



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff
Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024
Subject: Markup of 16 bills

The Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup on **Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 10:15 a.m.** in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building. The bills to be considered include: H.R. 3283 (Rep. Miller-Meeks); H.R. 4235 (Rep. Kim of CA); H.R. 5103 (Rep. Donalds); H.R. 6012 (Rep. Carbajal); H.R. 6085 (Rep. Hageman); H.R. 6107 (Rep. Simpson); H.R. 6547 (Rep. Boebert); H.R. 6826 (Rep. Mfume); H.R. 6843 (Rep. Scalise); H.R. 7332 (Rep. Maloy); H.R. 8219 (Rep. Tokuda); H.R. 8413 (Rep. Smith of NE); H.R. 8704 (Rep. Carter of GA); H.R. 8811 (Rep. Wittman); H.R. 9533 (Rep. Westerman); and S. 612 (Sen. Cortez Masto).

Member offices are requested to notify Madeline Kelley (madeline.kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, to confirm their Member's attendance at the mark-up.

I. TOPLINE ACTIONS

- Bills expected to move by regular order: H.R. 6085 (Rep. Hageman), To prohibit the implementation of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming, and for other purposes; H.R. 6547 (Rep. Boebert), "*Colorado Energy Prosperity Act*"; H.R. 8704 (Rep. Carter of GA), To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to foster enhanced coexistence between ocean users and North Atlantic right whales and other large cetacean species; and H.R. 9533 (Rep. Westerman), "*ESA Amendments Act of 2024*".
- Please note that H.R. 6085, H.R. 6547, H.R. 8704, and H.R. 9533 will have an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS). Members should ensure that amendments are drafted to the ANS.
- Bills expected to move by unanimous consent: H.R. 3283 (Rep. Miller-Meeks), "*Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act*"; H.R. 4235 (Rep. Kim of CA), "*Wildfire Technology Demonstration, Evaluation, Modernization, and Optimization Act*" or the "*Wildfire Technology DEMO Act*"; H.R. 5103 (Rep. Donalds), "*Fishery Improvement to Streamline untimely regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation Act*" or the "*FISHES Act*"; H.R. 6012 (Rep. Carbajal), "*Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023*"; H.R. 6107 (Rep. Simpson), "*Urban Canal Modernization Act*"; H.R. 6826

(Rep. Mfume), To designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center; H.R. 6843 (Rep. Scalise), To expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana; H.R. 7332 (Rep. Maloy), “*Utah State Parks Adjustment Act*”; H.R. 8219 (Rep. Tokuda), “*Lahaina National Heritage Area Act*”; H.R. 8413 (Rep. Smith of NE), “*Swanson and Hugh Butler Reservoirs Land Conveyances Act*”; H.R. 8811 (Rep. Wittman), “*America’s Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act of 2024*”; and S. 612 (Sen. Cortez Masto), “*Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act*”

II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

H.R. 6085 (Rep. Hageman), To prohibit the implementation of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming, and for other purposes.

In August 2024, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published the Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming.¹ The RMP affects five counties in southwestern Wyoming and encompasses approximately 3.6 million acres.² The BLM’s proposed RMP would limit oil and gas development in several ways. Specifically, the BLM’s proposed alternative would designate 12 new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) covering 936,163 acres of federal land, one-quarter of the RMP’s covered area. Additionally, the Proposed RMP would eliminate the possibility of fluid mineral leasing on roughly 1.1 million of the 3.5 million subsurface acres managed in the planning area.³ This would double the amount of acreage closed to fluid mineral leasing. Previous estimates of the Draft RMP suggested that the restrictions on oil and gas development would directly result in the loss of 2,900 jobs.⁴ The Proposed RMP would also impose significant and unnecessary burdens on existing oil and gas leases, including instituting restrictive right-of-way policies, which impede a lessee’s ability to access and develop their lease.⁵ The Proposed RMP is overwhelmingly opposed by elected officials and stakeholders in Wyoming and was finalized roughly three months after Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland testified that she did not know what the Rock Springs RMP was before the House Natural Resources Committee.⁶

¹ Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs Field Office, Wyoming, 89 Fed. Reg. 68187, August 23, 2024, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/23/2024-18912/notice-of-availability-of-the-proposed-resource-management-plan-and-final-environmental-impact>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Wyomingites Angered Over Biden’s Land Grab, Institute for Energy Research, November 1, 2023, <https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/regulation/wyomingites-angered-over-bidens-land-grab/>.

