

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To designate certain special management areas, wildlife conservation areas, protection areas, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and scientific research and education area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To designate certain special management areas, wildlife conservation areas, protection areas, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and scientific research and education area in the State of Colorado, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gunnison Outdoor Re-
5 sources Protection Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED.—The term
2 “collaboratively developed”, with respect to a
3 project, means the project is developed and imple-
4 mented through a collaborative process that—

5 (A) includes multiple interested persons
6 representing diverse interests; and

7 (B)(i) is transparent and nonexclusive; or

8 (ii) meets the requirements for a resource
9 advisory committee under—

10 (I) for projects carried out on Na-
11 tional Forest System land, subsections (e)
12 through (f) of section 205 of the Secure
13 Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-
14 mination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125); or

15 (II) for projects carried out on Bu-
16 reau of Land Management land, subpart
17 1784 of part 1700 of title 43, Code of
18 Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
19 tions).

20 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Gun-
21 nison County, Colorado.

22 (3) COVERED AREA.—The term “covered area”
23 means each of the Special Management Areas, Wild-
24 life Conservation Areas, Protection Areas, and

1 Recreation Management Areas and the Scientific
2 Research and Education Area.

3 (4) DECOMMISSION.—The term “decommis-
4 sion”, with respect to a road, means—

5 (A) reestablishing native vegetation on the
6 road;

7 (B) restoring any natural drainage, water-
8 shed function, or other ecological processes that
9 were disrupted or adversely impacted by the
10 road by removing or hydrologically dis-
11 connecting the road prism and reestablishing
12 stable slope contours;

13 (C) effectively blocking the road to vehic-
14 ular traffic, where feasible; and

15 (D) developing and implementing an effec-
16 tive monitoring and response plan for invasive
17 species and vehicular traffic incursions.

18 (5) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-
19 logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in
20 section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-
21 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
22 Act).

23 (6) OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE.—The term “off-
24 highway vehicle”—

1 (A) with respect to National Forest Sys-
2 tem land, has the meaning given the term in
3 section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regu-
4 lations (or a successor regulation); and

5 (B) with respect to land managed by the
6 Bureau of Land Management, has the meaning
7 given the term “off-road vehicle” in section
8 8340.0-5 of title 43, Code of Federal Regula-
9 tions (or a successor regulation).

10 (7) OVER-SNOW VEHICLE.—The term “over-
11 snow vehicle” has the meaning given the term in
12 section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-
13 tions (or a successor regulation).

14 (8) PROTECTION AREA.—The term “Protection
15 Area” means a protection area designated by section
16 5(a).

17 (9) PROTECTION AREA MAP.—The term “Pro-
18 tection Area map” means the map entitled “Pro-
19 posed Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act
20 Protection Areas” and dated **【_____】**,
21 2022.

22 (10) RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA.—The
23 term “Recreation Management Area” means a recre-
24 ation management area designated by section 6(a).

1 (11) RESTORE.—The term “restore” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 219.19 of title 36,
3 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
4 date of enactment of this Act).

5 (12) RMA MAP.—The term “RMA map” means
6 the map entitled “Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Re-
7 sources Protection Act Recreation Management
8 Areas” and dated [_____], 2022.

9 (13) SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
10 AREA.—The term “Scientific Research and Edu-
11 cation Area” means the Rocky Mountain Scientific
12 Research and Education Area designated by section
13 7(a).

14 (14) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
15 means—

16 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting
17 through the Chief of the Forest Service), with
18 respect to National Forest System land; and

19 (B) the Secretary of the Interior with re-
20 spect to land managed by the Director of the
21 Bureau of Land Management.

22 (15) SMA MAP.—The term “SMA map” means
23 the map entitled “Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Re-
24 sources Protection Act Special Management Areas”
25 and dated [_____], 2022.

1 (16) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term
2 “Special Management Area” means a special man-
3 agement area designated by section 3(a).

4 (17) STATE.—The term “State” means the
5 State of Colorado.

6 (18) WCA MAP.—The term “WCA map” means
7 the map entitled “Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Re-
8 sources Protection Act Wildlife Conservation Areas”
9 and dated [_____], 2022.

10 (19) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “wilder-
11 ness area” means any area designated as wilderness
12 by the amendments to section 2(a) of the Colorado
13 Wilderness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Pub-
14 lic Law 103–77) made by section 8(a).

15 (20) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
16 “wildland-urban interface” means land within a cov-
17 ered area that is within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the interface and
18 intermix areas mapped as the wildland-urban inter-
19 face in the document entitled “The Wildland-Urban
20 Interface of the Conterminous United States” and
21 published by the Department of Agriculture in 2015.

22 (21) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—The
23 term “Wildlife Conservation Area” means a wildlife
24 conservation area designated by section 4(a).

1 (22) WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

2 The term “winter travel management plan” means
3 a decision designating roads, trails, or areas for
4 over-snow vehicle use in accordance with—

5 (A) in the case of Forest Service land
6 within a covered area, subpart C of part 212 of
7 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or suc-
8 cessor regulations); and

9 (B) in the case of Bureau of Land Man-
10 agement land within a covered area, subpart
11 8342 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations
12 (or successor regulations).

