

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1348

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wyoming Public Lands
3 Initiative Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

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

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

12 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of the Interior.

14 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
15 of Wyoming.

16 (5) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilderness
17 area” means a wilderness area designated by section
18 3.

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

20 In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
21 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are des-
22 ignated as wilderness and as components of the National
23 Wilderness Preservation System:

24 (1) ENCAMPMENT RIVER CANYON WILDER-
25 NESS.—

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

8 (B) EXCLUDED LAND.—The following land
 9 is not included in the Encampment River Can-
 10 yon Wilderness:

11 (i) Any land in the $NW^{1/4}NW^{1/4}NW^{1/4}$
 12 sec. 24, T. 14 N., R. 84 W.

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

15 (I) County Road 353; or

16 (II) Water Valley Road.

17 (2) PROSPECT MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land
 19 administered by the Bureau in the State, com-
 20 prising approximately 1,099.76 acres, as gen-
 21 erally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
 22 Prospect Mountain Wilderness” and dated De-
 23 cember 8, 2023, which shall be known as the
 24 “Prospect Mountain Wilderness”.

1 (B) EXCLUDED LAND.—Any land within
2 100 feet of the centerline of Prospect Road is
3 not included in the Prospect Mountain Wilder-
4 ness.

5 (3) UPPER SWEETWATER CANYON WILDER-
6 NESS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land
8 administered by the Bureau in the State, com-
9 prising approximately 2,877.35 acres, as gen-
10 erally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
11 Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness” and
12 dated December 6, 2023, which shall be known
13 as the “Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness”.

14 (B) BOUNDARY.—

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

20 (ii) EASTERN BOUNDARY.—The east-
21 ern boundary of the Upper Sweetwater
22 Canyon Wilderness shall be 100 feet from
23 the western 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. 28 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 Upper Sweetwater Canyon
12 Wilderness.

13 (4) LOWER SWEETWATER CANYON WILDER-
14 NESS.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Certain Federal land
16 administered by the Bureau in the State, com-
17 prising approximately 5,665.19 acres, as gen-
18 erally depicted on the map entitled “Lower
19 Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness” and dated De-
20 cember 5, 2023, which shall be known as the
21 “Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness”.

22 (B) BOUNDARY.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
24 in clause (ii), the boundary of the Lower
25 Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness shall con-

1 form to the boundary of the Sweetwater
2 Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

3 (ii) WESTERN BOUNDARY.—The west-
4 ern boundary of the Lower Sweetwater
5 Canyon Wilderness shall be 100 feet from
6 the eastern edge of the north-south road
7 bisecting the Upper Sweetwater Canyon
8 Wilderness and the Lower Sweetwater
9 Canyon Wilderness, known as “Strawberry
10 Creek Road”.

11 (iii) EXCLUSION OF EXISTING
12 ROADS.—Any established legal route with
13 authorized motorized use in existence on
14 the date of enactment of this Act that en-
15 ters the Upper Sweetwater Canyon Wilder-
16 ness in T. 29 N., R. 98 W., sec. 4, or the
17 Lower Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness in
18 T. 29 N., R. 97 W., sec. 33, is not in-
19 cluded in the Lower Sweetwater Canyon
20 Wilderness.

21 (5) BOBCAT DRAW WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
22 eral land administered by the Bureau in the State,
23 comprising approximately 6,246.84 acres, as gen-
24 erally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Bob-
25 cat Draw Wilderness” and dated December 8, 2023,

1 which shall be known as the “Bobcat Draw Wilder-
2 ness”.

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

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

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

11 (2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary
12 of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference
13 to the Secretary.

14 (b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVI-
15 TIES.—

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

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

23 (A) the Wyoming Forestry Division; and

24 (B) the applicable county in the State in
25 which the wilderness area is located.

1 (3) FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than
2 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
3 Secretary shall establish a fire management plan for
4 the wilderness areas—

5 (A) to ensure the timely and efficient con-
6 trol of fires, diseases, and insects in the wilder-
7 ness areas, in accordance with section 4(d)(1)
8 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1));
9 and

10 (B) to provide, to the maximum extent
11 practicable, adequate protection from forest
12 fires, disease outbreaks, and insect infestations
13 to any Federal, State, or private land adjacent
14 to the wilderness areas.

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

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

20 (2) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of
21 House Report 101–405, accompanying H.R. 2570 of
22 the 101st Congress, for land under the jurisdiction
23 of the Secretary of the Interior.

