

Calendar No. 495

119TH CONGRESS
2D 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.

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

JULY 23, 2026

Reported by Mr. LEE, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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”.

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

3 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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

9 (2) **PUBLIC LANDS.**—The term “public lands”
 10 has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the
 11 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
 12 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

13 (3) **SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—The term “Sec-
 14 retary concerned” means—

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

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

19 (b) **STRATEGY.**—

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

1 livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool
2 consistent with the laws applicable to the Secretary
3 concerned.

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

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

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

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

22 (D) the use of temporary permits to pro-
23 mote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of
24 cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses;
25 including any potential need for the use of graz-

ing outside permitted animal unit months and season of use, as appropriate for the explicit purposes of targeted fuels reduction of cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses;

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

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

(G) an integrated use of advanced technologies such as virtual fencing to dynamically adjust livestock placement;

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

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

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

(I) a workforce development plan to ensure that Federal workers have the necessary skills to manage livestock grazing programs and deploy technologies;

(J) the use of cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, and local firefighting agencies to reduce hazardous

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

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

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

12 (A) applicable States;

13 (B) applicable units of local government;

14 (C) applicable Indian Tribes;

15 (D) applicable utility authorities;

16 (E) applicable firefighting agencies;

17 (F) land management organizations;

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

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

22 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Strategic Grazing to*
 3 *Reduce Risk of Wildfire Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**
 5 **TION.**

6 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

7 (1) *INDIAN TRIBE.—*

8 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The term “Indian*
 9 *Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section*
 10 *4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*
 11 *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).*

12 (B) *INCLUSIONS.—The term “Indian Tribe”*
 13 *includes a Native Hawaiian community-based*
 14 *organization or Native Hawaiian organization*
 15 *(as those terms are defined in section 6207 of the*
 16 *Native Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C.*
 17 *7517)).*

18 (2) *NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term “Na-*
 19 *tional Forest System” has the meaning given the term*
 20 *in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renew-*
 21 *able Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.*
 22 *1609(a)).*

23 (3) *PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”*
 24 *has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the*
 25 *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*
 26 *(43 U.S.C. 1702).*

1 (4) *SECRETARY CONCERNED.*—*The term “Sec-*
2 *retary concerned” means—*

3 *(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-*
4 *spect to National Forest System land; and*

5 *(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-*
6 *spect to public lands.*

7 (b) *STRATEGY.*—

8 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 18 months*
9 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
10 *concerned, in coordination with applicable holders of*
11 *permits or leases to graze livestock on Federal land*
12 *under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned and*
13 *in coordination with other relevant stakeholders de-*
14 *scribed in paragraph (3), shall develop a strategy to*
15 *utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction*
16 *tool consistent with the laws applicable to the Sec-*
17 *retary concerned.*

18 (2) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*The strategy developed*
19 *under paragraph (1) shall consider—*

20 *(A) the use of grazing on vacant grazing al-*
21 *lotments during instances of drought, wildfire, or*
22 *other natural disasters that disrupt grazing on*
23 *allotments already permitted or leased, subject to*
24 *the condition that the Secretary concerned*
25 *shall—*

1 (i) prioritize the use of allotments that
2 would not pose significant management or
3 resource challenges for the permittee or the
4 Secretary concerned; and

5 (ii) plan to return permittees to their
6 original allotments as soon as practicable;

7 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
8 hazardous fuels, including on Federal land with-
9 in the wildland urban interface (as defined in
10 section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration
11 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511)), and other critical
12 areas identified by the Secretaries concerned;

13 (C) recommending the use of targeted graz-
14 ing when providing technical assistance to appli-
15 cable entities described in paragraph (3) in their
16 efforts to reduce wildfire risk and implement
17 wildfire management strategies;

18 (D) the use of temporary permits or leases
19 to promote targeted fuels reduction and reduc-
20 tion of cheatgrass and other invasive annual
21 grasses, including any potential need for the use
22 of grazing outside permitted animal unit months
23 and season of use, as appropriate for the explicit
24 purposes of targeted fuels reduction of cheatgrass
25 and other invasive annual grasses;

1 (E) the use of targeted grazing to aid in
 2 controlling invasive annual grasses, including
 3 cheatgrass;

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

6 (G) an integrated use of advanced tech-
 7 nologies such as virtual fencing to dynamically
 8 adjust livestock placement;

9 (H) the use of grazing on Federal land in
 10 a manner that—

11 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
 12 that Federal land; and

13 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
 14 land management plan; and

15 (I) the use of cooperative agreements with
 16 States, local governments, Indian Tribes, and
 17 local firefighting agencies to reduce hazardous
 18 fuels and invasive annual grasses, including re-
 19 imbursements authorized under other provisions
 20 of law, including under good neighbor agree-
 21 ments under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act
 22 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a).

23 (3) COORDINATION.—In developing the strategy
 24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
 25 coordinate with—

1 (A) applicable States;

2 (B) applicable State wildlife and fish and
3 game agencies;

4 (C) applicable units of local government;

5 (D) applicable Indian Tribes;

6 (E) applicable utility authorities; and

7 (F) applicable firefighting agencies.

8 (4) *PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.*—The Secretary con-
9 cerned shall post the strategy developed under para-
10 graph (1) on a website of the Department of Agri-
11 culture or the Department of the Interior, as applica-
12 ble.

13 (c) *EFFECT.*—Nothing in this section—

14 (1) affects any livestock grazing program being
15 carried out as of the date of enactment of this Act by
16 the Secretary concerned; or

17 (2) limits the requirements of the Secretary con-
18 cerned to provide permits or leases under the Act of
19 June 28, 1934 (commonly known as the “Taylor
20 Grazing Act”) (48 Stat. 1269, chapter 865; 43 U.S.C.
21 315 *et seq.*).

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