13 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

14 (a) DESIGNATION.—

15 (1) AMERICAN FLAG SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
16 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
17 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
18 Service comprising approximately 36,329 acres, as
19 generally depicted on the SMA map, is designated as
20 the “American Flag Special Management Area”.

21 (2) BECKWITHS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
22 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
23 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
24 Service comprising approximately 23,976 acres, as

1 generally depicted on the SMA map, is designated as
2 the “Beckwiths Special Management Area”.

3 **[(3) BLACK MESA SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
4 **AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-**
5 **eral land in the County managed by the Forest**
6 **Service and the Bureau of Land Management com-**
7 **prising approximately 36,744 acres, as generally de-**
8 **icted on the SMA map, is designated as the “Black**
9 **Mesa Special Management Area”.]**

10 **[(4) CLEAR FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
11 **AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-**
12 **eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of**
13 **Land Management comprising approximately 45,511**
14 **acres, as generally depicted on the SMA map, is des-**
15 **ignated as the “Clear Fork Special Management**
16 **Area”.]**

17 (5) NORTH POVERTY GULCH SPECIAL MANAGE-
18 MENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, cer-
19 tain Federal land in the County managed by the
20 Forest Service comprising approximately 4,496
21 acres, as generally depicted on the SMA map, is des-
22 ignated as the “North Poverty Gulch Special Man-
23 agement Area”.

24 (6) MCINTOSH MOUNTAIN SPECIAL MANAGE-
25 MENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, cer-

1 tain Federal land in the County managed by the Bu-
2 reau of Land Management and the Forest Service
3 comprising approximately 22,415 acres, as generally
4 depicted on the SMA map, is designated as the
5 “McIntosh Mountain Special Management Area”.

6 **[(7) PILOT KNOB SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
7 **AREA.—**Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
8 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of
9 Land Management comprising approximately 20,725
10 acres, as generally depicted on the SMA map, is des-
11 ignated as the “Pilot Knob Special Management
12 Area”.**]**

13 **(8) SIGNAL PEAK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
14 **AREA.—**Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
15 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of
16 Land Management and the Forest Service com-
17 prising approximately 28,483 acres, as generally de-
18 picted on the SMA map, is designated as the “Sig-
19 nal Peak Special Management Area”.

20 **(9) UNION PARK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT**
21 **AREA.—**Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
22 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
23 Service comprising approximately 22,472 acres, as
24 generally depicted on the SMA map, is designated as
25 the “Union Park Special Management Area”.

1 (10) WHETSTONE HEADWATERS SPECIAL MAN-
2 AGEMENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights,
3 certain Federal land in the County managed by the
4 Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management
5 comprising approximately 20,564 acres, as generally
6 depicted on the SMA map, is designated as the
7 “Whetstone Headwaters Special Management Area”.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Special Manage-
9 ment Areas is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the
10 benefit of present and future generations the natural, sce-
11 nic, scientific, cultural, watershed, recreation, and wildlife
12 resources of the Special Management Areas.

13 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
15 the Special Management Areas in a manner that—

16 (A) conserves, protects, and enhances the
17 resources of the Special Management Areas;

18 and

19 (B) is in accordance with—

20 (i) this Act; and

21 (ii) other applicable laws.

22 (2) USES.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
24 only allow uses of the Special Management

1 Areas that the Secretary determines would fur-
2 ther the purpose described in subsection (b).

3 (B) VEHICLE AND BICYCLE USE.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—The use of off-high-
5 way vehicles and bicycles in the Special
6 Management Areas shall be permitted only
7 on roads, trails, and areas designated for
8 use by those vehicles on the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act, except—

10 (I) as needed for administrative
11 purposes;

12 (II) to respond to an emergency;

13 or

14 (III) as authorized under clauses
15 (ii) and (iii).

16 (ii) WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT.—

17 For any portion of a Special Management
18 Area for which the Secretary has not
19 adopted a winter travel management plan
20 as of the date of enactment of this Act, the
21 Secretary—

22 (I) shall, not later than 3 years
23 after the date of enactment of this
24 Act, adopt a winter travel manage-
25 ment plan with respect to the applica-

1 ble portion of the Special Manage-
2 ment Area; and

3 (II) may, during any period be-
4 ginning on the date of enactment of
5 this Act and ending on the date of
6 adoption of a winter travel manage-
7 ment plan for the applicable portion
8 under subclause (I), permit the use of
9 over-snow vehicles in the applicable
10 portion of the Special Management
11 Area in accordance with the applicable
12 land management plan or other appli-
13 cable management direction.

14 (iii) POTENTIAL TRAILS.—The Sec-
15 retary may permit—

16 (I) the use of bicycles on the po-
17 tential trails described in paragraph
18 (3) if the trails are designated by the
19 Secretary for the use; and

20 (II) the use of off-highway vehi-
21 cles on the potential trails described
22 in subparagraphs (A), (C), and (F) of
23 paragraph (3) if the trails are des-
24 ignated by the Secretary for the use.

