

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3478

To release wilderness study areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Luna and Hidalgo Counties, New Mexico that are not suitable for wilderness designation from continued management as de facto wilderness areas.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. PEARCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To release wilderness study areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Luna and Hidalgo Counties, New Mexico that are not suitable for wilderness designation from continued management as de facto wilderness areas.

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 “Luna and Hidalgo  
5 Counties Wilderness Study Area Release Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. RELEASE OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WIL-**  
2 **DERNESS STUDY AREAS PREVIOUSLY IDENTI-**  
3 **FIED AS NOT SUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS**  
4 **DESIGNATION.**

5 (a) **RELEASE.**—Congress finds and directs that the  
6 public lands described in subsection (b) have been ade-  
7 quately studied for wilderness designation pursuant to sec-  
8 tion 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
9 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782) and are no longer subject to  
10 the requirement of subsection (d) of such section per-  
11 taining to the management of wilderness study areas in  
12 a manner that does not impair the suitability of such areas  
13 for preservation as wilderness.

14 (b) **COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.**—Subsection (a) ap-  
15 plies to public lands in Luna and Hidalgo Counties, New  
16 Mexico, administered by the Bureau of Land Management  
17 pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
18 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) that—

19 (1) have not been designated as wilderness by  
20 an Act of Congress before the date of the enactment  
21 of this Act; and

22 (2) have been identified by the Bureau of Land  
23 Management before the date of the enactment of  
24 this Act as not suitable for wilderness designation.

1 (c) WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—The following pub-  
2 lie lands cited in this subsection shall be released accord-  
3 ing to subsection (a):

4 (1) Portions of the Big Hatchet Mountains Wil-  
5 derness Study Area deemed unsuitable by the Bu-  
6 reau of Land Management (reflected in the map  
7 dated August 5, 2014).

8 (2) Portions of the Gila Lower Box Wilderness  
9 Study Area deemed unsuitable by the Bureau of  
10 Land Management (reflected in the map dated July  
11 24, 2014).

12 (3) Alamo Hueco Mountains Wilderness Study  
13 Area (reflected in the map dated August 5, 2014).

14 (4) Blue Creek Wilderness Study Area (re-  
15 flected in the map dated July 24, 2014).

16 (5) Cedar Mountains Wilderness Study Area  
17 (reflected in the map dated July 24, 2014).

18 (6) Cooke’s Range Wilderness Study Area (re-  
19 flected in the map dated June 11, 2014).

20 (7) Florida Mountains Wilderness Study Area  
21 (reflected in the map dated May 28, 2014).

22 (8) Guadalupe Canyon Wilderness Study Area  
23 (reflected in the map dated July 30, 2014).

24 (9) Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness Study Area  
25 (reflected in the map dated July 24, 2014).

1           (d) MANAGEMENT.—Public lands identified in sub-  
2 section (c) and released by subsection (a) shall be man-  
3 aged by the Bureau of Land Management in accordance  
4 with the land use plan applicable to the lands developed  
5 pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and  
6 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

7           (e) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of the Interior  
8 may not promulgate or issue any systemwide regulation,  
9 directive, or order that would direct management of the  
10 public lands released by subsection (a) in a manner con-  
11 trary to the applicable land use plan.

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