

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1981

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to utilize grazing for wildfire risk reduction, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) 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 require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to utilize grazing for wildfire risk reduction, 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 “Strategic Grazing to  
5 Reduce Risk of Wildfire Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**  
7 **TION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term  
2           “National Forest System” has the meaning given  
3           the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-  
4           land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16  
5           U.S.C. 1609(a)).

6           (2) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”  
7           has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the  
8           Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976  
9           (43 U.S.C. 1702).

10          (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-  
11          retary concerned” means—

12                   (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
13                   spect to National Forest System land; and

14                   (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
15                   spect to public lands.

16          (b) STRATEGY.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
18           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
19           retary concerned, in coordination with holders of  
20           permits to graze livestock on Federal land under the  
21           jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned and in con-  
22           sultation with other relevant stakeholders described  
23           in paragraph (3), shall develop a strategy to utilize  
24           livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool

1 consistent with the laws applicable to the Secretary  
2 concerned.

3 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy developed  
4 under paragraph (1) shall consider—

5 (A) the use of grazing on vacant grazing  
6 allotments during instances of drought, wildfire,  
7 or other natural disasters that disrupt grazing  
8 on allotments already permitted;

9 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce  
10 hazardous fuels, including on Federal land  
11 within the wildland urban interface (as defined  
12 in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restora-  
13 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511)), and other  
14 critical areas identified by the Secretaries con-  
15 cerned;

16 (C) recommending the use of targeted  
17 grazing when providing technical assistance to  
18 communities and Indian Tribes in their efforts  
19 to reduce wildfire risk and implement wildfire  
20 management strategies;

21 (D) the use of temporary permits to pro-  
22 mote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of  
23 cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses,  
24 including any potential need for the use of graz-  
25 ing outside permitted animal unit months and

1 season of use, as appropriate for the explicit  
2 purposes of targeted fuels reduction of cheat-  
3 grass and other invasive annual grasses;

4 (E) the use of targeted grazing to aid in  
5 controlling invasive annual grasses, including  
6 cheatgrass;

7 (F) the use of targeted grazing in postfire  
8 recovery efforts, as appropriate;

9 (G) an integrated use of advanced tech-  
10 nologies such as virtual fencing to dynamically  
11 adjust livestock placement;

12 (H) the use of grazing on Federal land in  
13 a manner that—

14 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of  
15 that Federal land; and

16 (ii) is consistent with any applicable  
17 land management plan;

18 (I) a workforce development plan to ensure  
19 that Federal workers have the necessary skills  
20 to manage livestock grazing programs and de-  
21 ploy technologies;

22 (J) the use of cooperative agreements with  
23 States, local governments, Indian Tribes, and  
24 local firefighting agencies to reduce hazardous  
25 fuels and invasive annual grasses, including re-

1 imbursements authorized under other provisions  
2 of law, including under good neighbor agree-  
3 ments under section 8206 of the Agricultural  
4 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

5 (K) other applicable statutory or regu-  
6 latory authorities, as determined by the Sec-  
7 retary concerned.

8 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-  
9 egy under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned  
10 shall consult with—

11 (A) applicable States;

12 (B) applicable units of local government;

13 (C) applicable Indian Tribes;

14 (D) applicable utility authorities;

15 (E) applicable firefighting agencies;

16 (F) land management organizations;

17 (G) outdoor recreation, conservation, and  
18 sportsmen organizations; and

19 (H) other interested members of the appli-  
20 cable community.

21 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—

22 Nothing in this section affects any livestock grazing pro-  
23 gram being carried out as of the date of enactment of this  
24 Act by the Secretary concerned.

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