

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 468

To provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Mr. HATCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer.

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 “Sage-Grouse and Mule
5 Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR PINYON-JUNIPER**
2 **TREE REMOVAL.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a vegeta-
4 tion management project by the Director of the Bureau
5 of Land Management or the Chief of the Forest Service
6 involving removal or treatment of any Pinyon or Juniper
7 tree for the purpose of conserving or restoring the habitat
8 of the greater sage-grouse or mule deer shall be eligible
9 to be a categorical exclusion (as defined in section 1508.4
10 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor
11 regulation)) for purposes of the National Environmental
12 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

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