

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 681

To redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, 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 “Wyoming Public Lands
5 Initiative Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the
9 Bureau of Land Management.

1 (2) RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term “range
2 improvement” has the meaning given the term in
3 section 3 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act
4 of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1902).

5 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of the Interior.

7 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
8 of Wyoming.

9 (5) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilderness
10 area” means a wilderness area designated by section
11 3.

12 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.**

13 In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
14 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are des-
15 ignated as wilderness and as components of the National
16 Wilderness Preservation System:

17 (1) ENCAMPMENT RIVER CANYON WILDER-
18 NESS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land
20 administered by the Bureau in the State, com-
21 prising approximately 4,523.84 acres, as gen-
22 erally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
23 Encampment River Wilderness” and dated De-
24 cember 5, 2023, which shall be known as the
25 “Encampment River Canyon Wilderness”.

(B) EXCLUDED LAND.—The following land is not included in the Encampment River Canyon Wilderness:

(i) Any land in the NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄ sec. 24, T. 14 N., R. 84 W.

(ii) Any land within 100 feet of the centerline of—

(I) County Road 353; or

(II) Water Valley Road.

(2) PROSPECT MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, comprising approximately 1,099.76 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Prospect Mountain Wilderness” and dated December 8, 2023, which shall be known as the “Prospect Mountain Wilderness”.

(B) EXCLUDED LAND.—Any land within 100 feet of the centerline of Prospect Road is not included in the Prospect Mountain Wilderness.

(3) UPPER SWEETWATER CANYON WILDERNESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land administered by the Bureau in the State, com-

prising approximately 2,877.35 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness” and dated December 6, 2023, which shall be known as the “Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness”.

(B) BOUNDARY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the boundary of the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall conform to the boundary of the Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

(ii) EASTERN BOUNDARY.—The eastern boundary of the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall be 100 feet from the western edge of the north-south road bisecting the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness and the Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness, known as “Strawberry Creek Road”.

(iii) EXCLUSION OF EXISTING ROADS.—Any established legal route with authorized motorized use in existence on the date of enactment of this Act that enters the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in T. 28 N., R. 98 W., sec. 4, or the

1 Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in
 2 T. 29 N., R. 97 W., sec. 33, is not in-
 3 cluded in the Upper Sweetwater Canyon
 4 Wilderness.

5 (4) LOWER SWEETWATER CANYON WILDER-
 6 NESS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land
 8 administered by the Bureau in the State, com-
 9 prising approximately 5,665.19 acres, as gen-
 10 erally depicted on the map entitled “Lower
 11 Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness” and dated De-
 12 cember 5, 2023, which shall be known as the
 13 “Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness”.

14 (B) BOUNDARY.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
 16 in clause (ii), the boundary of the Lower
 17 Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall con-
 18 form to the boundary of the Sweetwater
 19 Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

20 (ii) WESTERN BOUNDARY.—The west-
 21 ern boundary of the Lower Sweetwater
 22 Canyon Wilderness shall be 100 feet from
 23 the eastern edge of the north-south road
 24 bisecting the Upper Sweetwater Canyon
 25 Wilderness and the Lower Sweetwater

1 Canyon Wilderness, known as “Strawberry
2 Creek Road”.

3 (iii) EXCLUSION OF EXISTING
4 ROADS.—Any established legal route with
5 authorized motorized use in existence on
6 the date of enactment of this Act that en-
7 ters the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilder-
8 ness in T. 29 N., R. 98 W., sec. 4, or the
9 Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in
10 T. 29 N., R. 97 W., sec. 33, is not in-
11 cluded in the Lower Sweetwater Canyon
12 Wilderness.

13 (5) BOBCAT DRAW WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
14 eral land administered by the Bureau in the State,
15 comprising approximately 6,246.84 acres, as gen-
16 erally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Bob-
17 cat Draw Wilderness” and dated December 8, 2023,
18 which shall be known as the “Bobcat Draw Wilder-
19 ness”.

20 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
22 the Secretary shall administer the wilderness areas in ac-
23 cordance with this section and the Wilderness Act (16
24 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

1 (1) any reference in that Act to the effective
 2 date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference
 3 to the date of enactment of this Act; and

4 (2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary
 5 of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference
 6 to the Secretary.

