



INSPIRING AMERICANS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

Fact Sheet

Dismantling America's Treasures: the Assault on U.S. Public Lands

National forests, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, and other treasured public lands have become the focus of a small number of elected officials whose intention is to tear down protections, limit access to outdoor enthusiasts, and to promote extractive activities over all others. These attacks have culminated in the list of legislative proposals below, and when put together they paint a grim picture of the future of public lands.

H.R. 1526 (Rep. Hastings-WA) "*Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act.*" This bill would institute a legislatively derived timber production level and end the ability of professional foresters to alter the cut level based on science, public opinion, and changes brought about by fire, flooding and insect damage. It would vastly reduce roadless areas, and reduce clean water protections for communities, wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities. **STATUS: Passed in the House of Representatives.**

S. 1966 (Sen. Barrasso-WY) "*National Forest Jobs and Management Act of 2014.*" The Senate version of H.R. 1526, this legislation would require the Forest Service to undertake commercial logging or mechanical treatment on *at least* 7.5 million acres of national forest land in the next 15 years—effectively doubling the existing national cut. As proposed, this legislation would apply only to forests west of the 100th meridian but if passed, it opens the door to similar mandated logging practices being applied nationwide. **STATUS: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Hearings Held.**

H.R. 2398 (Rep. Bishop-UT) "*National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act.*" Authorizes the U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) to circumvent over a dozen conservation and environmental laws on public lands within 100 miles of the northern and southern land borders. U.S. Customs and Border Protection opposes H.R. 2398, saying that the bill is not necessary because CBP already coordinates with federal land managers in these areas. **STATUS: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry.**

H.R. 2657 (Rep. Chaffetz-UT) "*Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act.*" This proposal would sell off millions of acres of public lands to the highest bidder with little or no protections. This legislation was written using information from a 1997 report to Congress; to use outdated information such as this does not take into account critical habitat, wildlife, recreation activities, and dedicated open space. It is a blatant land giveaway. **STATUS: Passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources.**

H.R. 638 (Rep. Fleming-LA) "*National Wildlife Refuge Review Act.*" If passed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) could no longer establish new refuges, which would lead to many worthy refuge proposals never receiving protection. It would also take away the flexibility to move quickly to conserve wildlife habitat that are threatened by development. H.R. 638 is unnecessary: the FWS has never created a refuge against the wishes of Congress and always partners with local shareholders. **STATUS: Passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee.**

H.R. 1459 (Rep. Bishop-UT) "*Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments.*" This legislation undermines a key conservation tool, the Antiquities Act, which has been used by Presidents of both political parties to protect historically and culturally significant parcels of land. It places arbitrary limits on how and when the President can use the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments, and requires any designation go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process as well as be confirmed by Congress within 3 years. **STATUS: Passed in the House of Representatives.**