1 (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section af-
2 fects the potential development, in accordance with
3 applicable law, of—

4 (A) a proposed trail of less than 50 inches
5 in width, commonly known as the “Big Grassy
6 Trail”, within the American Flag Special Man-
7 agement Area designated by subsection (a)(1);

8 (B) the proposed trails, commonly known
9 as the “Crested Butte to Paonia Trail” and the
10 “Crested Butte to Carbondale Trail”, within
11 the Beckwiths Special Management Area des-
12 ignated by subsection (a)(2);

13 (C) the proposed trails, commonly known
14 as the “Antelope Ridge Trail and Connector”,
15 the “East West Antelope Trail”, the “West An-
16 telope Trail”, and the “Mill Creek Connector”,
17 within the McIntosh Mountain Special Manage-
18 ment Area designated by subsection (a)(6);

19 (D) the proposed trail, commonly known as
20 the “Gunnison to Crested Butte Trail”, and the
21 trails generally depicted in figure 7 of the docu-
22 ment entitled “Candidate Conservation Agree-
23 ment For the Gunnison sage-grouse,
24 *Centrocercus minimus* Gunnison Basin Popu-
25 lation” and dated 2012 within the Signal Peak

1 Special Management Area designated by sub-
2 section (a)(8);

3 (E) the proposed trails, commonly known
4 as the “Gunnison to Crested Butte Trail” and
5 the “Baxter Gulch to Splain’s Gulch Trail”, in
6 the Whetstone Headwaters Special Management
7 Area designated by subsection (a)(10); and

8 (F) the proposed trail, commonly known as
9 the “Splain’s Gulch to Carbon Creek Trail”, in
10 the Whetstone Headwaters Special Management
11 Area designated by subsection (a)(10).

12 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS.**

13 (a) DESIGNATION.—

14 (1) CABIN CREEK WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
15 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
16 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of
17 Land Management and the Forest Service com-
18 prising approximately 28,659 acres, as generally de-
19 picted on the WCA map, is designated as the “Cabin
20 Creek Wildlife Conservation Area”.

21 (2) FLAT TOP WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
22 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
23 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
24 Service comprising approximately 29,053 acres, as

1 generally depicted on the WCA map, is designated
2 as the “Flat Top Wildlife Conservation Area”.

3 (3) LAKE GULCH AND CEBOLLA CREEK WILD-
4 LIFE CONSERVATION AREA.—Subject to valid exist-
5 ing rights, certain Federal land in the County man-
6 aged by the Bureau of Land Management com-
7 prising approximately 51,083 acres, as generally de-
8 picted on the WCA map, is designated as the “Lake
9 Gulch and Cebolla Creek Wildlife Conservation
10 Area”.

11 (4) MATCHLESS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
12 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
13 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
14 Service and the Bureau of Land Management com-
15 prising approximately 12,736 acres, as generally de-
16 picted on the WCA map, is designated as the
17 “Matchless Wildlife Conservation Area”.

18 (5) MUNSEY CREEK WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
19 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
20 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
21 Service and the Bureau of Land Management com-
22 prising approximately 3,087 acres, as generally de-
23 picted on the WCA map, is designated as the “Mun-
24 sey Creek Wildlife Conservation Area”.

1 (6) PINNACLES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
2 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
3 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of
4 Land Management comprising approximately 28,409
5 acres, as generally depicted on the WCA map, is
6 designated as the “Pinnacles Wildlife Conservation
7 Area”.

8 (7) POWDERHORN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
9 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
10 eral land in the County managed by the Bureau of
11 Land Management comprising approximately 27,581
12 acres, as generally depicted on the WCA map, is
13 designated as the “Powderhorn Wildlife Conserva-
14 tion Area”.

15 **[(8) SAWTOOTH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**
16 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
17 eral land in the County and in Saguache County,
18 Colorado, managed by the Bureau of Land Manage-
19 ment comprising approximately 44,005 acres, as
20 generally depicted on the WCA map, is designated
21 as the “Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Area”.**]**

22 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Wildlife Con-
23 servation Areas are—

24 (1) to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore
25 for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future

1 generations the wildlife and wildlife habitat of the
2 Wildlife Conservation Areas; and

3 (2) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the
4 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-
5 tions the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, water-
6 shed, and recreation resources of the Wildlife Con-
7 servation Areas.

8 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
10 the Wildlife Conservation Areas in a manner that—

11 (A) furthers the purposes of the Wildlife
12 Conservation Areas; and

13 (B) is in accordance with—

14 (i) this Act; and

15 (ii) other applicable laws.

16 (2) USES.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 only allow uses of the Wildlife Conservation
19 Areas that the Secretary determines would fur-
20 ther the purposes described in subsection (b).

21 (B) VEHICLE AND BICYCLE USE.—

22 (i) IN GENERAL.—The use of off-high-
23 way vehicles and bicycles in the Wildlife
24 Conservation Areas shall be permitted only
25 on roads, trails, and areas designated for

1 the uses on the date of enactment of this
2 Act.

