



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Staff: Aniela Butler (Aniela@mail.house.gov),
Brandon Miller (Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov), Hannah Devereaux
(Hannah.Devereaux@mail.house.gov), and Caroline Kuhn
(Caroline.Kuhn@mail.house.gov); x6-7736
Date: Monday, August 31, 2026
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 9 Bills

The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing on nine bills: H.R. 642 (Rep. Steube), “*Myakka Wild and Scenic River Act of 2025*”; H.R. 5470 (Rep. LaHood), “*Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act*”; H.R. 6788 (Rep. Downing), “*Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act*”; H.R. 9269 (Rep. Clyburn), “*Renewing the African American Civil Rights Network Act*”; H.R. 9600 (Rep. Raskin), “*Common Sense 250 Act of 2026*”; H.R. 9779 (Rep. Gonzalez), “*Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026*”; H.R. 10128 (Rep. McClintock), To codify Secretary’s Order 3434 of the Department of the Interior.; H.R. 10136 (Rep. Westerman), “*Crossett Experimental Forest Act of 2026*”; and S. 675 (Sen. Hoeven), “*Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Act*”.

The hearing will take place on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**, in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Jackson Johnston (Jackson.Johnston@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- Representative Steube’s H.R. 642 designates 34 miles of Florida’s Myakka River as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River while maintaining local management and protecting private property rights.
- Representative LaHood’s H.R. 5470 recognizes the historic significance of Route 66 ahead of its 100th anniversary by designating the iconic 2,400-mile corridor as a National Historic Trail while protecting private property, energy development, and existing rights-of-way.
- Representative Downing’s H.R. 6788 ends decades of regulatory uncertainty for thousands of acres of public land in Montana that federal agencies have determined are unsuitable for wilderness designation, providing greater flexibility for public access, recreation, habitat management, and wildfire mitigation.
- Representative McClintock’s H.R. 10128 strengthens the partnership between national parks and gateway communities by codifying Secretary’s Order 3434 to ensure that such

communities have a strong voice in park planning and management decisions that affect access, tourism, and economic activity.

- Chairman Westerman’s H.R. 10136 continues the nearly century-long legacy of forestry research, education, and demonstration at the Crossett Experimental Forest by transferring the forest to the State of Arkansas in coordination with the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.
- Senator Hoeven’s S. 675 honors the life and legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt by providing matching grants and assistance to support the privately operated Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

Panel II (Outside Experts):

- **Ms. Miri Hardy**, Founder & Acting Executive Director, Myakka River Partnership, Venice, FL [*H.R. 642*]
- **Mr. William Thomas**, Chairman, Route 66 Ahead Partnership, Atlanta, IL [*H.R. 5470*]
- **Mr. Jeff Darrah**, Director, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Stevensville, MT [*H.R. 6788*]
- **The Hon. Robert Macaulay**, Supervisor, Madera County – District 5, Madera, CA [*H.R. 10128*]
- **Mr. Kyle Cunningham**, State Forester and Director of Forestry Division, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Alexander, AR [*H.R. 10136*]
- **Mr. Robbie Lauf**, Executive Director, Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, Bismarck, ND [*S. 675*]
- **Ms. Annie Laurie Gaylor**, Secretary, Thomas Paine Memorial Association, Madison, WI [*H.R. 9600*] (*Minority Witness*)

III. BACKGROUND

H.R. 642 (Rep. Steube), “Myakka Wild and Scenic River Act of 2025”

The Myakka River is a 66-mile river in southwest Florida that flows through Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties before emptying into the Charlotte Harbor.¹ The river’s relatively undeveloped areas include the approximately 12 miles that flow through Myakka River State Park.² In 1985, state lawmakers designated a 34-mile portion of the river within Sarasota County as Florida’s only state-designated Wild and Scenic River.³ The designation established a

¹ “Final Wild and Scenic River Study: Myakka,” National Park Service, July 1984, <https://npshistory.com/publications/nwsr/fl-myakka.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ “The Wild and Scenic Myakka River,” Friends of the Myakka River, 2026, <https://friendsofmyakkariver.org/Wild-and-Scenic-River>.

management framework centered on the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council, which represents state agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders.⁴



Recreation along the Myakka River in Florida.

Source: Zahir Ringgold Cordes, 2024.