24 (d) BUFFER ZONES.—

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

4 (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OR USES.—The fact
5 that a nonwilderness activity or use can be seen or
6 heard from within a wilderness area shall not pre-
7 clude the activity or use outside the boundary of the
8 wilderness area.

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

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

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

19 (1) The Encampment River Canyon Wilderness
20 Study Area.

21 (2) The Prospect Mountain Wilderness Study
22 Area.

23 (3) The Bennett Mountains Wilderness Study
24 Area.

- 1 (4) The Sweetwater Canyon Wilderness Study
2 Area.
- 3 (5) The Lankin Dome Wilderness Study Area.
- 4 (6) The Split Rock Wilderness Study Area.
- 5 (7) The Savage Peak Wilderness Study Area.
- 6 (8) The Miller Springs Wilderness Study Area.
- 7 (9) The Dubois Badlands Wilderness Study
8 Area.
- 9 (10) The Copper Mountain Wilderness Study
10 Area.
- 11 (11) The Whiskey Mountain Wilderness Study
12 Area.
- 13 (12) The Fortification Creek Wilderness Study
14 Area.
- 15 (13) The Gardner Mountain Wilderness Study
16 Area.
- 17 (14) The North Fork Wilderness Study Area.
- 18 (15) The portion of the Bobcat Draw Wilder-
19 ness Study Area located in Washakie County, Wyo-
20 ming.
- 21 (16) The Cedar Mountain Wilderness Study
22 Area.
- 23 (17) The Honeycombs Wilderness Study Area.
- 24 (c) RELEASE.—Any portion of a wilderness study
25 area described in subsection (b) that is not designated as

1 a wilderness area by section 3 is no longer subject to sec-
2 tion 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management
3 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)).

4 (d) MANAGEMENT OF RELEASED LAND.—

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

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

10 (B) applicable land management plans;

11 (C) applicable management provisions
12 under paragraph (2); and

13 (D) any other applicable law.

14 (2) SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS.—

15 (A) BENNETT MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS
16 STUDY AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the
17 portion of the Bennett Mountains Wilderness
18 Study Area released under subsection (c) in ac-
19 cordance with section 8(a).

20 (B) DUBOIS BADLANDS WILDERNESS
21 STUDY AREA.—

22 (i) DIVISION.—The Secretary shall di-
23 vide the land within the Dubois Badlands
24 Wilderness Study Area by authorizing the
25 installation of a fence or the repair or relo-

1 cation of an existing fence in T. 41 N., R.
2 106 W., sec. 5, that—

3 (I) follows existing infrastructure
4 and natural barriers;

5 (II) begins at an intersection
6 with North Mountain View Road in
7 the NE¹/₄NW¹/₄ sec. 5, T. 41 N., R.
8 106 W.;

9 (III) from the point described in
10 subclause (II), proceeds southeast to a
11 point near the midpoint of the NE¹/₄
12 sec. 5, T. 41 N., R. 106 W.; and

13 (IV) from the point described in
14 subclause (III), proceeds southwest to
15 a point in the SW¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 5, T.
16 41 N., R. 106 W., that intersects with
17 the boundary of the Dubois Badlands
18 Wilderness Study Area.

19 (ii) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary
20 shall manage the portion of the Dubois
21 Badlands Wilderness Study Area released
22 under subsection (c) in accordance with—

23 (I) paragraph (1); and

24 (II) sections 6 and 7.

1 (C) COPPER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
2 STUDY AREA.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
4 manage the portion of the Copper Moun-
5 tain Wilderness Study Area released under
6 subsection (c) in accordance with para-
7 graph (1).

8 (ii) MINERAL LEASING.—

9 (I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
10 may lease oil and gas resources within
11 the land released from the Copper
12 Mountain Wilderness Study Area
13 under subsection (c) if—

14 (aa) the lease may only be
15 accessed by directional drilling
16 from a lease that is outside of
17 the land released from the Cop-
18 per Mountain Wilderness Study
19 Area; and

20 (bb) the lease prohibits,
21 without exception or waiver, sur-
22 face occupancy and surface dis-
23 turbance on the land released
24 from the Copper Mountain Wil-
25 derness Study Area for any ac-

1 activities, including activities relat-
2 ing to exploration, development,
3 or production.