3 (ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding
4 clause (i)—

5 (I) off-highway vehicles and bicy-
6 cles may be permitted—

7 (aa) as needed for adminis-
8 trative purposes; or

9 (bb) to respond to an emer-
10 gency;

11 (II) for any portion of a Wildlife
12 Conservation Area for which the Sec-
13 retary has not adopted a winter travel
14 management plan as of the date of
15 enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary—

17 (aa) shall, not later than 3
18 years after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, adopt a winter travel
20 management plan for the applica-
21 ble portion of the Wildlife Con-
22 servation Area; and

23 (bb) may, during the period
24 beginning on the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act and ending on

1 the date of adoption of a winter
2 travel management plan for the
3 applicable portion under item
4 (aa), permit the use of over-snow
5 vehicles in the applicable portion
6 of the Wildlife Conservation Area
7 in accordance with the applicable
8 land management plan or other
9 applicable management direction;
10 (III) except as authorized under
11 subclause (I), the use of off-highway
12 vehicles and bicycles shall be prohib-
13 ited in the Matchless Wildlife Con-
14 servation Area designated by sub-
15 section (a)(4); and
16 (IV) the Secretary may permit
17 the use of bicycles on the potential
18 trails described in paragraph (3) if
19 the trails are designated by the Sec-
20 retary for the use.

21 (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section af-
22 fects the potential development, in accordance with
23 applicable law, of—

24 (A) the proposed trail, commonly known as
25 the “Gunnison to Crested Butte Trail”, in the

1 Flat Top Wildlife Conservation Area designated
2 by subsection (a)(2);

3 (B) the proposed trail, commonly known as
4 the “Crested Butte to Carbondale Trail”, in the
5 Munsey Creek Wildlife Conservation Area des-
6 ignated by subsection (a)(5); or

7 (C) the proposed trails, commonly known
8 as the “Tenderfoot Mountain to Bambi’s Trail”
9 and the “Big Loop Trail”, in the Sawtooth
10 Wildlife Conservation Area designated by sub-
11 section (a)(8).

12 **SEC. 5. DESIGNATION OF PROTECTION AREAS.**

13 (a) DESIGNATION.—

14 (1) CASTLE PROTECTION AREA.—Subject to
15 valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the
16 County managed by the Forest Service comprising
17 approximately 6,411 acres, as generally depicted on
18 the Protection Area map, is designated as the “Cas-
19 tle Protection Area”.

20 (2) DEER CREEK PROTECTION AREA.—Subject
21 to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the
22 County managed by the Forest Service comprising
23 approximately 3,083 acres, as generally depicted on
24 the Protection Area map, is designated as the “Deer
25 Creek Protection Area”.

1 (3) GRANITE BASIN PROTECTION AREA.—Sub-
2 ject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in
3 the County managed by the Forest Service and the
4 Bureau of Land Management comprising approxi-
5 mately 9,829 acres, as generally depicted on the
6 Protection Area map, is designated as the “Granite
7 Basin Protection Area”.

8 (4) SOUTH POVERTY GULCH PROTECTION
9 AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
10 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
11 Service and the Bureau of Land Management com-
12 prising approximately 1,368 acres, as generally de-
13 picted on the Protection Area map, is designated as
14 the “South Poverty Gulch Protection Area”.

15 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Protection
16 Areas are—

17 (1) to protect the natural and undeveloped
18 character of the Protection Areas; and

19 (2) to conserve and protect for the benefit and
20 enjoyment of present and future generations the sce-
21 nic, scientific, cultural, watershed, recreation, and
22 wildlife resources of the Protection Areas.

23 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
25 the Protection Areas in a manner that—

1 (A) furthers the purposes of the Protection
2 Areas described in subsection (b); and

3 (B) is in accordance with—

4 (i) this Act; and

5 (ii) other applicable laws.

6 (2) USES.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 only allow uses of the Protection Areas that the
9 Secretary determines would further the pur-
10 poses described in subsection (b).

11 (B) VEHICLE USE.—

12 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
13 in clause (ii), as needed for administrative
14 purposes, or to respond to an emergency,
15 the use of off-highway vehicles in the Pro-
16 tection Areas is prohibited.

17 (ii) OVER-SNOW VEHICLES.—The Sec-
18 retary may permit the use of over-snow ve-
19 hicles in the Deer Creek Protection Area
20 designated by subsection (a)(2) on roads,
21 trails, and areas designated for the use on
22 the date of enactment of this Act.

23 (C) BICYCLES.—The Secretary may permit
24 the use of bicycles in the Protection Areas
25 only—

1 (i) on roads and trails designated for
2 the use on the date of enactment of this
3 Act;

4 (ii) as needed for administrative pur-
5 poses;

6 (iii) to respond to an emergency; or

7 (iv) if designated by the Secretary for
8 the use on the potential trails described in
9 paragraph (3).

10 (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section af-
11 fects the potential development, in accordance with
12 applicable law, of—

13 (A) the proposed trail, commonly known as
14 the “Deer Creek to Brush Creek Connector
15 Trail”, within the Deer Creek Protection Area
16 designated by subsection (a)(2);

17 (B) the proposed trail, commonly known as
18 the “Eecher Exit Trail”, within the Granite
19 Basin Protection Area designated by subsection
20 (a)(3); and

21 (C) the proposed trail, commonly known as
22 the “Lower Loop Trail Extension”, in the
23 South Poverty Gulch Protection Area des-
24 ignated by subsection (a)(4).