Interest in federally designating the Myakka River dates back to the 1970s, when Sarasota County first requested consideration of the river for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.⁵ In 1978, Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) to study a portion of the river for potential inclusion.⁶ In 2023, the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council endorsed pursuing a federal designation, and NPS has since determined that the existing management plan, local support, management structure, and river protections meet the criteria for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River (PWSR) designation.⁷ The federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System recognizes

ivers with significant natural, recreational, historic, or cultural values, and within that system, PWSRs rely on a locally driven model rather than direct federal management.⁸ NPS works with state and local governments, landowners, and other partners through cooperative agreements, providing funding and technical assistance while local partners retain day-to-day management.⁹ This approach provides federal support without transferring management of the river or surrounding lands to NPS.

Introduced by Representative Greg Steube (R-FL-17), the bipartisan H.R. 642, the “Myakka Wild and Scenic River Act of 2025,” designates as a federal PWSR the 34-mile segment of the Myakka River that has already been state-designated as a Wild and Scenic River. The legislation builds upon the existing state and local management framework by allowing NPS to provide technical assistance, staff support, and funding while maintaining local management of the river. The bill does not make the river a unit of the National Park System or alter the management of public or private lands within the watershed. Federal land acquisition is limited to donations or acquisitions with landowner consent, and condemnation is expressly prohibited. Finally, the bill requires coordination with the existing Myakka River Management Coordinating Council.

⁴ “Myakka River Management Coordinating Council Home Page,” Myakka River Management Coordinating Council, 2026, <https://www.myakkarivermanagement.org/>.

⁵ “History & Timeline,” Myakka River Partnership, 2026, <https://myakkariverpartnership.org/myakka-wild-and-scenic-timeline>.

⁶ *Id.*

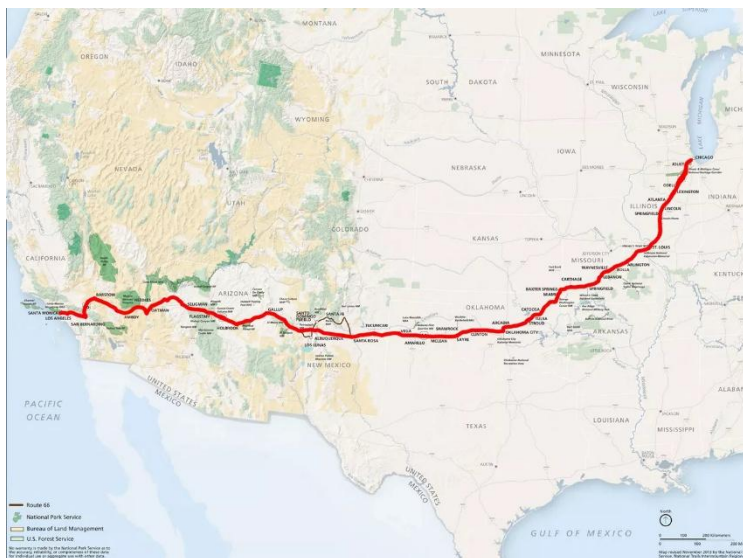
⁷ *Id.*

⁸ “About Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers,” Myakka River Partnership, 2026, <https://myakkariverpartnership.org/copy-of-about-myakka-river-partnership>.

⁹ *See id.*

H.R. 5470 (Rep. LaHood), “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act”

Route 66, America’s best-known road, was commissioned in 1926 as part of the first federal highway system.¹⁰ Stretching from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, this 2,400-mile route played an essential role in American history. It helped refugees flee the Dust Bowl and served as a strategic military route during World War II.¹¹ Although the federal government decommissioned Route 66 in 1985, it remains a favorite American vacation pathway, connecting more than 250 sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹² Following years of sustained interest in the decommissioned highway, Congress authorized the Route 66 Study Act in 1990, which directed NPS to conduct a special resource study to present management and protection options for the iconic road.¹³ By establishing the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 1999, Congress also facilitated collaboration between private, non-profit, and government partners to identify and prioritize Route 66 conservation needs.¹⁴ The program was reauthorized in 2009 but then expired in 2019.¹⁵ Since then, many stakeholders have supported a national historic trail designation for Route 66.



Map of Route 66. **Source:** National Park Service, no date.

