

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 468

To provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Mr. HATCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage-grouse and the mule deer.

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 “Sage-Grouse and Mule  
5 Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR PINYON-JUNIPER**  
2 **TREE REMOVAL.**

3       Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a vegeta-  
4 tion management project by the Director of the Bureau  
5 of Land Management or the Chief of the Forest Service  
6 involving removal or treatment of any Pinyon or Juniper  
7 tree for the purpose of conserving or restoring the habitat  
8 of the greater sage-grouse or mule deer shall be eligible  
9 to be a categorical exclusion (as defined in section 1508.4  
10 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
11 regulation)) for purposes of the National Environmental  
12 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

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