7 (b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVI-
 8 TIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out
 10 any activities in a wilderness area as are necessary
 11 for the control of fire, insects, or disease in accord-
 12 ance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16
 13 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)).

14 (2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out para-
 15 graph (1), the Secretary shall coordinate with—

16 (A) the Wyoming Forestry Division; and

17 (B) the applicable county in the State in
 18 which the wilderness area is located.

19 (3) FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than
 20 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
 21 Secretary shall establish a fire management plan for
 22 the wilderness areas—

23 (A) to ensure the timely and efficient con-
 24 trol of fires, diseases, and insects in the wilder-
 25 ness areas, in accordance with section 4(d)(1)

1 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1));
2 and

3 (B) to provide, to the maximum extent
4 practicable, adequate protection from forest
5 fires, disease outbreaks, and insect infestations
6 to any Federal, State, or private land adjacent
7 to the wilderness areas.

8 (c) GRAZING.—The grazing of livestock in a wilder-
9 ness area, if established before the date of enactment of
10 this Act, shall be administered in accordance with—

11 (1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16
12 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

13 (2) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of
14 House Report 101–405, accompanying H.R. 2570 of
15 the 101st Congress, for land under the jurisdiction
16 of the Secretary of the Interior.

17 (d) BUFFER ZONES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section es-
19 tablishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone
20 around a wilderness area.

21 (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OR USES.—The fact
22 that a nonwilderness activity or use can be seen or
23 heard from within a wilderness area shall not pre-
24 clude the activity or use outside the boundary of the
25 wilderness area.

1 **SEC. 5. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.**

2 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for purposes of
3 section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
4 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)), any portion of a
5 wilderness study area described in subsection (b) that is
6 not designated as a wilderness area by section 3 has been
7 adequately studied for wilderness designation.

8 (b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The wilderness study
9 areas referred to in subsections (a) and (c) are the fol-
10 lowing:

11 (1) The Encampment River Canyon Wilderness
12 Study Area.

13 (2) The Prospect Mountain Wilderness Study
14 Area.

15 (3) The Bennett Mountains Wilderness Study
16 Area.

17 (4) The Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness Study
18 Area.

19 (5) The Lankin Dome Wilderness Study Area.

20 (6) The Split Rock Wilderness Study Area.

21 (7) The Savage Peak Wilderness Study Area.

22 (8) The Miller Springs Wilderness Study Area.

23 (9) The Dubois Badlands Wilderness Study
24 Area.

25 (10) The Copper Mountain Wilderness Study
26 Area.

1 (11) The Whiskey Mountain Wilderness Study
2 Area.

3 (12) The Fortification Creek Wilderness Study
4 Area.

5 (13) The Gardner Mountain Wilderness Study
6 Area.

7 (14) The North Fork Wilderness Study Area.

8 (15) The portion of the Bobcat Draw Wilder-
9 ness Study Area located in Washakie County, Wyo-
10 ming.

11 (16) The Cedar Mountain Wilderness Study
12 Area.

13 (17) The Honeycombs Wilderness Study Area.

14 (c) RELEASE.—Any portion of a wilderness study
15 area described in subsection (b) that is not designated as
16 a wilderness area by section 3 is no longer subject to sec-
17 tion 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
18 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)).

19 (d) MANAGEMENT OF RELEASED LAND.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
21 the portions of the wilderness study areas released
22 under subsection (c) in accordance with—

23 (A) the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
24 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

25 (B) applicable land management plans;

1 (C) applicable management provisions
 2 under paragraph (2); and

3 (D) any other applicable law.

4 (2) SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS.—

5 (A) BENNETT MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS
 6 STUDY AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the
 7 portion of the Bennett Mountains Wilderness
 8 Study Area released under subsection (c) in ac-
 9 cordance with section 8(a).