1 **SEC. 6. DESIGNATION OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT**
2 **AREAS.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—

4 **[(1) COTTONWOOD GULCH RECREATION MAN-**
5 **AGEMENT AREA.—**Subject to valid existing rights,
6 certain Federal land in the County and in Chaffee
7 County in the State managed by the Forest Service
8 comprising approximately 33,826 acres, as generally
9 depicted on the RMA map, is designated as the
10 “Cottonwood Gulch Recreation Management
11 Area”.**]**

12 **(2) DOUBLE TOP RECREATION MANAGEMENT**
13 **AREA.—**Subject to valid existing rights, certain Fed-
14 eral land in the County managed by the Forest
15 Service comprising approximately 14,168 acres, as
16 generally depicted on the RMA map, is designated
17 as the “Double Top Recreation Management Area”.

18 **[(3) EAST GUNNISON DIVIDE RECREATION**
19 **MANAGEMENT AREA.—**Subject to valid existing
20 rights, certain Federal land in the County and in
21 Chaffee County in the State managed by the Forest
22 Service comprising approximately 14,239 acres, as
23 generally depicted on the RMA map, is designated
24 as the “East Gunnison Divide Recreation Manage-
25 ment Area”.**]**

1 (4) HORSE RANCH PARK RECREATION MANAGE-
2 MENT AREA.—Subject to valid existing rights, cer-
3 tain Federal land in the County managed by the
4 Forest Service comprising approximately 3,461
5 acres, as generally depicted on the RMA map, is
6 designated as the “Horse Ranch Park Recreation
7 Management Area”.

8 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Recreation
9 Management Areas are—

10 (1) to provide for, and improve the manage-
11 ment of, recreation resources in the Recreation Man-
12 agement Areas for the benefit and enjoyment of
13 present and future generation; and

14 (2) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the
15 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-
16 tions the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, water-
17 shed, and wildlife resources of the Recreation Man-
18 agement Areas.

19 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
21 the Recreation Management Areas in a manner
22 that—

23 (A) furthers the purposes of the Recre-
24 ation Management Areas described in sub-
25 section (b); and

1 (B) is in accordance with—

2 (i) this Act; and

3 (ii) other applicable laws.

4 (2) USES.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 only allow uses of the Recreation Management
7 Areas that the Secretary determines would fur-
8 ther the purposes described in subsection (b).

9 (B) VEHICLE AND BICYCLE USE.—

10 (i) DOUBLE TOP.—

11 (I) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
12 vided in subclause (II), the use of off-
13 highway vehicles and bicycles in the
14 Double Top Recreation Management
15 Area designated by subsection (a)(2)
16 shall be permitted only on roads and
17 trails designated for the use on the
18 date of enactment of this Act.

19 (II) EXCEPTIONS.—

20 (aa) OVER-SNOW VEHI-
21 CLES.—Except as provided in
22 item (bb), the use of over-snow
23 vehicles shall not be permitted in
24 the Double Top Recreation Man-

1 agement Area designated by sub-
2 section (a)(2).

3 (bb) ADMINISTRATIVE
4 USE.—Nothing in this section
5 limits the use of off-highway ve-
6 hicles in the Double Top Recre-
7 ation Management Area des-
8 ignated by subsection (a)(2) as
9 necessary for administrative pur-
10 poses or to respond to an emer-
11 gency (including as appropriate
12 for administrative support and
13 emergency response during the
14 Grand Traverse skiing event, as
15 permitted by the Grand Mesa,
16 Uncompahgre, and Gunnison Na-
17 tional Forests).

18 (ii) HORSE RANCH PARK.—

19 (I) VEHICLE USE.—

20 (aa) IN GENERAL.—Except
21 as provided in item (bb), the use
22 of off-highway vehicles in the
23 Horse Ranch Park Recreation
24 Management Area designated by
25 subsection (a)(4) is prohibited.

1 (bb) EXCEPTIONS.—The
2 Secretary may permit the use of
3 over-snow vehicles in the Horse
4 Ranch Park Recreation Manage-
5 ment Area designated by sub-
6 section (a)(4)—

7 (AA) only on roads,
8 trails, and areas designated
9 for the use on the date of
10 enactment of this Act; or

11 (BB) as needed for ad-
12 ministrative purposes or to
13 respond to an emergency.

14 (II) BICYCLES.—The Secretary
15 may permit the use of bicycles in the
16 Horse Ranch Park Recreation Man-
17 agement Area designated by sub-
18 section (a)(4) only—

19 (aa) on roads, trails, and
20 areas designated for the use on
21 the date of enactment of this
22 Act;

23 (bb) as needed for adminis-
24 trative purposes;

1 (cc) to respond to an emer-
2 gency; or

3 (dd) if designated by the
4 Secretary for the use on the po-
5 tential trails described in sub-
6 clause (III).

7 (III) LIMITATION.—Nothing in
8 this section affects the potential devel-
9 opment of the proposed trails, com-
10 monly known as the “Crested Butte
11 to Paonia Trail”, the “Crested Butte
12 to Carbondale Trail”, or the “Dark
13 Canyon Loop Trail”, in the Horse
14 Ranch Park Recreation Management
15 Area designated by subsection (a)(4).

16 **SEC. 7. DESIGNATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCI-**
17 **ENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AREA.**

18 (a) DESIGNATION.—Subject to valid existing rights,
19 certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service com-
20 prising approximately 12,215 acres, as generally depicted
21 on the SMA map, is designated as the “Rocky Mountain
22 Scientific Research and Education Area”.