⁵ *Id.* The Proposed RMP increases rights-of-way exclusion areas from 11 percent to 24 percent of the covered area and avoidance areas from 21 percent to 31 percent.

⁶ “Wyoming Gov. Gordon Unhappy with BLMs Proposed Rock Springs Resource Management Plan,” Western Ag Network, August 22, 2024, <https://westernagnetwork.com/wyoming-gov-gordon-unhappy-with-blms-proposed-rock-springs-resource-management-plan>. “Guest Column: Defending Wyoming’s Access to our Public Lands,” May 13, 2024, <https://hageman.house.gov/media/op-eds/guest-column-defending-wyomings-access-our-public-lands>.

H.R. 6085 would prevent the finalization and implementation of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming. It would also protect domestic energy production and allow the BLM to restart a new RMP process that more appropriately balances multiple uses and provides stakeholders with greater levels of engagement. An ANS will be offered to update the legislation's text to reflect the final Proposed RMP published in the Federal Register.

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (aniela@mail.house.gov) and Taylor Wiseman (Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 6547 (Rep. Boebert), “Colorado Energy Prosperity Act”

In June 2024, the BLM published the Proposed RMP and Supplemental EIS for the Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO) and Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) on the Western Slope in Colorado.⁷ The area covers approximately 1.56 million acres of public land and 1.92 million acres of federal mineral estate.⁸ The Proposed RMP would close over 1 million acres to fluid mineral leasing, expand two ACECs totaling 22,900 acres, and designate an additional 7,000 acres as new wilderness study areas.⁹ Throughout the RMP development process, BLM relied on a severely outdated U.S. Geological Survey Resource Assessment instead of a more recent assessment done in 2016, which found that Colorado’s Piceance Basin holds about 66.3 trillion cubic feet of gas, up from the 21 trillion estimated in 2002.¹⁰ Given the BLM’s egregious use of out-of-date information, Representative Boebert introduced H.R. 6547 to prevent the implementation of the Proposed RMP and Supplemental EIS for the CRVFO and GJFO. This legislation prevents the Biden-Harris administration from denying access to American energy resources and making our nation more dependent on foreign energy sources. The legislation would also protect the thousands of jobs in Colorado that rely on the oil and gas industry and safeguard access to public lands to develop and produce energy. An ANS will be offered at markup, updating the text of the legislation to reflect the final Proposed RMP published in the Federal Register.

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

⁷ Notice of Availability of the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado River Valley Field Office and Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plans, Colorado, 89 FR 52082, June 21, 2024, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/06/21/2024-13452/notice-of-availability-of-the-proposed-resource-management-plan-and-final-supplemental-environmental>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ BLM National NEPA Register, DOI-BLM-CO-G020-2022-0001-RMP-EIS, Documents, Accessed September 16, 2024, <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016085/570>.

¹⁰ BLM, Appendix S – Reasonable Development Scenario: Oil and Gas in the Glenwood Springs Field Office, https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/lup/68506/110860/135765/34_Appendix_R_RFDS_Oil_and_Gas.pdf. Assessment of Continuous (Unconventional) Oil and Gas Resources in the Late Cretaceous Mancos Shale of the Piceance Basin, Uinta-Piceance Province, Colorado and Utah, USGS, 2016. The Associated Press, 40 Times More Natural Gas Underground In Colorado’s Piceance Basin, USGS Report Finds, June 9, 2016, <https://www.cpr.org/2016/06/09/40-times-more-natural-gas-underground-in-colorados-piceance-basin-usgs-report-finds/>.