10 (B) DUBOIS BADLANDS WILDERNESS
 11 STUDY AREA.—

12 (i) DIVISION.—The Secretary shall di-
 13 vide the land within the Dubois Badlands
 14 Wilderness Study Area by authorizing the
 15 installation of a fence or the repair or relo-
 16 cation of an existing fence in T. 41 N., R.
 17 106 W., sec. 5, that—

18 (I) follows existing infrastructure
 19 and natural barriers;

20 (II) begins at an intersection
 21 with North Mountain View Road in
 22 the NE¹/₄NW¹/₄ sec. 5, T. 41 N., R.
 23 106 W.;

24 (III) from the point described in
 25 subclause (II), proceeds southeast to a

1 point near the midpoint of the NE¹/₄
 2 sec. 5, T. 41 N., R. 106 W.; and

3 (IV) from the point described in
 4 subclause (III), proceeds southwest to
 5 a point in the SW¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 5, T.
 6 41 N., R. 106 W., that intersects with
 7 the boundary of the Dubois Badlands
 8 Wilderness Study Area.

9 (ii) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary
 10 shall manage the portion of the Dubois
 11 Badlands Wilderness Study Area released
 12 under subsection (c) in accordance with—

13 (I) paragraph (1); and

14 (II) sections 6 and 7.

15 (C) COPPER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
 16 STUDY AREA.—

17 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 18 manage the portion of the Copper Moun-
 19 tain Wilderness Study Area released under
 20 subsection (c) in accordance with para-
 21 graph (1).

22 (ii) MINERAL LEASING.—

23 (I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
 24 may lease oil and gas resources within
 25 the land released from the Copper

1 Mountain Wilderness Study Area
2 under subsection (c) if—

3 (aa) the lease may only be
4 accessed by directional drilling
5 from a lease that is outside of
6 the land released from the Cop-
7 per Mountain Wilderness Study
8 Area; and

9 (bb) the lease prohibits,
10 without exception or waiver, sur-
11 face occupancy and surface dis-
12 turbance on the land released
13 from the Copper Mountain Wil-
14 derness Study Area for any ac-
15 tivities, including activities relat-
16 ing to exploration, development,
17 or production.

18 (II) UNDERGROUND RIGHTS-OF-
19 WAY.—The Secretary may grant un-
20 derground rights-of-way for any min-
21 eral lease entered into under sub-
22 clause (I).

23 (III) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN
24 LEASES.—Subject to valid rights in
25 existence on the date of enactment of

1 this Act, the Secretary shall not issue
2 a new lease for a wind or solar
3 project, an overhead transmission line,
4 or a communication tower on the land
5 released from the Copper Mountain
6 Wilderness Study Area under sub-
7 section (c).

8 (IV) AUTHORITY TO EXCHANGE
9 LAND.—In carrying out any land ex-
10 change involving any of the land re-
11 leased from the Copper Mountain Wil-
12 derness Study Area under subsection
13 (c), the Secretary shall ensure that
14 the exchange does not result in a net
15 loss of Federal land.

16 (D) WHISKEY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
17 STUDY AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the
18 portion of the Whiskey Mountain Wilderness
19 Study Area released under subsection (c) in ac-
20 cordance with—

21 (i) paragraph (1); and

22 (ii) the Whiskey Mountain Coopera-
23 tive Agreement between the Wyoming
24 Game and Fish Commission, the Forest
25 Service, and the Bureau, including any

1 amendment to that agreement relating to
2 the management of bighorn sheep.

3 (E) BOBCAT DRAW WILDERNESS STUDY
4 AREA.—

5 (i) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

6 (I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
7 2 years after the date of enactment of
8 this Act, the Secretary shall develop a
9 travel management plan for the land
10 released from the Bobcat Draw Wil-
11 derness Study Area under subsection
12 (c).

13 (II) REQUIREMENTS.—The travel
14 management plan under subclause (I)
15 shall—

16 (aa) identify all existing
17 roads and trails on the land re-
18 leased from the Bobcat Draw
19 Wilderness Study Area under
20 subsection (c);

21 (bb) designate each road or
22 trail available for—

23 (AA) motorized or
24 mechanized recreation; or

1 (BB) agriculture prac-
2 tices;

3 (cc) prohibit the construc-
4 tion of any new road or trail for
5 motorized or mechanized recre-
6 ation use; and

7 (dd) permit the continued
8 use of nonmotorized trails.

