



# The Wilderness Society

June 13, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Grijalva, and members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters, The Wilderness Society (TWS) writes to express our views on H.R. 188, the Proven Forest Management Act, which is scheduled to be marked-up by your committee on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

TWS appreciates the goals of H.R. 188, which are to increase efficiency and maximize the compatibility of management practices across the National Forest System. However, categorically excluding projects up to 10,000 acres from any environmental review would subvert the foundational purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA was written and enacted to require the government to evaluate the consequences of proposals before moving forward, and categorical exclusions (CEs) are defined as “a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.”<sup>1</sup> By its very nature, a project covering or affecting 10,000 acres will have a significant effect on the human environment, and it is therefore inappropriate to apply a CE to projects of this magnitude.

For the reasons listed above, The Wilderness Society recommends a NO vote on H.R. 188, the Proven Forest Management Act.

Sincerely,

Lydia Weiss  
Senior Director, Government Relations  
The Wilderness Society