Sponsored by Representative Darin LaHood (R-IL-16), H.R. 5470 amends the National Trails System Act to designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. The bill includes provisions specifying that the designation does not create buffer zones, impede energy development or transmission, or authorize the use of eminent domain or land condemnation. Supporters argue that the designation would provide a permanent framework for recognizing Route 66, supporting historic resources and public access, and coordinating with state, local, nonprofit, and private partners along the corridor. The designation would also formally recognize the historic route as communities across the eight Route 66 states celebrate its centennial in 2026.¹⁶

¹⁰ “Route 66: 1926-1945,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/route-66-1926-1945.htm>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² “Demise and Resurgence of Interest in Route 66,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/demise-and-resurgence-of-interest-in-route-66.htm>; “Travel Route 66,” National Park Service, November 7, 2022, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/travelroute66/index.htm>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ “NPS: Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program,” National Park Service, December 11, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1453/rosi.htm>.

¹⁵ Pub. L. No. 106-45, <https://www.congress.gov/106/plaws/pub45/PLAW-106pub45.pdf>.

¹⁶ Pam Bowman, “House and Senate Introduce Bicameral, Bipartisan Route 66 Legislation,” National Trust for Historic Preservation, September 24, 2025, <https://savingplaces.org/preserve-route-66/updates/house-and-senate-introduce-bicameral-bipartisan-route-66-legislation>.

H.R. 6788 (Rep. Downing), “Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act”

Introduced by Representative Troy Downing (R-MT-02), H.R. 6788 changes the status of three wilderness study areas (WSAs) in Montana that encompass approximately 104,000 acres: the 81,000-acre Middle Fork Judith WSA managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the 11,380-acre Hoodoo Mountain WSA managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the 11,580-acre Wales Creek WSA, also managed by BLM. Each area has been locked up for decades under WSA management, despite agency determinations that the lands are unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.¹⁷ H.R. 6788 releases these three areas from WSA status and returns management to the applicable USFS and BLM land management plans. The bill does not dispose of the lands or remove them from federal ownership but provides greater management flexibility for public access, sportsmen opportunities, wildlife habitat work, and wildfire mitigation.

The Middle Fork Judith WSA was established and subject to USFS study under the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.¹⁸ After reviewing the WSA, the agency recommended in 1982, and again in 1986, that the area not be designated as wilderness due to existing roads, motorized recreation, and opportunities for timber and mineral development.¹⁹ Instead, USFS recommended managing the area for uses like primitive recreation and wildlife and timber management. USFS reaffirmed this determination in its 2021 Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest land management plan.²⁰

The Hoodoo Mountain and Wales Creek WSAs were studied by BLM pursuant to section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).²¹ In 1991, BLM recommended against designating any portion of the two WSAs as wilderness, finding that both areas were better suited to multiple-use management.²² For the Hoodoo Mountain WSA, BLM cited the area’s irregular boundaries and existing access, as well as opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement, timber management, and recreation.²³ For the Wales Creek WSA, BLM cited opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement, motorized recreation, timber management, and potential mineral development.²⁴ BLM reaffirmed these determinations through the 2020 Missoula Resource Management Plan.²⁵

¹⁷ Robert Chaney, “Daines gains federal support to strip wilderness potential from Montana sites,” Mountain Journal, Montana Free Press, February 12, 2026, <https://montanafreepress.org/2026/02/12/daines-gains-federal-support-to-strip-wilderness-potential-from-montana-sites/>.

¹⁸ Pub. L. No. 95-105, <https://uscode.house.gov/statutes/pl/95/150.pdf>.

¹⁹ “Wilderness Study Areas located on national forest system lands in MT,” U.S. Forest Service at the request of Montana Legislative EQC, 2019, <https://archive.legmt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2019-2020/EQC/Meetings/Sept-2019/wsa-in-mt.pdf>.

²⁰ “Record of Decision, Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest 2021 Land Management Plan,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2021, https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/nfs/files/r01/helena-lewisclark/publication/A2_7_20211029_HLCNF_LandManagementPlan_RODsigned.pdf.

²¹ Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, § 603, 43 U.S.C. § 1782, 1976, <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/FLPMA2016.pdf>.