Staff contact: Aniela Butler (aniela@mail.house.gov) and Taylor Wiseman (Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 8704 (Rep. Carter of GA), To require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to foster enhanced coexistence between ocean users and North Atlantic right whales and other large cetacean species.

Since 2008, NOAA has enforced a 10-knot speed limit on vessels 65 feet and longer to prevent them from striking the North Atlantic right whale.¹¹ While this restriction has made progress in preventing and reducing vessel strikes, several stakeholders have advocated for the greater adoption of technologies that allow vessel operators to detect whales in real-time.¹²

In August 2022, NOAA proposed to expand this existing rule to apply to vessels as small as 35 feet.¹³ Throughout the comment period, the public has told NOAA that their proposed rule will dramatically limit outdoor recreation, contributing more than \$550 billion, or 2.2 percent, to the United States' gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022.¹⁴ The Committee has also heard that it could cause safety concerns for ocean users on the Atlantic coast.

H.R. 8704 would prevent the devastating impacts of the proposed rule by requiring the existing rule from 2008 to remain in place until December 31, 2030. It would also create a new grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to deploy innovative technologies and other best practices to limit vessel strikes and other harmful interactions between ocean users and species like the North Atlantic right whale. An ANS will be offered to offset the \$10 million authorized for the grant program.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov) and Kirby Struhar (Kirby.Struhar@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 9533 (Rep. Westerman), “ESA Amendments Act of 2024”

H.R. 9533 would reauthorize and reform the Endangered Species Act (ESA). First, the bill reauthorizes the ESA at funding levels identical to those set in the House-introduced Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills in compliance with House floor protocols.

¹¹ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Endangered Fish and Wildlife; Final Rule To Implement Speed Restrictions to Reduce the Threat of Ship Collisions With North Atlantic Right Whales. October 10, 2008. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2008-10-10/pdf/E8-24177.pdf>

¹² National Marine Manufacturers Association. Recreational Boating Industry Decries Advancement of Vessel Speed Rule. March 7, 2024. <https://www.nmma.org/advocacy/news/24641>.

¹³ 50 C.F.R. §224.105; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), “Amendments to the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule,” 87 *Federal Register* 46921-46936, August 1, 2022. Hereinafter NOAA, NMFS, “Amendments to the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule.”

¹⁴ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2022. <https://www.bea.gov/news/2023/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2022>.

Second, the bill contains a set of reforms to the ESA that prioritize recovery, empower private landowners, increase state authority, and provide greater transparency to the American people. It does so by codifying several important Trump administration rulemakings related to the definition of habitat, ensuring threatened species are treated differently than endangered species, and a definition of “foreseeable future,” each of which has been rolled back by the Biden administration. The bill also empowers states and private landowners in the ESA decision-making process by providing regulatory certainty and incentives to recover and restore habitat for listed species. H.R. 9533 would also end the frivolous litigation that follows the delisting of species by prohibiting judicial review during the already established 5-year post-delisting monitoring period.

Additionally, the bill streamlines the ESA’s role in the federal permitting process. It does so by codifying a consistent definition of environmental baseline and amending the ESA statute to ensure that project proponents are not required to mitigate the impacts to listed species as a part of the permitting process.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Doug Levine (Doug.Levine@mail.house.gov) and Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 3283 (Rep. Miller-Meeks) “*Facilitating DIGITAL Applications Act*”

The Department of the Interior (DOI), through the BLM and USFS, processes the majority of applications and communications use authorizations to install communications facilities on federal property.¹⁵ Communications use authorizations are requests for easements, rights-of-way, leases, or other authorizations “to locate or modify a transmitting device, support structure, or other communications facility” on public lands.¹⁶ Installing such facilities on public lands is critical to expanding broadband access to rural and tribal areas and closing the “digital divide.”¹⁷ However, broadband providers face burdensome permitting requirements and application processes imposed by federal, state, and local governments.¹⁸ Before constructing or operating the necessary facilities on federal land, broadband providers must typically participate in a pre-application meeting, complete the Standard Form 299 application materials, and undergo extensive review periods.¹⁹ These lengthy wait times add uncertainty and costs and likely dissuade many providers from applying.

