

Outdoor Business and Recreation Group Vision for a 2016 Congressional Public Lands Package

The Conservation Alliance, Outdoor Industry Association, and Outdoor Alliance ask Congress to develop and pass a package of public lands bills that will benefit conservation, outdoor recreation and the outdoor recreation economy. Of the many bills pending in Congress that would protect public lands and waters, the following list of eight represents bills with strong, bipartisan support and which are ready to pass immediately. Each of these bills:

- Is supported by each coalition organization;
- Offers clear benefits to outdoor recreation;
- Is fully developed and vetted; and
- Has had at least one hearing in Congress.

California Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, California (HR 1865/S. 1423)

Representative Lois Capps and Senator Barbara Boxer introduced legislation to protect 245,665 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protecting 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and designating the Condor National Recreation Trail. Visitors from around the world come to these coastal monuments and grasslands to hike, backpack, camp, bird-watch, ride horses, fish, kayak, and mountain bike.

Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Washington (HR 2665/S. 1510)

Senator Patty Murray and Representative Derek Kilmer have introduced legislation to protect 126,000 acres of Wilderness and 469 river miles on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. The legislation would preserve salmon streams and wild lands adjacent to Olympic National Park.

Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Act, Washington (S. 1690/H.R. 2900)

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is an outdoor corridor that includes 1.5 million acres of public and private land linking Seattle to Central Washington. Within the greenway are 126,000 acres of wilderness 469 river miles, 1,600 miles of trails, whitewater runs, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, rock climbing routes, and mountain biking opportunities. The National Heritage Area designation would improve management of the area and promote economic growth and tourism in the region.

Oregon Wildlands Act, Oregon (S. 1699)

The Oregon Wildlands Act, introduced by Senator Ron Wyden, would secure wilderness protection for 107,800 acres in the Wild Rogue and Devil's Staircase areas. It would also designate 252 miles of wild and scenic rivers and preserve 119,120 acres of the Rogue Canyon and Molalla rivers as national recreation areas, and protect the Chetco River from mining activity. People visit all of these areas to hike, fish, whitewater raft, kayak, and camp.

Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary Designation Act, Oregon (S.1448)

The Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary Designation Act would protect 104,000 acres in Oregon's North Umpqua River watershed as a sanctuary for some of the best wild steelhead spawning areas in the Pacific Northwest. The area provides more than 50 miles of high-quality river and stream habitat for summer and winter steelhead, chinook and Coho salmon, rainbow trout, and other native species.

Southwestern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act of 2015, Oregon (S.346/H.R.682)

The Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion in northwestern California and southwestern Oregon is known for its extraordinary biodiversity, rugged terrain, and stunningly pure rivers. The Smith, Chetco, Illinois, Rogue and other local rivers are the arteries of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, and contain high quality salmon and steelhead habitat, corridors of rich botanical diversity, and outstanding opportunities for backcountry recreation. These watersheds represent some of our nation's most intact and expansive, yet unprotected wildlands. In July 2016, the Forest Service issued a recommendation to withdraw the lands from mineral entry for a period of 5 years. Although 99.9 percent of public comments supported this withdrawal, with most supporting a 20-year alternative, the agency selected the shorter time frame. Given current mining threats, this creates a sense of urgency for a permanent legislative withdrawal.

East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Montana (S. 1577/H.R. 2787)

East Rosebud Creek offers paddlers an intense whitewater experience and anglers excellent fishing opportunities. Many hikers also begin trips in the Beartooth Mountains from the banks of East Rosebud Creek, and families often take advantage of the campground filled with the sights and sounds of the crystal clear stream. It is a gem in an area of incomparable beauty and national significance for its expansive wild and working landscapes. This legislation would designate a spectacular 20-mile section of river as a Wild and Scenic, protecting the stream from future hydropower dams, water quality degradation, and other impacts, while allowing continued enjoyment and uses of the stream.

Tennessee Wilderness Act, Tennessee (HR 4545/S. 755)

Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and Representative Phil Roe introduced legislation to protect 19,556 acres of public land in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest, preserving premium hiking areas, including stretches of the Appalachian Trail.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or to learn more about our support for the proposals listed.

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