

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5132

To adjust the eastern boundary of the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study Area in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect adjacent private property, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2016

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

A BILL

To adjust the eastern boundary of the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study Area in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect adjacent private property, 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 “Crooked River Ranch
5 Fire Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Crooked River Ranch is an unincor-
2 porated community with a population of 5,000 resi-
3 dents.

4 (2) The current lands located adjacent to
5 Crooked River Ranch are managed by the Bureau of
6 Land Management and are classified as a Wilder-
7 ness Study Area.

8 (3) There is currently only one entrance/exit to
9 the Crooked River Ranch.

10 (4) Jefferson County and Crooked River Ranch
11 have determined that the Wilderness Study Area
12 lands are in the highest risk category for exposure
13 to devastating wildfire due to overstocked juniper
14 stands under the federally mandated and locally pro-
15 mulgated Jefferson County Community Wildfire
16 Protection Plan (CWPP).

17 (5) The current Wilderness Study Area classi-
18 fication prevents mechanical fire prevention activities
19 within the overstocked juniper stands.

20 (6) Advancing this proposed legislation will
21 greatly enhance the life and safety of people and
22 property by reducing the extreme fire threat to these
23 lands.

1 **SEC. 3. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT, WHYCHUS-DESCHUTES**
2 **WILDERNESS STUDY AREA, OREGON.**

3 (a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED.—The Sec-
4 retary of the Interior shall adjust the eastern boundary
5 of the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study Area in the
6 State of Oregon to exclude approximately 832 acres, as
7 depicted on the map entitled “Whychus-Deschutes Wilder-
8 ness Study Area” and dated December 2015, in order to
9 facilitate fire prevention and response activities on the ex-
10 cluded public lands and adjacent private property.

11 (b) EFFECT OF EXCLUSION.—Effective on the date
12 of the enactment of this Act, the public lands to be ex-
13 cluded from the Whychus-Deschutes Wilderness Study
14 Area pursuant to subsection (a) are no longer subject to
15 section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
16 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)).

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