23 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Scientific Re-
24 search and Education Area are—

1 (1) to encourage and preserve conditions nec-
2 essary for ecological, evolutionary, geological, biogeo-
3 chemical, climatological, biological, meteorological,
4 and other natural science research and education;

5 (2) to provide opportunities for the use of con-
6 tinually emerging techniques and methodologies in
7 the conduct of the research and education described
8 in paragraph (1); and

9 (3) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the
10 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-
11 tions the natural, scenic, scientific, cultural, water-
12 shed, recreation, and wildlife resources of the Sci-
13 entific Research and Education Area.

14 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage
16 the Scientific Research and Education Area in a
17 manner that—

18 (A) furthers the purposes of the Scientific
19 Research and Education Area described in sub-
20 section (b); and

21 (B) is in accordance with—

22 (i) this Act; and

23 (ii) other applicable laws.

24 (2) USES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 only allow uses of the Scientific Research and
3 Education Area that the Secretary determines
4 would further the purposes described in sub-
5 section (b).

6 (B) VEHICLE USE.—Except as needed for
7 administrative purposes, to respond to an emer-
8 gency, the use of off-highway vehicles in the
9 Scientific Research and Education Area shall be
10 permitted only on roads designated for the use
11 on the date of enactment of this Act.

12 (C) BICYCLES.—The use of bicycles in the
13 Scientific Research and Education Area shall be
14 permitted only—

15 (i) on roads and trails designated for
16 the use by the Secretary on the date of en-
17 actment of this Act; or

18 (ii) on trails designated for the use by
19 the Secretary after the date of enactment
20 of this Act if the Secretary determines that
21 the use is consistent with the purposes de-
22 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of sub-
23 section (b).

24 (d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section limits the au-
25 thority of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory to

1 conduct scientific research or education activities outside
2 the boundaries of the Scientific Research and Education
3 Area.

4 **SEC. 8. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.**

5 (a) DESIGNATION.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wil-
6 derness Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 107 Stat. 756;
7 114 Stat. 1955; 116 Stat. 1055; 128 Stat. 3823) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “1993,” and
10 inserting “1993, and approximately 2,075 acres, as
11 generally depicted as ‘Proposed Crystal Creek and
12 Lottis Creek Additions’ on the map entitled ‘Pro-
13 posed Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act
14 Wilderness and Wilderness Additions’ and dated
15 **【_____】**, 2022,”;

16 (2) in paragraph (9)—

17 (A) by striking “Gunnison” and inserting
18 “Gunnison and White River”; and

19 (B) by striking “1993,” and inserting
20 “1993, and approximately 12,681 acres, as gen-
21 erally depicted as ‘Proposed Poverty Gulch,
22 Treasure Mountain, and Erickson Springs Ad-
23 ditions’ on the map entitled ‘Proposed Gunni-
24 son Outdoor Resources Protection Act Wilder-

1 ness and Wilderness Additions’ and dated
2 **【_____】**, 2022,”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(23) MATCHLESS WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
5 eral land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and
6 Gunnison National Forests comprising approxi-
7 mately 8,620 acres, as generally depicted as ‘Pro-
8 posed Matchless Wilderness Area’ on the map enti-
9 tled ‘Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protec-
10 tion Act Wilderness and Wilderness Additions’ and
11 dated **【_____】**, 2022, which shall be
12 known as the ‘Matchless Wilderness’.

13 “(24) EAST CEMENT WILDERNESS.—Certain
14 Federal land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and
15 Gunnison National Forests comprising approxi-
16 mately 8,232 acres, as generally depicted as ‘Pro-
17 posed East Cement Wilderness Area’ on the map en-
18 titled ‘Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Resources Pro-
19 tection Act Wilderness and Wilderness Additions’
20 and dated **【_____】**, 2022, which shall be
21 known as the ‘East Cement Wilderness’.

22 “(25) STAR PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
23 eral land in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunni-
24 son, and the White River National Forests com-
25 prising approximately 7,360 acres, as generally de-

1 picted as ‘Proposed Star Peak Wilderness Area’ on
2 the map entitled ‘Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Re-
3 sources Protection Act Wilderness and Wilderness
4 Additions’ and dated [_____], 2022,
5 which shall be known as the ‘Star Peak Wilderness’.

6 “(26) MAROON BELLS-SNOWMASS WILDERNESS
7 ADDITION.—Certain Federal land in the Grand
8 Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National For-
9 ests comprising approximately 2,262 acres, as gen-
10 erally depicted as ‘Proposed Deer Creek Addition’ on
11 the map entitled ‘Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Re-
12 sources Protection Act Wilderness and Wilderness
13 Additions’ and dated [_____], 2022,
14 which shall be incorporated in, and managed as part
15 of, the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness.

16 “(27) WEST ELK WILDERNESS ADDITION.—
17 Certain Federal land in the Gunnison Field Office
18 administered by the Bureau of Land Management,
19 in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison
20 National Forests and in the Curecanti National
21 Recreation Area, comprising approximately 59,453
22 acres, as generally depicted as ‘Proposed Lamborn,
23 Castle, Beaver, Stubens Creek, East Elk Creek, Dil-
24 lon Mesa, Soap Creek, and Curecanti Additions’ on
25 the map entitled ‘Proposed Gunnison Outdoor Re-

1 sources Protection Act Wilderness and Wilderness
2 Additions’ and dated [_____], 2022,
3 which shall be incorporated in, and managed as part
4 of, the West Elk Wilderness.