9 (ii) WITHDRAWAL.—

10 (I) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
11 vided in subclause (II), subject to
12 valid rights in existence on the date of
13 enactment of this Act, the land re-
14 leased from the Bobcat Draw Wilder-
15 ness Study Area under subsection (c)
16 is withdrawn from—

17 (aa) all forms of appropria-
18 tion or disposal under the public
19 land laws;

20 (bb) location, entry, and
21 patent under the mining laws;
22 and

23 (cc) disposition under laws
24 relating to mineral and geo-
25 thermal leasing.

1 (II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary
2 may lease oil and gas resources within
3 the land released from the Bobcat
4 Draw Wilderness Study Area under
5 subsection (c) if—

6 (aa) the lease may only be
7 accessed by directional drilling
8 from a lease that is outside of
9 the land released from the Bob-
10 cat Draw Wilderness Study Area;
11 and

12 (bb) the lease prohibits,
13 without exception or waiver, sur-
14 face occupancy and surface dis-
15 turbance on the land released
16 from the Bobcat Draw Wilder-
17 ness Study Area for any activi-
18 ties, including activities related to
19 exploration, development, or pro-
20 duction.

21 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBOIS BADLANDS NATIONAL**
22 **CONSERVATION AREA.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
24 rights, there is established the Dubois Badlands National
25 Conservation Area (referred to in this section as the “Con-

1 servation Area”), comprising approximately 4,446.46
2 acres of Federal land administered by the Bureau in the
3 State, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
4 Badlands National Conservation Area” and dated Novem-
5 ber 15, 2023.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Conservation
7 Area is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit
8 and enjoyment of present and future generations the eco-
9 logical, wildlife, recreational, scenic, cultural, historical,
10 and natural resources of the Area.

11 (c) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid rights in exist-
12 ence on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 shall manage the Conservation Area—

14 (1) in a manner that only allows uses of the
15 Conservation Area that the Secretary determines
16 would further the purpose of the Conservation Area
17 described in subsection (b); and

18 (2) in accordance with—

19 (A) the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
20 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

21 (B) this section; and

22 (C) any other applicable law.

23 (d) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The use of motorized vehi-
25 cles in the Conservation Area shall be permitted only

1 on existing roads, trails, and areas designated by the
 2 Secretary for use by such vehicles as of the date of
 3 enactment of this Act.

4 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may allow
 5 the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation
 6 Area as needed for administrative purposes and
 7 emergency response.

8 (e) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the Conserva-
 9 tion Area shall be administered in accordance with the
 10 laws generally applicable to land under the jurisdiction of
 11 the Bureau.

12 (f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in exist-
 13 ence on the date of enactment of this Act, the land within
 14 the boundaries of the Conservation Area is withdrawn
 15 from—

16 (1) all forms of appropriation or disposal under
 17 the public land laws;

18 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
 19 laws; and

20 (3) disposition under laws relating to mineral
 21 and geothermal leasing.

22 **SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBOIS MOTORIZED RECRE-**
 23 **ATION AREA.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
 25 rights, there is established the Dubois Motorized Recre-

1 ation Area (referred to in this section as the “Recreation
 2 Area”), comprising approximately 367.72 acres of Federal
 3 land administered by the Bureau in the State, as generally
 4 depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Dubois Motorized
 5 Recreation Area” and dated November 15, 2023.

6 (b) MANAGEMENT.—

7 (1) BOUNDARY FENCE.—The Secretary shall
 8 authorize the construction of a fence along the west-
 9 ern boundary of the Recreation Area on any Federal
 10 land that—

11 (A) is managed by the Bureau; and

12 (B) is west of North Mountain View Road.

13 (2) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—As soon as
 14 practicable after the date of completion of the fence
 15 described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall es-
 16 tablish a travel management plan for the Recreation
 17 Area that efficiently coordinates the use of motor-
 18 ized off-road vehicles in the Recreation Area.

19 **SEC. 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
 20 **AREAS.**

21 (a) BENNET MOUNTAINS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 22 AREA.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
 24 rights, there is established the Bennett Mountains
 25 Special Management Area (referred to in this sub-

1 section as the “Special Management Area”), com-
2 prising approximately 6,165.05 acres of Federal
3 land in the State administered by the Bureau, as
4 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
5 Bennet Mountains Special Management Area” and
6 dated November 15, 2023.

