate with—

13 (A) the Colorado Division of Parks and  
14 Wildlife;

15 (B) the Upper Gunnison River Water Con-  
16 servancy District;

17 (C) the County;

18 (D) in the case of a project located in the  
19 Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Area designated  
20 by section 4(a)(8), Saguache County, Colorado;

21 (E) the United States Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service; and

23 (F) other interested entities and individ-  
24 uals.

25 (m) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND USES.—



1           (1) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act af-  
2       fects the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe.

3           (2) TRADITIONAL TRIBAL USES.—Subject to  
4       any terms and conditions that the Secretary deter-  
5       mines to be necessary and in accordance with appli-  
6       cable law, the Secretary shall allow for the continued  
7       use of a covered area or wilderness area by members  
8       of Indian Tribes—

9                       (A) for traditional ceremonies; and

10                      (B) as a source of traditional plants and  
11       other materials.

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