4 (II) UNDERGROUND RIGHTS-OF-
5 WAY.—The Secretary may grant un-
6 derground rights-of-way for any min-
7 eral lease entered into under sub-
8 clause (I).

9 (III) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN
10 LEASES.—Subject to valid rights in
11 existence on the date of enactment of
12 this Act, the Secretary shall not issue
13 a new lease for a wind or solar
14 project, an overhead transmission line,
15 or a communication tower on the land
16 released from the Copper Mountain
17 Wilderness Study Area under sub-
18 section (c).

19 (IV) AUTHORITY TO EXCHANGE
20 LAND.—In carrying out any land ex-
21 change involving any of the land re-
22 leased from the Copper Mountain Wil-
23 derness Study Area under subsection
24 (c), the Secretary shall ensure that

1 the exchange does not result in a net
2 loss of Federal land.

3 (D) WHISKEY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
4 STUDY AREA.—The Secretary shall manage the
5 portion of the Whiskey Mountain Wilderness
6 Study Area released under subsection (c) in ac-
7 cordance with—

8 (i) paragraph (1); and

9 (ii) the Whiskey Mountain Coopera-
10 tive Agreement between the Wyoming
11 Game and Fish Commission, the Forest
12 Service, and the Bureau, including any
13 amendment to that agreement relating to
14 the management of bighorn sheep.

15 (E) BOBCAT DRAW WILDERNESS STUDY
16 AREA.—

17 (i) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

18 (I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
19 2 years after the date of enactment of
20 this Act, the Secretary shall develop a
21 travel management plan for the land
22 released from the Bobcat Draw Wil-
23 derness Study Area under subsection
24 (c).

1 (II) REQUIREMENTS.—The travel
2 management plan under subclause (I)
3 shall—

4 (aa) identify all existing
5 roads and trails on the land re-
6 leased from the Bobcat Draw
7 Wilderness Study Area under
8 subsection (c);

9 (bb) designate each road or
10 trail available for—

11 (AA) motorized or
12 mechanized recreation; or

13 (BB) agriculture prac-
14 tices;

15 (cc) prohibit the construc-
16 tion of any new road or trail for
17 motorized or mechanized recre-
18 ation use; and

19 (dd) permit the continued
20 use of nonmotorized trails.

21 (ii) WITHDRAWAL.—

22 (I) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
23 vided in subclause (II), subject to
24 valid rights in existence on the date of
25 enactment of this Act, the land re-

1 leased from the Bobcat Draw Wilder-
2 ness Study Area under subsection (c)
3 is withdrawn from—

4 (aa) all forms of appropria-
5 tion or disposal under the public
6 land laws;

7 (bb) location, entry, and
8 patent under the mining laws;
9 and

10 (cc) disposition under laws
11 relating to mineral and geo-
12 thermal leasing.

13 (II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary
14 may lease oil and gas resources within
15 the land released from the Bobcat
16 Draw Wilderness Study Area under
17 subsection (c) if—

18 (aa) the lease may only be
19 accessed by directional drilling
20 from a lease that is outside of
21 the land released from the Bob-
22 cat Draw Wilderness Study Area;
23 and

24 (bb) the lease prohibits,
25 without exception or waiver, sur-

1 face occupancy and surface dis-
2 turbance on the land released
3 from the Bobcat Draw Wilder-
4 ness Study Area for any activi-
5 ties, including activities related to
6 exploration, development, or pro-
7 duction.

8 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBOIS BADLANDS NATIONAL**
9 **CONSERVATION AREA.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
11 rights, there is established the Dubois Badlands National
12 Conservation Area (referred to in this section as the “Con-
13 servation Area”), comprising approximately 4,446.46
14 acres of Federal land administered by the Bureau in the
15 State, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
16 Badlands National Conservation Area” and dated Novem-
17 ber 15, 2023.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Conservation
19 Area is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit
20 and enjoyment of present and future generations the eco-
21 logical, wildlife, recreational, scenic, cultural, historical,
22 and natural resources of the Area.

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

1 (1) in a manner that only allows uses of the
2 Conservation Area that the Secretary determines
3 would further the purpose of the Conservation Area
4 described in subsection (b); and

5 (2) in accordance with—

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

8 (B) this section; and

9 (C) any other applicable law.