5 “(28) UNCOMPAHGRE WILDERNESS ADDI-
6 TIONS.—Certain Federal land in the Grand Mesa,
7 Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests com-
8 prising approximately 14,014 acres, as generally de-
9 picted as ‘Proposed Uncompahgre Wilderness Addi-
10 tions’ on the map entitled ‘Proposed Gunnison Out-
11 door Resources Protection Act Wilderness and Wil-
12 derness Additions’ and dated [_____],
13 2022, which shall be incorporated in, and managed
14 as part of, the Uncompahgre Wilderness.

15 “(29) POWDERHORN WILDERNESS ADDITION.—
16 Certain Federal land in the Gunnison Field Office
17 administered by the Bureau of Land Management
18 comprising approximately 9,606 acres, as generally
19 depicted as ‘Proposed Powderhorn Wilderness Addi-
20 tions’ on the map entitled ‘Proposed Gunnison Out-
21 door Resources Protection Act Wilderness and Wil-
22 derness Additions’ and dated [_____],
23 2022, which shall be incorporated in, and managed
24 as part of, the Powderhorn Wilderness.

1 【“(30) WILDCAT GULCH WILDERNESS.—Cer-
2 tain Federal land in the Pike and San Isabel Na-
3 tional Forests comprising approximately 8,638 acres,
4 as generally depicted as ‘Proposed Wildcat Gulch
5 Wilderness Area’ on the map entitled ‘Proposed
6 Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act Wilder-
7 ness and Wilderness Additions’ and dated
8 【_____】], 2022, which shall be known as
9 the ‘Wildcat Gulch Wilderness’.”】

10 【“(31) MORGANS GULCH WILDERNESS.—Cer-
11 tain Federal land in the Pike and San Isabel Na-
12 tional Forests comprising approximately 6,654 acres,
13 as generally depicted as ‘Proposed Morgans Gulch
14 Wilderness Area’ on the map entitled ‘Proposed
15 Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act Wilder-
16 ness and Wilderness Additions’ and dated
17 【_____】], 2022, which shall be known as
18 the ‘Morgans Gulch Wilderness’.”】

19 (b) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any reference in the Wilder-
20 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date
21 of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the
22 date of enactment of this Act for purposes of admin-
23 istering the wilderness areas.

24 (c) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—In accordance
25 with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.

1 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may carry out any measure
2 within the wilderness areas that the Secretary determines
3 to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, sub-
4 ject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary deter-
5 mines to be appropriate.

6 (d) WEST ELK WILDERNESS BOUNDARY MODIFICA-
7 TION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the West
9 Elk Wilderness in the County is modified to exclude
10 the approximately 15 acres generally depicted as
11 “Boundary Modification” on the map entitled “Gun-
12 nison Outdoor Resources Protection Act” and dated
13 **【**_____**】**, 2022.

14 (2) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing
15 rights, the Federal land excluded from the boundary
16 of the West Elk Wilderness under paragraph (1) is
17 withdrawn from—

18 (A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under
19 the public land laws;

20 (B) location, entry, and patent under the
21 mining laws; and

22 (C) operation of the mineral leasing, min-
23 eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

24 (e) RELEASE.—Congress finds that, for the purposes
25 of subsection (c) of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy

1 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the land
2 within the Powderhorn Wilderness Study Area not des-
3 ignated as wilderness by this section (or an amendment
4 made by this section)—

5 (1) has been adequately studied for wilderness
6 designation; and

7 (2) is no longer subject to that subsection.

8 **SEC. 9. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

9 (a) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 shall file a map and a legal description of the cov-
13 ered areas and wilderness areas with—

14 (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural
15 Resources of the Senate; and

16 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
17 of the House of Representatives.

18 (2) FORCE OF LAW.—Each map and legal de-
19 scription filed under paragraph (1) shall have the
20 same force and effect as if included in this Act, ex-
21 cept that the Secretary may correct any typo-
22 graphical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

23 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and
24 legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be
25 on file and available for public inspection in the ap-

1 appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management
2 or the Forest Service, as applicable.

3 (b) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire
5 any land or interest in land within a covered area
6 or wilderness area only through exchange, donation,
7 or purchase from a willing seller.

8 (2) MANAGEMENT.—Any land or interest in
9 land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be incor-
10 porated in, and administered as a part of, the cov-
11 ered area or wilderness area in which the land or in-
12 terest in land is located.

13 (c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
14 the covered areas and wilderness areas are withdrawn
15 from—

16 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-
17 posal under the public land laws;

18 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
19 laws; and

20 (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mining
21 materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

22 (d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this Act af-
23 fects the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with
24 respect to fish and wildlife in the State.

1 (e) GRAZING.—The laws (including regulations) and
2 policies followed by the Secretary in issuing and admin-
3 istering grazing permits or leases on land under the juris-
4 diction of the Secretary shall continue to apply within a
5 covered area.