²² “Montana Statewide Wilderness Study Report, Volume II – Wilderness Study Area Specific Recommendations,” Montana State Office, Bureau of Land Management, September 1991, <https://dn790003.ca.archive.org/0/items/montanastatewide02unit/montanastatewide02unit.pdf>.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ “Resource Management Plan,” Missoula Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2021, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-I53-PURL-gpo214698/pdf/GOVPUB-I53-PURL-gpo214698.pdf>.

Despite these agency recommendations, only Congress can resolve WSA designations.²⁶ Yet Congressional inaction has left as WSAs more than 700,000 acres in Montana that federal land managers have determined are unsuitable for wilderness designation.²⁷ By releasing roughly 104,000 of those acres from WSA status, H.R. 6788 will restore multiple-use principles to Montana's public lands, improve sportsmen's access, create new recreation opportunities, and enhance forest health.

H.R. 9269 (Rep. Clyburn), "Renewing the African American Civil Rights Network Act"

Established by P.L. 115-04, which President Trump signed into law in 2018, the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN) officially recognizes important people, places, and events associated with the Civil Rights Movement.²⁸ Like other NPS-administered networks, AACRN is a collection of properties, facilities, and programs that connects geographically distant sites and tells the cohesive story of those who fought to advance equality and justice in America.²⁹ All properties included in the network had to prove a direct link to a person or event in the Civil Rights Movement between 1939 and 1968 and must have been listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.³⁰ NPS may also produce educational materials related to the African American civil rights movement and enter into cooperative agreements with non-federal entities to help enhance coordination of the network.³¹ AACRN consists of 213 sites, such as Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Little Rock, Arkansas; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and the Brown v Board of Education National Historical Park in Topeka, Kansas.³²

H.R. 9269 reauthorizes AACRN, which expired on January 8, 2025, for another 10 years to continue providing resources to support conservation, education, and tourism at sites that honor the sacrifices and struggles of the African American civil rights movement.³³ Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) is leading the bipartisan companion bill in the Senate.³⁴

H.R. 9600 (Rep. Raskin) "Common Sense 250 Act of 2026"

Thomas Paine is best known for *Common Sense*, the pamphlet published in early 1776 that galvanized support for the American Revolution. At a time when many colonists still hoped to

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ Robert Chaney, "Daines gains federal support to strip wilderness potential from Montana sites," Mountain Journal, Montana Free Press, February 12, 2026, <https://montanafreepress.org/2026/02/12/daines-gains-federal-support-to-strip-wilderness-potential-from-montana-sites/>.

²⁸ "About the Network," National Park Service, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/about-the-network.htm>.

²⁹ Elliot Carter, "National Trust for Historic Preservation and Trust for Public Land Applaud Introduction of Bipartisan Legislation to Reauthorize the African American Civil Rights Network," National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2026, <https://savingplaces.org/press-center/media-resources/national-trust-tpl-applaud-legislation-to-reauthorize-aacrn>.

³⁰ "About the Network," National Park Service, 2026, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/about-the-network.htm>.

³¹ *Id.*

³² "Network Members," National Park Service, 2026, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/network-members.htm#rhode_island.

³³ "Clyburn, Scott, Blunt Rochester, Carey Reintroduce Renewing the African American Civil Rights Network Act," James E. Clyburn, 2026, <https://clyburn.house.gov/clyburn-scott-blunt-rochester-carey-reintroduce-renewing-the-african-american-civil-rights-network-act/>.

³⁴ S.4767, 119th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/4767>.

reconcile with Great Britain, Paine argued that the colonies should break from the Crown and establish an independent government.³⁵ Roughly six months after the pamphlet's publication, delegates to the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence.³⁶ Paine's writings on representative government, individual rights, and political liberty helped shape the ideas underlying the American Revolution. In 2022, Congress authorized the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a privately funded commemorative work honoring Paine in Washington, D.C.³⁷ Under the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), Washington, D.C. is divided into different areas for the placement of commemorative works.³⁸ Area I is reserved for subjects of "preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States," and placement within Area I requires additional congressional approval.³⁹ H.R. 9600 provides for approval by authorizing the Thomas Paine Memorial to be located within Area I.⁴⁰ This legislation helps celebrate America's 250th anniversary by placing a memorial to one of America's founding fathers in a place of significance within our nation's capital.