7 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Manage-
8 ment Area shall be administered by the Secretary.

9 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special
10 Management Area is to enhance the natural, his-
11 toric, scenic, and recreational, values of the area.

12 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
14 manage the Special Management Area—

15 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
16 scribed in paragraph (3); and

17 (ii) in accordance with—

18 (I) the laws (including regula-
19 tions) generally applicable to the Bu-
20 reau;

21 (II) this subsection; and

22 (III) any other applicable law (in-
23 cluding regulations).

24 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

1 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
2 permanent roads in the Special Manage-
3 ment Area shall not be allowed.

4 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
5 as needed for administrative purposes,
6 emergency response, fire management, for-
7 est health and restoration, weed and pest
8 control, habitat management, livestock
9 management, and range improvement, the
10 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles
11 in the Special Management Area shall be
12 allowed only on existing roads and trails
13 designated for the use of motorized or
14 mechanized vehicles.

15 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
16 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
18 tablish a travel management plan for the
19 Special Management Area.

20 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the
21 Special Management Area shall be administered
22 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
23 to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

1 (D) TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial
 2 timber harvesting shall not be allowed in the
 3 Special Management Area.

4 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
 6 ing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special
 7 Management Area is withdrawn from—

8 (i) all forms of appropriation or dis-
 9 posal under the public land laws;

10 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
 11 the mining laws; and

12 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
 13 mineral and geothermal leasing.

14 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
 15 lease oil and gas resources within the bound-
 16 aries of the Special Management Area if—

17 (i) the lease may only be accessed by
 18 directional drilling from a lease that is out-
 19 side of the Special Management Area; and

20 (ii) the lease prohibits, without excep-
 21 tion or waiver, surface occupancy and sur-
 22 face disturbance within the Special Man-
 23 agement Area for any activities, including
 24 activities related to exploration, develop-
 25 ment, or production.

1 (b) BLACK CAT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

2 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
3 rights, there is established the Black Cat Special
4 Management Area (referred to in this subsection as
5 the “Special Management Area”), comprising ap-
6 proximately 1,178 acres of Federal land in Carbon
7 County, Wyoming, as generally depicted on the map
8 entitled “Black Cat Special Management Area” and
9 dated November 13, 2023.

10 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Manage-
11 ment Area shall be administered by the Secretary of
12 Agriculture.

13 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special
14 Management Area is to enhance the natural, his-
15 toric, scenic, and recreational values of the area.

16 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
18 culture shall manage the Special Management
19 Area—

20 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
21 scribed in paragraph (3); and

22 (ii) in accordance with—

23 (I) the laws (including regula-
24 tions) generally applicable to National
25 Forest System land;

1 (II) this subsection; and

2 (III) any other applicable law (in-
3 cluding regulations).

4 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

5 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
6 permanent roads in the Special Manage-
7 ment Area shall not be allowed.

8 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
9 as needed for administrative purposes,
10 emergency response, fire management, for-
11 est health and restoration, weed and pest
12 control, habitat management, livestock
13 management, and range improvement, the
14 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles
15 in the Special Management Area shall be
16 allowed only on existing roads and trails
17 designated for the use of motorized or
18 mechanized vehicles.

19 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
20 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
21 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture shall establish a travel management
23 plan for the Special Management Area.

24 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the
25 Special Management Area shall be administered

1 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
 2 to grazing on National Forest System land.

3 (D) TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial
 4 timber harvesting shall not be allowed in the
 5 Special Management Area.

6 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
 8 ing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special
 9 Management Area is withdrawn from—

10 (i) all forms of appropriation or dis-
 11 posal under the public land laws;

12 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
 13 the mining laws; and

14 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
 15 mineral and geothermal leasing.

16 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may,
 17 with the approval of the Secretary of Agri-
 18 culture, lease oil and gas resources within the
 19 boundaries of the Special Management Area
 20 if—

21 (i) the lease may only be accessed by
 22 directional drilling from a lease that is out-
 23 side of the Special Management Area; and

24 (ii) the lease prohibits, without excep-
 25 tion or waiver, surface occupancy and sur-

1 face disturbance within the Special Man-
2 agement Area for any activities, including
3 activities related to exploration, develop-
4 ment, or production.

