

Information is primarily from the Pew [Campaign for America's Wilderness](#). * Indicates bills introduced in the 113th Congress that Pew is NOT working on.

Alaska

***Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act (H.R. 139)**

On January 3, 2013, Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA4) introduced legislation to preserve the Arctic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, as wilderness in recognition of its extraordinary natural ecosystems and for the permanent good of present and future generations of Americans.

It has 85 co-sponsors, all but 1 Democrats. It was referred to Committee.

California

***Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Act (S. 483)**

On March 6, 2013, Sen. Barbara Boxer introduced legislation to designate the Berressa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area and other purposes.

Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA5) introduced companion legislation on March 7, 2013.

Colorado

San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act of 2013 (S. 341)

On February 14, 2013, Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) introduced legislation to protect nearly 55,000 acres of public land in southwest Colorado, including 33,000 acres as wilderness. This addition to the 480,000-acre San Juan National Forest wilderness will provide protection to critical landscape linkages.

The San Juan Mountain range is one of the most geologically diverse mountain ranges in the world and is home to the threatened Canada lynx and the Gunnison sage grouse and Colorado River cutthroat trout, whose status is under review. The wilderness legislation is supported by local communities, elected officials, ranchers and recreation groups.

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) is a co-sponsor.

Idaho

Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (H.R. 163)

On January 3, 2013, Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) introduced legislation to permanently protect over 330,000 acres of wilderness in central Idaho.

The bill will create three wilderness areas in the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests and the Challis District of the Bureau of Land Management within the Boulder-White Clouds Mountain range.

Boulder-White Clouds is the largest unprotected wild roadless area in the national forests of the lower 48 states. Its broad range of elevations and habitats lends to the area's enormous biological and geographical diversity. Since the land is uninterrupted by roads, Boulder-White Clouds is a popular hunting and fishing destination, with spawning salmon and big game such as elk, moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, black bear, and cougar.

Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act (Add H.R. 977/S. 140)

On January 4, 2013, Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) introduced legislation to protect over 32,500 acres of wilderness in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

This area is on the mainland shore of Lake Michigan and is popular with hunters, anglers, hikers and boaters.

Reps. Kerry Bentivolio (R-MI), Dave Camp (R-MI), Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Mike Rogers (R-MI), Fred Upton (R-MI) and Tim Walberg (R-MI) are co-sponsors.

Sens. Carl Levin (D-MI) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) introduced companion legislation on January 22, 2013.

On March 14, 2013 the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved this legislation.

Montana

Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (S. 268)

On January 22, 2013, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. This bill will protect nearly 700,000 acres of wilderness across the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Lolo and Kootenai National Forests, including the East and West Pioneers, the Sapphires, Lost Cabin and Lima Peaks, and additions to the Lee Metcalf, Anaconda-Pintlar, and North Fork Blackfoot Monture Creek Wilderness areas.

The bill will also improve forest health and fish and wildlife habitat as well as protect the lands for hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding. Along with wilderness protection, the measure will designate areas for backcountry recreation and areas for forest stewardship.

Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act (S. 364)

On February 14, 2013, Sens. Max Baucus (D-MT) and Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced legislation to protect 275,000 acres of rustic public land in western Montana. The bill will add 50,500 acres to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and 16,700 acres to the Scapegoat Wilderness.

The legislation will also designate 208,000 acres as Conservation Management Areas and prioritizes noxious-weed eradication and prevention on the protected lands.

Nevada

Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act of 2013 (H.R. 433)

On January 29, 2013, Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV) introduced legislation to designate the 26,000 acre Pine Forest Range Wilderness in northwest Nevada.

The Pine Forest Range is a popular destination for sportsmen and recreationists and is prime habitat for mule deer, sage grouse, and mountain lion.

Sens. Harry Reid (D-NV) and Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced companion legislation on February 14, 2013.

Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2013 (S. 159)

On January 28, 2013, Sens. Harry Reid (D-NV) and Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced legislation to designate 48,000 acres of wilderness in Lyon County, protecting historic cultural and natural resources. It will also convey 12,500 acres of land to the city of Yerington for economic development surrounding the Nevada Copper mine.

