

Calendar No. 346

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 258

To prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2019

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Reported by Ms. MURKOWSKI, with an amendment and an amendment to the title

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

A BILL

To prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ruby Mountains Pro-
3 tection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING.**

5 (a) **DEFINITION OF DISTRICT LAND.**—In this sec-
6 tion, the term “District land” means the approximately
7 450,000 acres of National Forest System land comprising
8 the Ruby Mountains Ranger District of the Humboldt-
9 Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties,
10 Nevada, as in existence on the date of enactment of this
11 Act.

12 (b) **PROHIBITION.**—Subject to valid existing rights in
13 existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of the Interior shall not issue under any law, includ-
15 ing the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), an
16 oil or gas lease on the District land.

17 (c) **APPLICATION.**—The prohibition under subsection
18 (b) shall apply to any land or interest in land that is ac-
19 quired by the United States after the date of enactment
20 of this Act for inclusion in the Ruby Mountains Ranger
21 District.

22 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

23 *This Act may be cited as the “Ruby Mountains Protec-*
24 *tion Act”.*

1 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYS-**
 2 **TEM LAND.**

3 (a) *DEFINITION OF MAP.*—*In this section, the term*
 4 *“Map” means the Forest Service map entitled “S. 258 Ruby*
 5 *Mountains Protective Act” and dated December 5, 2019.*

6 (b) *WITHDRAWAL.*—*Subject to valid existing rights,*
 7 *the approximately 309,272 acres of Federal land and inter-*
 8 *ests in the land located in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict*
 9 *of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest within the area*
 10 *depicted on the Map as “National Forest System Lands”*
 11 *are withdrawn from all forms of operation under the min-*
 12 *eral leasing laws.*

13 (c) *APPLICATION.*—*Any land or interest in land with-*
 14 *in the boundary of the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the*
 15 *Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest that is acquired by the*
 16 *United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall*
 17 *be withdrawn in accordance with subsection (b).*

18 (d) *AVAILABILITY OF MAP.*—*The Map shall be on file*
 19 *and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-*
 20 *fices of the Forest Service.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws.”.

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