¹⁵ “Broadband Deployment: Agencies Should Take Steps to Better Meet Deadline for Processing Permits,” U.S. Government Accountability Office, April 10, 2024, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-106157#>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Colby Leigh Rachfal, “The Digital Divide: What Is It, Where Is It, and Federal Assistance Programs,” Congressional Research Service, March 9, 2021, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46613>. “Special Uses—Communications Uses,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/special-uses/communications-uses>. Streamlining Federal Siting Working Group Final Report, FCC Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, January 24, 2018, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/bdac-federalsiting-01232018.pdf>.

¹⁸ Streamlining Federal Siting Working Group Final Report, FCC Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, January 24, 2018, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/bdac-federalsiting-01232018.pdf>.

¹⁹ Communications Sites,” U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/communication-sites>.

H.R. 3283 seeks to ameliorate these challenges by making transparent key federal efforts to streamline broadband deployment in rural and tribal areas. Specifically, the bill would require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to regularly report to Congress on the extent to which the DOI and USFS established online portals for accepting, processing, and disposing of Form 299 for communications use authorizations.²⁰ H.R. 3283 requires the NTIA to submit these reports every 60 days until the portals are established.²¹ Such reporting would allow for improved tracking of efforts to deploy broadband on federal land.²²

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Jason Blore (Jason.Blore@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 4235 (Rep. Kim of CA) “Wildfire DEMO Act”

As fire suppression costs continue to rise, the utilization of new and emerging technologies such as drones, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning, have the potential to play a crucial role in lowering costs, protecting communities, and improving firefighting efficiencies. Technology can be an effective tool for fast fire detection, monitoring, and planning, while also reducing the safety risk of those on the front lines.²³ While many state agencies and private landowners are adopting these new technologies, the federal government has been slow to apply them to wildfire suppression.²⁴ To address this imbalance, the “Wildfire Technology Demonstration, Evaluation, Modernization, and Optimization (DEMO) Act” creates a federal pilot program to identify and adopt new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies. This pilot program would allow federal agencies to test emerging technologies at scale to improve hazardous fuels reduction treatments, dispatch communications, remote sensing and tracking, safety equipment, and operational dashboards. The pilot program would prioritize public-private partnerships with entities already developing new technologies in AI, quantum sensing, augmented reality, and 5G private networks. This bipartisan bill, co-led by Representative Crow (D-CO), would encourage innovation, lower fire suppression costs, and improve forest health outcomes. An amendment will be offered at markup reflecting technical feedback from USFS and other committees of jurisdiction.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Brandon Miller (Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov)

²⁰ H.R. 3283, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3283?s=8&r=1>.

²¹ *Id.*

²² “Iowa Rep. Miller-Meeks introduces bill to expedite broadband expansion,” CBS News, May 16, 2023, <https://cbs2iowa.com/news/local/iowa-rep-miller-meeks-introduces-bill-to-expedite-broadband-expansion>.

²³ Western Fire Chiefs Association, “New Technology to Fight Wildfires”, March 30, 2023, <https://wfca.com/articles/new-technology-wildfires/>.

²⁴ NPR, “Firefighters and researchers are turning to AI to help fight fires,” July 25, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2023/07/25/1189901985/firefighters-and-researchers-are-turning-to-ai-to-help-fight-fires>.