H.R. 9779 (Rep. Gonzalez), "Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026"

Established in 1979, the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge follows the Rio Grande River for 275 miles in southern Texas.⁴¹ Since 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has managed a property known as Boca Chica Beach as part of the refuge.⁴² Boca Chica Beach, which is also adjacent to a site used for SpaceX launch operations, became the subject of a proposed name change in 2024 when a Mississippi resident petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to rename the area "Cyber Beach."⁴³ BGN's Domestic Names Committee unanimously rejected the proposal following local opposition to changing the historic Boca Chica name, which has appeared in federal geographic records since 1936.⁴⁴

Reflecting local opinion, H.R. 9779 establishes "Boca Chica Beach" as the beach's official name and requires all references in federal laws, maps, regulations, documents, and other records to use that name. More broadly, the legislation also requires BGN's Domestic Names Committee to notify the Members of Congress representing any area proposed for renaming whenever the Committee solicits input on a new proposed geographic name for the area in question.

³⁵ "Common Sense and the Continental Congress," U.S. House of Representatives, January 8, 2026, <https://history.house.gov/Blog/2026/January/1-8-Common-Sense/>.

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ Pub. L. No. 117-328, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-117publ328/pdf/PLAW-117publ328.pdf>.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ "The Reserve Map," National Capital Planning Commission, <https://www.ncpc.gov/maps/the-reserve/>.

⁴¹ "Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lower-rio-grande-valley/visit-us>.

⁴² *May 25-26, 2016, Commission Meeting Agenda*, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, May 26, 2016, https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/meetings/2016/0526/agenda/item_05/index.phtml.

⁴³ Berenice Garcia, "U.S. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez takes steps to prevent renaming Boca Chica Beach," July 21, 2026, <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/07/21/boca-chica-beach-texas-spacex-name/>.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

H.R. 10128 (Rep. McClintock), To codify Secretary’s Order 3434 of the Department of the Interior.

Gateway communities surrounding our national parks play a critical role in supporting park operations and the millions of people who visit these areas each year. More than 1,000 communities are located within one mile of a national park, providing lodging, dining, transportation, emergency response, and other essential services for visitors and park employees.⁴⁵ In 2024, national parks visitors generated a record \$56.3 billion in economic output and spent an estimated \$29 billion in gateway communities.⁴⁶ Recognizing the importance of gateway communities across the country, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum issued, on June 25, 2025, Secretary’s Order 3434 (S.O. 3434), “Strengthening Coordination with Gateway Communities.”⁴⁷ To improve such coordination, S.O. 3434 requires NPS units to hold quarterly meetings with gateway community leaders, consider community input in planning and management decisions, and engage communities early on when proposed actions may affect access, tourism, or regional economic activity. S.O. 3434 also directs each NPS unit to designate a Gateway Community Coordinator to serve as a primary point of contact for state, tribal, and local officials and directs NPS to use existing authorities and programs to support gateway community needs. Finally, S.O. 3434 helps advance the implementation of Subtitle C of Title I of the “Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act,” which directed better coordination between land management agencies and local communities.

H.R. 10128, sponsored by Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA-05), codifies S.O. 3434, giving its requirements the force and effect of law. In so doing, the bill gives gateway communities a louder voice in the federal decision-making processes that directly affect them.

H.R. 10136 (Rep. Westerman), “Crossett Experimental Forest Act of 2026”

Since its establishment in 1934, the 1,685-acre Crossett Experimental Forest (CEF) in Ashley County, Arkansas, has served as a premier site for forestry research and demonstrations.⁴⁸ Over its roughly 90-year lifespan, the CEF has supported collaborative research among USFS, the State of Arkansas, and the University of Arkansas.⁴⁹ For much of the past two decades, this work was led by the late Dr. Don Bragg, who spent 23 years with the Southern Research Station in Monticello, Arkansas, and authored numerous scientific and historical publications based on research conducted at the CEF.⁵⁰ With declining USFS staffing at the CEF, Dr. Bragg became

⁴⁵ “Gateway Communities,” Scenic America, <https://www.scenic.org/why-scenic-conservation/parks-open-spaces/gateway-communities/>.

⁴⁶ “Visitor Spending Effects - Economic Contributions of National Park Visitor Spending,” National Park Service, September 10, 2024, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>. Most recent year for which data are available.

⁴⁷ Secretary’s Order No. 3434, U.S. Department of the Interior, June 25, 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3434-strengthening-coordination-gateway-communities>.