The Wovoka Wilderness will be named in honor of the Native American spiritual leader and father of the Ghostdance, who lived near the area.

Reps. Steven Horsford (D-NV), Mark Amodei (R-NV) and Joe Heck (R-NV) introduced companion legislation on February 14, 2013.

New Mexico

Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act (H.R. 560/S. 241)

DESIGNATED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA as a NATIONAL MONUMENT via the Antiquities Act on March 25, 2013!

On February 6, 2013, Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) introduced the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act to protect as a conservation area some 235,000 acres northwest of Taos, including more than 21,000 acres of designated wilderness.

The bill will designate about 13,500 acres of the Ute Mountain area as the Cerro del Yuta Wilderness, and 8,000 acres as the Rio San Antonio wilderness.

The legislation will also give protection to the Rio Grande Gorge, home to one of the great migratory routes in the world, offering nesting places to falcons, eagles and hawks.

Sens. Tom Udall (D-NM) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced companion legislation on February 7, 2013.

Oregon

Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act (S. 352)

Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act on February 14, 2013, a measure that will permanently protect nearly 30,000 acres of wilderness on Wassen Creek in Oregon's Coast Range.

Considered one of the most secluded locations in Oregon, Devil's Staircase is home to some of the finest examples of classic old growth forest left in the Coast Range. Many native species are found here, including threatened spotted owls, elk, black bear, mountain lions, river otter and mink.

The bill will also designate more than 14 miles of Wassen and Franklin Creeks as Wild and Scenic.

The Oregon Treasures Act (S. 353)

On February 14, 2013, Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jeff Merkley (DNM) introduced legislation to protect five areas in Oregon.

The Oregon Treasures Act will designate 60,000 acres of wilderness on the Rogue River in southwest Oregon and over 17,000 acres of wilderness in the Cathedral Rock and Horse Heaven areas along the lower John Day river. It will also protect 143 miles of the Rogue River and its tributaries as wild and scenic as well as 23.1 miles of the Molalla River as recreational under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In addition the legislation will protect 3 miles of the Chetco River from invasive mining practices.

This bill combines four previously introduced bills

Utah

***America's Redrock Wilderness Act**

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is the seminal vision for protecting 9.2 million acres of Utah's breathtaking redrock country in its natural state for all future generations to enjoy.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) will be reintroducing the legislation this Congress, and Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey will introduce it in the House, picking up where former Utah Rep. Wayne Owens and retired New York Rep. Maurice Hinchey left off.

In the 112th Congress this bill had 122 co-sponsors in the House and 14 co-sponsors in the Senate! There is broad national support for this bill but none coming from Utah!

Washington

Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act (H.R. 361/S. 112)

On January 23, 2013, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. David Reichert (R-WA) introduced legislation that will expand the existing 394,000-acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness by 22,100 acres and designate parts of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers as Wild and Scenic.

The areas protected by this bill lie in the Pratt River Valley and the Middle and South Fork Snoqualmie River Valleys, an area that includes glacier-cut U-shaped valleys, snow-capped peaks, old-growth forests, whitewater rivers and strong native trout runs.

This area is the closest and most accessible to residents of the greater Seattle metropolitan area.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) are co-sponsors.

Northern Rockies – Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

***Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NPREA) (H.R. 1187)**

Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY12) introduced the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, known as NPREA on March 12, 2013, to provide bioregion-wide protection of the wild lands of the Northern Rockies.

The bill will designate certain National Forest System lands and public lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, to provide for the establishment of a Northern Rockies Wildlife Habitat and Corridors Information System and Program, and for other purposes.

It has 4 Democratic co-sponsors and was referred to Committee.

Watch for Co-opting language. Wilderness, Monument, or Protection in a bill's title does not always mean increased protection!

Idaho Wilderness Waters Resources Protection Act (H.R. 876)

Introduced by Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID2) actually is to authorize continued use of water diversions within existing designated Wilderness.

Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act (H.R. 995)

Introduced by Steve Pearce (R-NM2) as an “offensive” way to preclude the broader protections of the Organ Mountains—Dona Ana County Conservation and Protection Act (S.1024 – 112th) introduced by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM 1983-2013)