5 (c) SWEETWATER ROCKS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
6 AREA.—

7 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
8 rights, there is established the Sweetwater Rocks
9 Special Management Area (referred to in this sub-
10 section as the “Special Management Area”), com-
11 prising approximately 34,347.79 acres of Federal
12 land in Fremont and Natrona Counties, Wyoming,
13 as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
14 Sweetwater Rocks Special Management Area” and
15 dated November 15, 2023.

16 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Manage-
17 ment Area shall be administered by the Secretary.

18 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special
19 Management Area is to enhance the natural, his-
20 toric, scenic, and recreational, values of the area.

21 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 manage the Special Management Area—

24 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
25 scribed in paragraph (3); and

1 (ii) in accordance with—

2 (I) the laws (including regula-
3 tions) generally applicable to the Bu-
4 reau;

5 (II) this subsection; and

6 (III) any other applicable law (in-
7 cluding regulations).

8 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

9 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
10 permanent roads in the Special Manage-
11 ment Area shall not be allowed.

12 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
13 as needed for administrative purposes,
14 emergency response, fire management, for-
15 est health and restoration, weed and pest
16 control, habitat management, livestock
17 management, and range improvement, the
18 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles
19 in the Special Management Area shall be
20 allowed only on existing roads and trails
21 designated for the use of motorized or
22 mechanized vehicles.

23 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
24 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
25 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-

1 tablish a travel management plan for the
2 Special Management Area.

3 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the
4 Special Management Area shall be administered
5 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
6 to the Bureau.

7 (D) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN OVERHEAD
8 TOWERS.—No new overhead transmission or
9 communications tower shall be constructed in
10 the Special Management Area.

11 (E) LAND EXCHANGES.—The Secretary
12 may propose to, and carry out with, an indi-
13 vidual or entity owning land in the vicinity of
14 the Special Management Area any land ex-
15 change that—

16 (i) increases access to the Special
17 Management Area; and

18 (ii) does not result in a net loss of
19 Federal land.

20 (F) UNDERGROUND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—
21 Notwithstanding paragraph (5), the Secretary
22 may expand any underground right-of-way in
23 the Special Management Area that exists as of
24 the date of enactment of this Act.

25 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
2 ing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special
3 Management Area is withdrawn from—

4 (i) all forms of appropriation or dis-
5 posal under the public land laws;

6 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
7 the mining laws; and

8 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
9 mineral and geothermal leasing.

10 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
11 lease oil and gas resources within the bound-
12 aries of the Special Management Area if—

13 (i) the lease may only be accessed by
14 directional drilling from a lease that is out-
15 side of the Special Management Area; and

16 (ii) the lease prohibits, without excep-
17 tion or waiver, surface occupancy and sur-
18 face disturbance within the Special Man-
19 agement Area for any activities, including
20 activities related to exploration, develop-
21 ment, or production.

22 (C) WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY WITH-
23 DRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence
24 on the date of enactment of this Act, the land
25 within the boundaries of the Special Manage-

1 ment Area is withdrawn from right-of-way leas-
 2 ing and disposition under laws relating to wind
 3 or solar energy.

4 (d) FORTIFICATION CREEK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 5 AREA; FRAKER MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA;
 6 NORTH FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

7 (1) DEFINITION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 8 AREA.—In this subsection, the term “Special Man-
 9 agement Area” means a special management area
 10 established by paragraph (2).

11 (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 12 AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights there are
 13 established the following:

14 (A) The Fortification Creek Special Man-
 15 agement Area, comprising approximately
 16 12,520.69 acres of Federal land administered in
 17 the State by the Bureau, as generally depicted
 18 on the map entitled “Proposed Fortification
 19 Creek Management Area” and dated November
 20 15, 2023.

21 (B) The Fraker Mountain Special Manage-
 22 ment Area, comprising approximately 6,248.28
 23 acres of Federal land administered in the State
 24 by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the

1 map entitled “Proposed Fraker Mountain Man-
2 agement Area” and dated November 15, 2023.

3 (C) The North Fork Special Management
4 Area, comprising approximately 10,026.15
5 acres of Federal land administered in the State
6 by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the
7 map entitled “Proposed North Fork Manage-
8 ment Area” and dated November 15, 2023.