⁴⁸ Jim M. Guldin, “The Crossett Experimental Forest—72 years of science delivery in silviculture of southern pines,” U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 2009, <https://research.fs.usda.gov/download/treearch/33681.pdf>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ “The Crossett Story, Revised, Updating a Forestry Classic,” Society of American Foresters, <https://research.fs.usda.gov/treearch/5441>; Don C. Bragg, “Eighty Years of Silviculture History at the Crossett Experimental Forest” *Journal of Forestry*, Volume 112, Issue 2, March 2014, <https://academic.oup.com/jof/article-abstract/112/2/237/4599607?redirectedFrom=fulltext>.



For nearly 100 years, the Crossett Experimental Forest has been a premier site for forestry research and demonstration. This photo shows “Shortleaf-loblolly pine old field stand 46 years of age 3 years after thinning.”
Source: USFS, 1940.

the only USFS scientist working at the CEF during the final 15 years of his career.⁵¹ Since his passing in 2023, USFS has not filled his former role, and CEF’s historic level of research and demonstration activities has dropped precipitously.⁵² To continue the CEF’s longstanding mission, the University of Arkansas at Monticello, the State of Arkansas, and local USFS officials came together to discuss options for the CEF’s future.⁵³ These discussions concluded that transferring the CEF to the state government would best support the CEF’s scientific research, education, and demonstration activities.⁵⁴ The State of Arkansas is prepared to dedicate resources to the forest and partner with the University of Arkansas at Monticello to continue important research and educational programming.⁵⁵

H.R. 10136, introduced by Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04), directs the Secretary of Agriculture, at the State of Arkansas’s request, to convey the CEF, including the R.R. Reynolds Research Natural Areas and associated facilities, to the State of Arkansas without consideration. The property would continue to be managed as the Crossett State Forest for forestry research, education, and demonstration, in coordination with the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. The bill also includes a reversionary clause to ensure that the property remains dedicated to these purposes. Transferring the CEF to the state will provide the staffing and resources necessary to continue the CEF’s historic mission and maintain the forest as a resource for forest managers, landowners, scientists, and students.

S. 675 (Sen. Hoeven), “Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Act”

The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (Library) officially opened in Medora, North Dakota, on July 4, 2026.⁵⁶ Located near Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the North Dakota Badlands, the privately operated, 96,000-square-foot library is dedicated to the life and legacy of America’s 26th president.⁵⁷ Roosevelt first came to the Badlands as a young man, and his

⁵¹ Information provided to Committee Staff by Dr. Michael Blazier, Dean of the College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources for University of Arkansas at Monticello and Director of the Arkansas Forest Resources Center for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ “Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library,” Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, <https://www.trlibrary.com/>.

⁵⁷ “The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library: Where Vision Becomes Place,” Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, <https://www.trlibrary.com/tr/legacy/the-library>.

experience there shaped his lifelong connection to the outdoors.⁵⁸ The Library features exhibits, historic artifacts, and interactive elements documenting his life, presidency, and legacy.⁵⁹ President Roosevelt was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, and leading figure in American conservation.⁶⁰ During its tenure, his administration established nearly 230 million acres of public lands, including 150 national forests, 55 federal bird reservations and game preserves, five national parks, and 18 national monuments.⁶¹ Roosevelt's presidency also helped expand America's global influence through the construction of the Panama Canal and a stronger U.S. Navy.⁶² In 1906, Roosevelt became the first American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in mediating an end to the Russo-Japanese War.⁶³

Sponsored by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND), S. 675 authorizes the Department of the Interior (DOI), subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide up to \$50 million in matching grants to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation (Foundation). Before receiving any grant funding, the Foundation must certify that it has



President Trump visits the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library on July 1, 2026, for the Library's grand opening. **Source:** The White House, 2026.

already received at least \$100 million from the State of North Dakota or other non-federal sources. Grants may support the protection and public availability of material related to Roosevelt's life, as well as interpretive and educational services that communicate his historical importance. The bill also authorizes DOI to loan relevant museum objects to the Library, particularly items not otherwise on public display, while clarifying that the federal government has no role in operating the privately run library facility. As the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, S. 675 will expand public access to the history and legacy of one of America's most consequential presidents.