H.R. 5103 (Rep. Donalds), “*Fishery Improvement to Streamline untimely regulatory Hurdles post Emergency Situation (FISHES) Act*”

Fisheries are critical to coastal economies along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts—they’re a source of employment and economic activity for the entire seafood supply chain and recreational activity. However, given their geographic locations, they can often be subject to unexpected, severe losses in hurricanes and typhoons, oil spills, harmful algal blooms, and other natural and man-made disasters.²⁵

H.R. 5103 seeks to build on the work done in the Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act to limit further delays in providing relief to fisheries that have experienced these disasters. An ANS offered at markup amends the Magnuson-Stevens Act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to review submitted spending plans within ten days to determine completeness. The ANS also clarifies that the Office of Management and Budget may review the spending plan at the same time as the Secretary but may not delay the existing timeline.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov) and Kirby Struhar (Kirby.Struhar@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 6107 (Rep. Simpson) “*Urban Canal Modernization Act*”

H.R. 6107 amends the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 by providing a 35% federal cost share for extraordinary maintenance for urban canals of concern. This would help irrigation districts address needs for the Bureau of Reclamation’s canals that could pose a risk to populated areas in the event of a failure. If enacted, this legislation would reduce maintenance costs for water users. This bill would not increase the amount of federal funding available.²⁶

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

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H.R. 6843 (Rep. Scalise), *To expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.*

In 2006, Congress established the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA), which encompasses fourteen parishes in Louisiana and promotes the “local cuisine, music, traditions, language, and cultural landscapes of the Atchafalaya Basin” in the state's southcentral portion.²⁷

²⁵ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Fishery Disaster Assistance.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/fisherydisaster-assistance>

²⁶ Bureau of Reclamation, Statement for the Record on H.R. 6107. <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/hr-6107>

²⁷ Public Law 109-338, <https://www.congress.gov/109/plaws/publ338/PLAW-109publ338.pdf>.

The AHNA boasts the nation’s largest river swamp, a diverse range of tree species, and several historic sites related to the area’s famous “Cajun Culture.”²⁸ By promoting heritage development and tourism, the AHNA offers amenities for residents and visitors that highlight the region’s varied culture and physical resources while contributing to the local economy.²⁹ NHAs are not considered part of the federal estate, and since the establishment of the AHNA, several development projects have progressed unimpeded, including recent port expansions and improvements.³⁰ H.R. 6843 would expand the ANHA's boundaries to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. By doing so, it aims to enhance the interpretation of Louisiana’s diverse heritage while creating jobs and celebrating the region’s rich natural and cultural resources.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Colen Morrow (Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 7332 (Rep. Maloy) “*Utah State Parks Adjustment Act*”

Utah’s state parks are renowned for their striking beauty and plentiful attractions, as well as for being well-managed and enduringly popular. H.R. 7732 would transfer several parcels, totaling approximately 782 acres of federal land, to the State of Utah for inclusion in the Utah State Parks (USP) system. The parcels included in this conveyance consist of federal lands adjacent to or within current USP boundaries managed by the BLM or U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Conveying these properties from the federal estate to the USP would pave the way for needed land and natural resource management improvements and reduce taxpayer burdens. An ANS will be offered at markup that updates the map for the parcels transferred to the Wasatch Mountain State Park as a result of the BLM’s technical assistance. The ANS also adds a cost provision to ensure the State of Utah pays for the surveys and other administrative costs.

Hearing information, including testimony, can be found [here](#), and the hearing memo can be found [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (aniela@mail.house.gov) and Taylor Wiseman (Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov).

H.R. 8413 (Rep. Smith of NE), “*Swanson and Hugh Butler Reservoirs Land Conveyances Act*”

H.R. 8413 initiates the transfer of federal lands at the Swanson Reservoir and the Hugh Butler Reservoir in Nebraska to Frontier County and Hitchcock County in southern Nebraska. These reservoirs provide access to recreational outdoor activities, with the two parks containing 5,960

²⁸ “Atchafalaya National Heritage Area,” National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.nps.gov/places/atchafalaya-national-heritage-area.htm>.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ Examples include the Port of Morgan City project and the Houma Navigation Canal project. Information provided to the Committee by the ANHA.

acres available for public access hunting and recreational fishing access for many fish species, including walleye, crappie, channel catfish, and several others.