9 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Manage-
10 ment Areas shall be administered by the Secretary.

11 (4) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a Special Man-
12 agement Area is to enhance the natural, historic,
13 scenic, recreational, wildlife habitat, forest health,
14 watershed protection, and ecological and cultural
15 values of the area.

16 (5) MANAGEMENT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 manage each Special Management Area—

19 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
20 scribed in paragraph (4); and

21 (ii) in accordance with—

22 (I) the laws (including regula-
23 tions) generally applicable to the Bu-
24 reau;

25 (II) this subsection; and

1 (III) any other applicable law (in-
2 cluding regulations).

3 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

4 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
5 permanent roads in a Special Management
6 Area shall not be allowed.

7 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
8 as needed for administrative purposes,
9 emergency response, fire management, for-
10 est health and restoration, weed and pest
11 control, habitat management, livestock
12 management, and range improvement, the
13 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles
14 in a Special Management Area shall be al-
15 lowed only on existing roads and trails des-
16 ignated for the use of motorized or mecha-
17 nized vehicles.

18 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
19 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
20 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
21 tablish a travel management plan for each
22 Special Management Area.

23 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in a
24 Special Management Area shall be administered

1 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
 2 to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

3 (D) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN INFRA-
 4 STRUCTURE.—The development, construction,
 5 or installation of infrastructure for recreational
 6 use shall not be allowed in—

7 (i) the Fraker Mountain Special Man-
 8 agement Area; or

9 (ii) the North Fork Special Manage-
 10 ment Area.

11 (6) WITHDRAWAL.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
 13 ing rights and subparagraph (B), the Special
 14 Management Areas are withdrawn from—

15 (i) all forms of appropriation or dis-
 16 posal under the public land laws;

17 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
 18 the mining laws; and

19 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
 20 mineral and geothermal leasing.

21 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
 22 lease oil and gas resources within the bound-
 23 aries of a Special Management Area if—

- 1 (i) the lease may only be accessed by
 2 directional drilling from a lease that is out-
 3 side of the Special Management Area; and
 4 (ii) the lease prohibits, without excep-
 5 tion or waiver, surface occupancy and sur-
 6 face disturbance within the Special Man-
 7 agement Area for any activities, including
 8 activities related to exploration, develop-
 9 ment, or production.

10 (e) CEDAR MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 11 AREA.—

12 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
 13 rights, there is established the Cedar Mountain Spe-
 14 cial Management Area (referred to in this subsection
 15 as the “Special Management Area”), comprising ap-
 16 proximately 20,745.73 acres of Federal land in the
 17 State administered by the Bureau, as generally de-
 18 picted on the map entitled “Proposed Cedar Moun-
 19 tain Special Management Area” and dated Novem-
 20 ber 15, 2023.

21 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Manage-
 22 ment Area shall be administered by the Secretary.

23 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special
 24 Management Area is to enhance the natural, his-

1 toric, scenic, recreational, ecological, wildlife, and
2 livestock production values of the area.

3 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
5 manage the Special Management Area—

6 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
7 scribed in paragraph (3); and

8 (ii) in accordance with—

9 (I) the laws (including regula-
10 tions) generally applicable to the Bu-
11 reau;

12 (II) this subsection; and

13 (III) any other applicable law (in-
14 cluding regulations).

15 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

16 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
17 permanent roads in the Special Manage-
18 ment Area shall not be allowed.

19 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
20 as needed for administrative purposes,
21 emergency response, fire management, for-
22 est health and restoration, weed and pest
23 control, habitat management, livestock
24 management, and range improvement, the
25 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles

1 in the Special Management Area shall be
2 allowed only on existing roads and trails
3 designated for the use of motorized or
4 mechanized vehicles.

5 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

6 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
7 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
8 tablish a travel management plan for the
9 Special Management Area.

10 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the
11 Special Management Area shall be administered
12 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
13 to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

14 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
16 ing rights, the Special Management Area is
17 withdrawn from—

18 (i) all forms of appropriation or dis-
19 posal under the public land laws;

20 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
21 the mining laws; and

22 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
23 mineral and geothermal leasing.