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ "The Legacy of Theodore Roosevelt," National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/kidsyouth/trs-legacy.htm?fullweb=1>.

⁶¹ "Theodore Roosevelt and Conservation," National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/historyculture/theodore-roosevelt-and-conservation.htm>.

⁶² "The Panama Canal: Roosevelt's Bold Gambit for American Power," Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, <https://www.trlibrary.com/tr/presidency/panama-canal>.

⁶³ "The Nobel Peace Prize: When the Warrior Became a Peacemaker," Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, <https://www.trlibrary.com/tr/presidency/nobel-peace-prize>.

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION

H.R. 642 (Rep. Steube), “Myakka Wild and Scenic River Act of 2025”

Section 3. Designation of Myakka River, Florida, as a Component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

- Designates approximately 34 miles of the Myakka River within Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in partnership with the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council.
- Classifies eight portions of the designated 34-mile segment as wild, scenic, or recreational river segments.

Section 4. Special Requirements Applicable to Myakka River.

- Provides that the existing Myakka River Wild and Scenic Management Plan satisfies the comprehensive management plan requirement under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with state and local governments and specifies that such agreements do not make the river a unit of the National Park System or constitute NPS administration.
- Maintains existing management of public and private lands within the watershed and limits federal land acquisition to donations or acquisitions with landowner consent. The bill further prohibits condemnation.
- Authorizes technical assistance, staff support, and funding from NPS.

Section 5. Myakka River Management Council.

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate with the existing Myakka River Management Coordinating Council in updating and implementing the comprehensive management plan.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to appoint an NPS representative to the council.
- Allows other interested parties to be added to the council, consistent with Florida law.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate management responsibilities with the council in updating and implementing the management plan.

H.R. 5470 (Rep. LaHood), “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act”

Section 2. Designation of Route 66 National Historic Trail.

- Amends the National Trails System Act to designate the approximately 2,400-mile Route 66 corridor from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, including alignments of U.S. Highway 66 that existed between 1926 and 1985, as the Route 66 National Historic Trail.
- Requires NPS to maintain and make available for public inspection the official trail map.
- Directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the NPS Director, to administer the trail and requires consultation with affected Indian Tribes before undertaking activities with substantial direct tribal impacts.

- Prohibits federal land acquisition outside existing federally managed areas without landowner consent and limits acquisition to an average of one-quarter mile on either side of the trail.
- Specifies that the designation does not create a buffer zone or authorize regulation of activities or uses outside the trail.
- Clarifies that the designation may not prohibit, hinder, or disrupt current or future energy development, production, transportation, transmission, or related infrastructure.
- Prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from using eminent domain or condemnation to carry out the legislation.
- Specifies that the designation does not make the trail or lands along the trail “lands in the National Park System” for purposes of the Mineral Leasing Act.
- Maintains existing federal, state, and local authorities to grant easements and rights-of-way and specifies that the trail designation does not trigger new federal permitting or authorization requirements.

H.R. 6788 (Rep. Downing), “Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act”

Section 3. Release and Improved Management of Land Comprising Certain Wilderness Study Areas.

- Releases approximately 81,000 acres comprising the Middle Fork Judith WSA from the requirements of the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977 and directs the land to be managed under the most recently adopted applicable USFS forest plan.
- Releases approximately 11,380 acres comprising the Hoodoo Mountain WSA and approximately 11,580 acres comprising the Wales Creek WSA from wilderness study area requirements under FLPMA and directs the lands to be managed under the applicable BLM resource management plans.

H.R. 9269 (Rep. Clyburn), “Renewing the African American Civil Rights Network Act”

Section 2. Extension of Authorization.

- Extends the authorization of the AACRN for ten years after the bill’s enactment.

H.R. 9600 (Rep. Raskin) “Common Sense 250 Act of 2026”

Section 2. Approval of Location of Commemorative Work for Thomas Paine.

- Approves the placement of the previously authorized commemorative work honoring Thomas Paine within Area I, notwithstanding any requirements in the Commemorative Works Act prohibiting the placement of any memorials within Area I.
- Requires the commemorative work to be located within Area I.

H.R. 9779 (Rep. Gonzalez), “Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026”

Section 2. Boca Chica Beach.