10 (d) **MOTORIZED VEHICLES.**—

11 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The use of motorized vehi-
12 cles in the Conservation Area shall be permitted only
13 on existing roads, trails, and areas designated by the
14 Secretary for use by such vehicles as of the date of
15 enactment of this Act.

16 (2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The Secretary may allow
17 the use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation
18 Area as needed for administrative purposes and
19 emergency response.

20 (e) **GRAZING.**—Grazing of livestock in the Conserva-
21 tion Area shall be administered in accordance with the
22 laws generally applicable to land under the jurisdiction of
23 the Bureau.

24 (f) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid rights in exist-
25 ence on the date of enactment of this Act, the land within

1 the boundaries of the Conservation Area is withdrawn
2 from—

3 (1) all forms of appropriation or disposal under
4 the public land laws;

5 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
6 laws; and

7 (3) disposition under laws relating to mineral
8 and geothermal leasing.

9 **SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBOIS MOTORIZED RECRE-**
10 **ATION AREA.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
12 rights, there is established the Dubois Motorized Recre-
13 ation Area (referred to in this section as the “Recreation
14 Area”), comprising approximately 367.72 acres of Federal
15 land administered by the Bureau in the State, as generally
16 depicted on the map entitled “Proposed Dubois Motorized
17 Recreation Area” and dated November 15, 2023.

18 (b) MANAGEMENT.—

19 (1) BOUNDARY FENCE.—The Secretary shall
20 authorize the construction of a fence along the west-
21 ern boundary of the Recreation Area on any Federal
22 land that—

23 (A) is managed by the Bureau; and

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

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

7 **SEC. 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
8 **AREAS.**

9 (a) BENNET MOUNTAINS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
10 AREA.—

11 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
12 rights, there is established the Bennett Mountains
13 Special Management Area (referred to in this sub-
14 section as the “Special Management Area”), com-
15 prising approximately 6,165.05 acres of Federal
16 land in the State administered by the Bureau, as
17 generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
18 Bennet Mountains Special Management Area” and
19 dated November 15, 2023.

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

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

25 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

- 1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 manage the Special Management Area—
- 3 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
4 scribed in paragraph (3); and
- 5 (ii) in accordance with—
- 6 (I) the laws (including regula-
7 tions) generally applicable to the Bu-
8 reau;
- 9 (II) this subsection; and
- 10 (III) any other applicable law (in-
11 cluding regulations).
- 12 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—
- 13 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
14 permanent roads in the Special Manage-
15 ment Area shall not be allowed.
- 16 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
17 as needed for administrative purposes,
18 emergency response, fire management, for-
19 est health and restoration, weed and pest
20 control, habitat management, livestock
21 management, and range improvement, the
22 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles
23 in the Special Management Area shall be
24 allowed only on existing roads and trails

1 designated for the use of motorized or
2 mechanized vehicles.

3 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

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

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

12 (D) TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial
13 timber harvesting shall not be allowed in the
14 Special Management Area.

15 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

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

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

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

23 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
24 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 (b) BLACK CAT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
15 rights, there is established the Black Cat Special
16 Management Area (referred to in this subsection as
17 the “Special Management Area”), comprising ap-
18 proximately 1,178 acres of Federal land in Carbon
19 County, Wyoming, as generally depicted on the map
20 entitled “Black Cat Special Management Area” and
21 dated November 13, 2023.

22 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Special Manage-
23 ment Area shall be administered by the Secretary of
24 Agriculture.

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

4 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
6 culture shall manage the Special Management
7 Area—

8 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
9 scribed in paragraph (3); and

10 (ii) in accordance with—

11 (I) the laws (including regula-
12 tions) generally applicable to National
13 Forest System land;

14 (II) this subsection; and

15 (III) any other applicable law (in-
16 cluding regulations).

17 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

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

21 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
22 as needed for administrative purposes,
23 emergency response, fire management, for-
24 est health and restoration, weed and pest
25 control, habitat management, livestock

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

7 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

8 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
9 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
10 culture shall establish a travel management
11 plan for the Special Management Area.

12 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the
13 Special Management Area shall be administered
14 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
15 to grazing on National Forest System land.

16 (D) TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial
17 timber harvesting shall not be allowed in the
18 Special Management Area.

19 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

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

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

1 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
2 the mining laws; and

3 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
4 mineral and geothermal leasing.