1 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may
 2 lease oil and gas resources within the bound-
 3 aries of the Special Management Area if—

4 (i) the lease may only be accessed by
 5 directional drilling from a lease that is out-
 6 side of the Special Management Area; and

7 (ii) the lease prohibits, without excep-
 8 tion or waiver, surface occupancy and sur-
 9 face disturbance within the Special Man-
 10 agement Area for any activities, including
 11 activities related to exploration, develop-
 12 ment, or production.

13 **SEC. 9. LANDER SLOPE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRON-**
 14 **MENTAL CONCERN AND RED CANYON AREA**
 15 **OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.**

16 (a) DEFINITION OF COUNTY.—In this section, the
 17 term “County” means Fremont County, Wyoming.

18 (b) LANDER SLOPE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRON-
 19 MENTAL CONCERN AND RED CANYON AREA OF CRITICAL
 20 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.—

21 (1) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary shall pursue
 22 transfers in which land managed by the Bureau in
 23 the County is exchanged for land owned by the State
 24 that is within the boundaries of—

1 (A) the Lander Slope Area of Critical En-
 2 vironmental Concern; or

3 (B) the Red Canyon Area of Critical Envi-
 4 ronmental Concern.

5 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A transfer under para-
 6 graph (1) shall—

7 (A) comply with all requirements of law,
 8 including any required analysis; and

9 (B) be subject to appropriation.

10 (c) STUDY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
 12 out a study to evaluate the potential for the develop-
 13 ment of special motorized recreation areas in the
 14 County.

15 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under para-
 16 graph (1) shall evaluate—

17 (A) the potential for the development of
 18 special motorized recreation areas on all land
 19 managed by the Bureau in the County except—

20 (i) any land in T. 40 N., R. 94 W.,
 21 secs. 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28,
 22 29, and the N½ sec. 34; and

23 (ii) any land that is subject to a re-
 24 striction on the use of off-road vehicles
 25 under any Federal law, including this Act;

1 (B) the suitability of the land evaluated
2 under subparagraph (A) for off-road vehicles,
3 including rock crawlers; and

4 (C) the parking, staging, and camping nec-
5 essary to accommodate special motorized recre-
6 ation.

7 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
9 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural
10 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-
11 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a re-
12 port describing the findings of the study under para-
13 graph (1).

14 (d) FREMONT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM.—

15 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary shall establish a team, to be known as the
18 “Fremont County Implementation Team” (referred
19 to in this subsection as the “Team”) to advise and
20 assist the Secretary with respect to the implementa-
21 tion of the management requirements described in
22 this section that are applicable to land in the Coun-
23 ty.

24 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Team shall consist
25 of—

1 (A) the Secretary (or a designee of the
2 Secretary); and

3 (B) 1 or more individuals appointed by the
4 Board of County Commissioners of the County.

5 (3) NONAPPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVI-
6 SORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Team shall not be sub-
7 ject to the requirements of chapter 10 of title 5,
8 United States Code (commonly referred to as the
9 “Federal Advisory Committee Act”).

10 **SEC. 10. STUDY OF LAND IN HOT SPRINGS AND WASHAKIE**
11 **COUNTIES.**

12 (a) DEFINITION OF COUNTIES.—In this section, the
13 term “Counties” means each of the following counties in
14 the State:

15 (1) Hot Springs County.

16 (2) Washakie County.

17 (b) STUDY.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
19 out a study to evaluate the potential for the develop-
20 ment of new special motorized recreation areas in
21 the Counties.

22 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

23 (A) LAND INCLUDED.—The study under
24 paragraph (1) shall evaluate the potential for
25 the development of new special motorized recre-

1 ation areas on Federal land managed by the
 2 Bureau in the Counties except any land that is
 3 subject to a restriction on the use of motorized
 4 or mechanized vehicles under any Federal law,
 5 including this Act.

6 (B) PUBLIC INPUT; COLLABORATION.—In
 7 carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the
 8 Secretary shall—

9 (i) offer opportunities for public input;

10 and

11 (ii) collaborate with—

12 (I) State parks, historic sites,

13 and trails; and

14 (II) the Counties.

15 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
 16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
 17 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural
 18 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-
 19 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a re-
 20 port describing the findings of the study under para-
 21 graph (1).

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