- Designates Boca Chica Beach in Cameron County, Texas, as “Boca Chica Beach.”
- Provides that all reference to Boca Chica Beach in federal laws, maps, regulations, documents, papers, or other records shall be deemed references to “Boca Chica Beach.”

Section 3. Notification of Members of Congress of Certain Geographic Name Proposals.

- Requires the BGN's Domestic Names Committee to notify each Member of Congress representing an area affected by a proposed geographic name when the committee solicits input on the proposal.

H.R. 10128 (Rep. McClintock), To codify Secretary's Order 3434 of the Department of the Interior.

Section 1. Codification of DOI Secretary's Order 3434.

- Declares that S.O. 3434 shall have the force and effect of law.

H.R. 10136 (Rep. Westerman), "Crossett Experimental Forest Act of 2026"

Section 2. Conveyance of the Crossett Experimental Forest.

- Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of USFS, to convey the Crossett Experimental Forest, including the R.R. Reynolds Research Natural Area and associated facilities, to the State of Arkansas if the state submits a written request within 180 days of the bill's enactment.
- Requires the conveyance be made without consideration, subject to valid existing rights, and by quitclaim deed.
- Clarifies that the State is responsible for survey costs and any other administrative costs associated with the conveyance.
- Allows the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Arkansas to mutually agree to minor boundary adjustments and corrections to the map.
- Requires the State to designate the forest as the "Crossett State Forest" and manage it in accordance with applicable State forest laws and regulations. The State must also continue to use the forest for forest research, education, and demonstration purposes, consistent with its historic research mission. The State is required to coordinate with the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, including by providing reasonable access for research and educational activities.
- Stipulates that if the State fails to meet certain management requirements, the Secretary must provide written notice and allow 180 days to correct the failure. If the State does not correct the failure, the Secretary may require all or a portion of the forest to revert to the United States.
- Provides that the conveyance is not considered a major Federal action for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act and exempts the conveyance from the National Historic Preservation Act.

S. 675 (Sen. Hoeven) “Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Act”

Section 3. Federal Contributions Toward Establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

- Authorizes DOI, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide up to \$50 million in grants to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation to protect and make publicly available materials relating to the life of President Theodore Roosevelt and provide interpretative and educational services concerning his life.
- Requires the Foundation to certify that it received at least \$100 million for the Library from the State of North Dakota or other non-federal sources before any grants can be provided.
- Prohibits grant funds from being used for maintenance or operation of the Library.
- Specifies that the grant authorization does not require an increase in the applicable suballocation under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements with the Foundation to loan to the Library historic, educational, artistic, natural, and other museum artifacts and objects held by agencies within DOI, particularly objects that are not on public display.
- Specifies that DOI and other federal entities shall have no role in operating the Library, except when assistance is requested.

V. COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the Senate companion to the “Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act” would have an insignificant budget impact.⁶⁴

A formal cost estimate from CBO is not yet available for any of the remaining bills.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Trump administration testified in support of the Senate companions to the “Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act” and the “Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act.”⁶⁵ The administration expressed concerns with the Senate companion to the “Myakka Wild and Scenic River Act of 2025,” stating that “NPS must prioritize limited resources on critical existing

⁶⁴ “S. 3527, Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act,” Congressional Budget Office, April 16, 2026, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62348>.

⁶⁵ Testimony of Charles Cuvelier, Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, July 21, 2026, <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/A369C011-8F52-4B6C-BD91-3536CF4ECA89>; Statement of Christopher French, Associate Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, February 12, 2026, <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/3A5DFC86-1278-46D7-B788-1877AA1CD26D>; Statement of Jon Raby, Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, February 12, 2026, <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/DAFF9A37-BB9D-4515-A77B-D530E0023536>.

needs.”⁶⁶ The Trump administration deferred to Congress on the Senate companion to “the Renewing of the African American Civil Rights Network Act.”⁶⁷

The administration’s position on the remaining bills is unknown at this time.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW

[H.R. 642](#)

[H.R. 5470](#)

[H.R. 9269](#)

⁶⁶ Testimony of Michael A. Caldwell, Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities and Lands, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, December 9, 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-02/final-testimony-dec-9-senr-np-legislative-hearing-1.pdf>.

⁶⁷ Testimony of Charles Cuvelier, Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, July 21, 2026, <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/A369C011-8F52-4B6C-BD91-3536CF4ECA89>.