5 (B) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may,
6 with the approval of the Secretary of Agri-
7 culture, lease oil and gas resources within the
8 boundaries of the Special Management Area
9 if—

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

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

19 (c) SWEETWATER ROCKS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
20 AREA.—

21 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
22 rights, there is established the Sweetwater Rocks
23 Special Management Area (referred to in this sub-
24 section as the “Special Management Area”), com-
25 prising approximately 34,347.79 acres of Federal

1 land in Fremont and Natrona Counties, Wyoming,
2 as generally depicted on the map entitled “Proposed
3 Sweetwater Rocks Special Management Area” and
4 dated November 15, 2023.

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

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

10 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
12 manage the Special Management Area—

13 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
14 scribed in paragraph (3); and

15 (ii) in accordance with—

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

19 (II) this subsection; and

20 (III) any other applicable law (in-
21 cluding regulations).

22 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

23 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
24 permanent roads in the Special Manage-
25 ment Area shall not be allowed.

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

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

17 (C) **GRAZING.**—Grazing of livestock in the
18 Special Management Area shall be administered
19 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
20 to the Bureau.

21 (D) **PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN OVERHEAD**
22 **TOWERS.**—No new overhead transmission or
23 communications tower shall be constructed in
24 the Special Management Area.

1 (E) LAND EXCHANGES.—The Secretary
2 may propose to, and carry out with, an indi-
3 vidual or entity owning land in the vicinity of
4 the Special Management Area any land ex-
5 change that—

6 (i) increases access to the Special
7 Management Area; and

8 (ii) does not result in a net loss of
9 Federal land.

10 (F) UNDERGROUND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—
11 Notwithstanding paragraph (5), the Secretary
12 may expand any underground right-of-way in
13 the Special Management Area that exists as of
14 the date of enactment of this Act.

15 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

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

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

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

23 (iii) disposition under laws relating to
24 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 (C) WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY WITH-
 14 DRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence
 15 on the date of enactment of this Act, the land
 16 within the boundaries of the Special Manage-
 17 ment Area is withdrawn from right-of-way leas-
 18 ing and disposition under laws relating to wind
 19 or solar energy.

20 (d) FORTIFICATION CREEK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 21 AREA; FRAKER MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA;
 22 NORTH FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—

23 (1) DEFINITION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
 24 AREA.—In this subsection, the term “Special Man-

1 agement Area” means a special management area
2 established by paragraph (2).

3 (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
4 AREAS.—Subject to valid existing rights there are
5 established the following:

6 (A) The Fortification Creek Special Man-
7 agement Area, comprising approximately
8 12,520.69 acres of Federal land administered in
9 the State by the Bureau, as generally depicted
10 on the map entitled “Proposed Fortification
11 Creek Management Area” and dated November
12 15, 2023.

13 (B) The Fraker Mountain Special Manage-
14 ment Area, comprising approximately 6,248.28
15 acres of Federal land administered in the State
16 by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the
17 map entitled “Proposed Fraker Mountain Man-
18 agement Area” and dated November 15, 2023.

19 (C) The North Fork Special Management
20 Area, comprising approximately 10,026.15
21 acres of Federal land administered in the State
22 by the Bureau, as generally depicted on the
23 map entitled “Proposed North Fork Manage-
24 ment Area” and dated November 15, 2023.

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

3 (4) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a Special Man-
4 agement Area is to enhance the natural, historic,
5 scenic, recreational, wildlife habitat, forest health,
6 watershed protection, and ecological and cultural
7 values of the area.

8 (5) MANAGEMENT.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
10 manage each Special Management Area—

11 (i) in furtherance of the purpose de-
12 scribed in paragraph (4); and

13 (ii) in accordance with—

14 (I) the laws (including regula-
15 tions) generally applicable to the Bu-
16 reau;

17 (II) this subsection; and

18 (III) any other applicable law (in-
19 cluding regulations).

20 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

21 (i) ROADS.—The construction of new
22 permanent roads in a Special Management
23 Area shall not be allowed.

24 (ii) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except
25 as needed for administrative purposes,

1 emergency response, fire management, for-
2 est health and restoration, weed and pest
3 control, habitat management, livestock
4 management, and range improvement, the
5 use of motorized and mechanized vehicles
6 in a Special Management Area shall be al-
7 lowed only on existing roads and trails des-
8 ignated for the use of motorized or mecha-
9 nized vehicles.

10 (iii) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

11 Not later than 2 years after the date of en-
12 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
13 tablish a travel management plan for each
14 Special Management Area.