The legislation was introduced at the request of Hitchcock and Frontier Counties with the hopes of placing certain land around these two reservoirs under local control after disagreements arose between local stakeholders and the Bureau of Reclamation about managing the concession areas surrounding the reservoirs. The disagreement stemmed from a Bureau of Reclamation decision to require the removal of mobile home parks surrounding the reservoirs by November 1, 2024, as a precondition to resign concessionaire contracts. Local concessionaires have stated publicly that the removal of the trailer parks would cause a drastic loss in revenues and put their businesses at risk. The cost of this transfer to the counties has not been determined. However, the bill mandates that an appraisal be conducted, and the counties will be responsible for providing fair market value compensation for the respective conveyances.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov) and Thomas Shipman (Thomas.Shipman@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 8811 (Rep. Wittman), “*America’s Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act of 2024*”

H.R. 8811 would reauthorize and amend conservation programs authorized under the original *ACE Act*, passed by Congress and signed into law in 2020. Title I of the bill includes reauthorizations of successful conservation programs like the North American Wetlands Conservation Program, the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, and several programs related to the Chesapeake Bay region. Title I would also make technical amendments to several programs from the original *ACE Act*, such as clarifying that federal agencies may enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to administer a federal grant program for no more than ten years. Each program in Title I would be reauthorized through fiscal year 2030 at existing authorized appropriations levels.

Title II of the bill would reauthorize and make technical changes to the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). Technical changes include modifying the composition of the National Fish Habitat Board to ensure representation from Tribes, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and Marine Fisheries Commissions. The bill would reauthorize NFHP through fiscal year 2030 at existing authorized appropriations levels.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#), and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Doug Levine (Doug.Levine@mail.house.gov) and Annick Miller (Annick.Miller@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 6012 (Rep. Carbajal) “*Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023*”

Overgrown, unhealthy, and fire-prone federal forests are tinderboxes that pose significant threats to western communities in the wildland-urban interface. Downed hazard trees within utility rights-of-way (ROW) remain one of the biggest ignition threats, having sparked some of the most significant and deadly fires in the country’s history. To address these threats, utility companies attempt to maintain clear ROW and fell hazard trees within their utility corridors under a special use permit from the USFS. However, companies are currently required to go through a lengthy timber sale process to dispose of the felled timber.³¹ This frequently leads to wood waste stacking up in piles and not being removed, further heightening wildfire risk. This costly and time-consuming process for removing hazard trees is needlessly preventing active management in some of the highest-risk areas of our national forests.³² H.R. 6012 would authorize the USFS to permit utility companies to fully remove hazard trees and other vegetation within the vicinity of distribution or transmission lines without going through a separate timber sale. If the utility companies eventually sell the used material, this legislation requires the proceeds to be returned to USFS, accounting for any transportation costs. An amendment will be offered at markup reflecting TA from USFS.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contacts: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov) and Brandon Miller (Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov)

H.R. 6826 (Rep. Mfume) To designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.

H.R. 6826 would name the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Fort McHenry) in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.” Fort McHenry is known as the site of the 1814 attack by British troops against 1,000 American soldiers, a battle which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner.³³ The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes served the State of Maryland in the House of Representatives for six years and in the U.S. Senate for three decades. During his tenure, Senator Sarbanes helped secure funding for constructing the new visitor center at Fort McHenry, increasing capacity and visitor access.³⁴ Naming the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry would honor Senator Sarbanes’s long history of service to Maryland and his connection with the Fort McHenry site. The entire Maryland Congressional delegation cosponsors this bipartisan legislation.

³¹ *Id.*

³² “Creating Fire-Safe Electrical Corridors”, Northern California Power Agency, February 2024, https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/NCPA_Creating_Fire-Safe_Electrical_Corridors_Issue_Paper_2024.pdf.

³³ “History of Fort McHenry”, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.nps.gov/fomc/learn/historyculture/history-of-fort-mchenry.htm>.