15 (C) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in a
16 Special Management Area shall be administered
17 in accordance with the laws generally applicable
18 to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

19 (D) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN INFRA-
20 STRUCTURE.—The development, construction,
21 or installation of infrastructure for recreational
22 use shall not be allowed in—

23 (i) the Fraker Mountain Special Man-
24 agement Area; or

1 (ii) the North Fork Special Manage-
2 ment Area.

3 (6) WITHDRAWAL.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (e) CEDAR MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
2 AREA.—

3 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
4 rights, there is established the Cedar Mountain Spe-
5 cial Management Area (referred to in this subsection
6 as the “Special Management Area”), comprising ap-
7 proximately 20,745.73 acres of Federal land in the
8 State administered by the Bureau, as generally de-
9 picted on the map entitled “Proposed Cedar Moun-
10 tain Special Management Area” and dated Novem-
11 ber 15, 2023.

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

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

18 (4) MANAGEMENT.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
20 manage the Special Management Area—

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

23 (ii) in accordance with—

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

4 (II) this subsection; and

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

7 (B) ROADS; MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

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

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

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

1 tabish 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 land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

7 (5) WITHDRAWAL.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (ii) the lease prohibits, without excep-
24 tion or waiver, surface occupancy and sur-
25 face disturbance within the Special Man-

1 agement Area for any activities, including
 2 activities related to exploration, develop-
 3 ment, or production.

4 **SEC. 9. LANDER SLOPE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRON-**
 5 **MENTAL CONCERN AND RED CANYON AREA**
 6 **OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.**

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

9 (b) LANDER SLOPE AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRON-
 10 MENTAL CONCERN AND RED CANYON AREA OF CRITICAL
 11 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.—

12 (1) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary shall pursue
 13 transfers in which land managed by the Bureau in
 14 the County is exchanged for land owned by the State
 15 that is within the boundaries of—

16 (A) the Lander Slope Area of Critical En-
 17 vironmental Concern; or

18 (B) the Red Canyon Area of Critical Envi-
 19 ronmental Concern.

20 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A transfer under para-
 21 graph (1) shall—

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

24 (B) be subject to appropriation.

25 (c) STUDY.—

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

5 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under para-
6 graph (1) shall evaluate—

7 (A) the potential for the development of
8 special motorized recreation areas on all land
9 managed by the Bureau in the County except—

10 (i) any land in T. 40 N., R. 94 W.,
11 secs. 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28,
12 29, and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. 34; and

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

16 (B) the suitability of the land evaluated
17 under subparagraph (A) for off-road vehicles,
18 including rock crawlers; and

19 (C) the parking, staging, and camping nec-
20 essary to accommodate special motorized recre-
21 ation.

22 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
24 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural
25 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-

1 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a re-
2 port describing the findings of the study under para-
3 graph (1).

4 (d) FREMONT COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary shall establish a team, to be known as the
8 “Fremont County Implementation Team” (referred
9 to in this subsection as the “Team”) to advise and
10 assist the Secretary with respect to the implementa-
11 tion of the management requirements described in
12 this section that are applicable to land in the Coun-
13 ty.

14 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Team shall consist
15 of—

16 (A) the Secretary (or a designee of the
17 Secretary); and

18 (B) 1 or more individuals appointed by the
19 Board of County Commissioners of the County.

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

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

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

6 (1) Hot Springs County.

7 (2) Washakie County.

8 (b) STUDY.—

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

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

14 (A) LAND INCLUDED.—The study under
15 paragraph (1) shall evaluate the potential for
16 the development of new special motorized recre-
17 ation areas on Federal land managed by the
18 Bureau in the Counties except any land that is
19 subject to a restriction on the use of motorized
20 or mechanized vehicles under any Federal law,
21 including this Act.

22 (B) PUBLIC INPUT; COLLABORATION.—In
23 carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the
24 Secretary shall—

25 (i) offer opportunities for public input;

26 and

- 1 (ii) collaborate with—
2 (I) State parks, historic sites,
3 and trails; and
4 (II) the Counties.
- 5 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
7 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural
8 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-
9 ural Resources of the House of Representatives a re-
10 port describing the findings of the study under para-
11 graph (1).

Passed the Senate December 20 (legislative day, De-
cember 16), 2024.

Attest:

Secretary.

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1348

AN ACT

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