³⁴ “Senator Cardin Attends groundbreaking for New Fort McHenry Visitors Center”, The Office of Ben Cardin, April 27, 2009, <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/press-releases/senator-cardin-attends-groundbreaking-for-new-fort-mchenry-visitors-center/>.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 8219 (Rep. Tokuda) “*Lahaina National Heritage Area Act*”

The town of Lahaina, located on the Hawaiian island of Maui, has a rich and storied history. The capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom from 1820 to 1845, Lahaina has long maintained its importance as a center of commerce, tourism, and local pride.³⁵ Tragically, on August 8, 2023, a wildfire catastrophically damaged Lahaina and became the deadliest wildfire in over a century.³⁶ The scenic waterfront, including much of the city center that served as a symbol of the town’s illustrious history, was left unrecognizable. Ultimately, the fire destroyed more than 2,200 structures and caused approximately \$5.5 billion in damages.³⁷ Many of the damaged and destroyed structures lost dated back centuries and held immeasurable value to Lahaina’s people and culture. As the town continues to recover from the trauma of a devastating natural disaster, local leaders have been exploring options that would allow the community to honor its past while promoting its natural and cultural resources post-fire. H.R. 8219 would require the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the town of Lahaina as an NHA in consultation with state and local partners.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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S. 612 (Sen. Cortez Masto), “*Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act*”

For the past several decades, the Lake Tahoe Basin has been threatened by insects, disease, drought, invasive species, and catastrophic wildfires. To address these challenges, Congress passed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which authorized various restoration activities around the lake and surrounding basin. In 2016, Congress reauthorized the bill as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which increased the funding authorization level to \$415 million and created a 10,000-acre categorical exclusion (CE) for USFS to expedite forest management projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The expedited forest treatments this CE made possible have saved communities from catastrophic wildfire during the 2021 Caldor Fire.³⁸ The Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act extends

³⁵ Lahaina Town, “Lahaina Timeline”, <https://lahainatown.com/lahaina-history.php>.

³⁶ “Lahaina fire becomes deadliest in the U.S. in over 100 years as death toll rises to 93,” PBS, August 13, 2023, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/lahaina-fire-becomes-deadliest-in-the-u-s-in-over-100-years-as-death-toll-rises-to-93>.

³⁷ “Preliminary After-Action Report: 2023 Maui Wildfire,” U.S. Fire Administration, February 8, 2024, <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/preliminary-after-action-report-2023-maui-wildfire/#:~:text=The%20disaster&text=8%2C%202023%2C%20wind%2Ddriven,than%20100%20lives%20were%20lost>.

³⁸ Wildfire Today, “Examining how fuel treatments affected suppression of the Caldor Fire in California”, Bill Gabbert, October 8, 2021, <https://wildfiretoday.com/2021/10/08/examining-how-fuel-treatments-affected-suppression-of-the-caldor-fire-in->

the period in which the \$415 million authorized in 2016 can be spent by ten additional years, until 2034. The bill also extends the authorization for cooperative authorities to enter into contracts and agreements with states and local governments to provide fuel reduction, erosion control, reforestation, Stream Environment Zone restoration, and other activities. Reauthorizing these authorities will prevent an interruption in conservation and restoration planning. The Senate passed S. 612 by unanimous consent on July 11, 2024. Representatives Mark Amodei (R-NV-02) and Kevin Kiley (R-CA-03) are leading companion legislation in the House.

Hearing information, including testimony, may be viewed [here](#) and the hearing memo may be viewed [here](#).

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III. CBO SCORES

None available.

IV. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[**H.R. 6843**](#)

[**H.R. 8811**](#)

[**H.R. 9533**](#)

[**S. 612**](#)

[california/](#). Wildfire Today, “Firefighters work to secure the Caldor Fire near South Lake Tahoe”, Bill Gabbert, September 2, 2021, <https://wildfiretoday.com/tag/caldor-fire/>.