6 (f) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGE-
7 MENT.—In accordance with this Act, the Secretary may—

8 (1) carry out any measures that the Secretary
9 determines to be necessary to manage wildland fire,
10 and treat hazardous fuels, insects, and diseases, in
11 the covered areas; and

12 (2) coordinate the measures with the appro-
13 priate State or local agency, as the Secretary deter-
14 mines to be necessary.

15 (g) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—No project shall be carried
17 out in a covered area for the purpose of harvesting
18 commercial timber.

19 (2) ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.—Any vegeta-
20 tion management project carried out in a covered
21 area outside of the wildland-urban interface that in-
22 cludes the harvest or sale of merchantable materials
23 shall—

24 (A) be collaboratively developed;

1 (B) limit the sale of merchantable mate-
2 rials to small diameter trees or biomass; and

3 (C) in accordance with the best available
4 science—

5 (i) restore ecological integrity;

6 (ii) maximize the retention of old
7 growth and large trees, as appropriate for
8 the forest type; and

9 (iii) focus on prescribed fire as the
10 primary means to achieve modified
11 wildland fire behavior, as measured by the
12 projected reduction of uncharacteristically
13 severe wildfire effects for the forest type.

14 (h) ROADS AND TRAILS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
16 graph (2), no road shall be constructed in a covered
17 area.

18 (2) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1)
19 prevents the Secretary from—

20 (A) constructing a temporary road in a
21 Protection Area, Recreation Management Area,
22 or Special Management Area as the Secretary
23 determines to be necessary as a minimum re-
24 quirement for carrying out a vegetation man-
25 agement project in accordance with this Act;

1 (B) responding to an emergency; or

2 (C) authorizing the transportation of sci-
3 entific research equipment within the Scientific
4 Research and Education Area.

5 (3) DECOMMISSIONING OF TEMPORARY
6 ROADS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on
7 which an applicable vegetation management project
8 is completed, the Secretary shall decommission any
9 temporary road constructed under paragraph (2)(A)
10 for the applicable vegetation management project.

11 (4) REROUTING.—Nothing in this Act prevents
12 the Secretary from rerouting a trail within a covered
13 area to protect public safety or natural resources
14 from degradation, as determined to be appropriate
15 by the Secretary.

16 (i) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in section 3, 4, 5, 6,
17 or 7 affects the use or allocation of any absolute or condi-
18 tional water right that is—

19 (1) decreed under the laws of the State; and

20 (2) in existence on the date of enactment of this
21 Act.

22 (j) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act estab-
24 lishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around
25 a covered area or wilderness area.

1 (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that a non-
2 wilderness activity or use on land outside of a cov-
3 ered area or wilderness area can be seen or heard
4 from an area within a covered area or wilderness
5 area shall not preclude the conduct of the activity or
6 use outside the boundary of the covered area or wil-
7 derness area.

8 (k) SEASONAL CLOSURES.—As appropriate and in
9 accordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall develop
10 and implement seasonal closures for off-highway vehicles
11 and bicycles to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in—

12 (1) the McIntosh Mountain Special Manage-
13 ment Area designated by section 3(a)(6);

14 (2) the Signal Peak Special Management Area
15 designated by section 3(a)(8);

16 (3) the Cabin Creek Wildlife Conservation Area
17 designated by section 4(a)(1);

18 (4) the Flat Top Wildlife Conservation Area
19 designated by section 4(a)(2);

20 (5) the Lake Gulch and Cebolla Creek Wildlife
21 Conservation Area designated by section 4(a)(3);

22 and

23 (6) the Pinnacles Wildlife Conservation Area
24 designated by section 4(a)(6).

25 (l) RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—As appropriate and in ac-
2 cordance with applicable law, the Secretary shall
3 conduct wet meadow and riparian restoration
4 projects to improve climate resiliency and wildlife
5 habitat in—

6 (A) the McIntosh Mountain Special Man-
7 agement Area designated by section 3(a)(6);

8 (B) the Signal Peak Special Management
9 Area designated by section 3(a)(8);

10 (C) the Flat Top Wildlife Conservation
11 Area designated by section 4(a)(2);

12 (D) the Lake Gulch and Cebolla Creek
13 Wildlife Conservation Area designated by sec-
14 tion 4(a)(3);

15 (E) the Pinnacles Wildlife Conservation
16 Area designated by section 4(a)(6); and

17 (F) the Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation
18 Area designated by section 4(a)(8).

19 (2) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the
20 projects described in paragraph (1), the Secretary
21 shall seek to collaborate with—

22 (A) the Colorado Division of Parks and
23 Wildlife;

24 (B) the Upper Gunnison River Water Con-
25 servancy District;

1 (C) the County;

2 (D) in the case of a project located in the
3 Sawtooth Wildlife Conservation Area designated
4 by section 4(a)(8), Saguache County, Colorado;

5 (E) the United States Fish and Wildlife
6 Service; and

7 (F) other interested entities and individ-
8 uals.

9 (m) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND USES.—

10 (1) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act af-
11 fects the treaty rights of any Indian Tribe.

12 (2) TRADITIONAL TRIBAL USES.—Subject to
13 any terms and conditions that the Secretary deter-
14 mines to be necessary and in accordance with appli-
15 cable law, the Secretary shall allow for the continued
16 use of a covered area or wilderness area by members
17 of Indian Tribes—

18 (A) for traditional ceremonies; and

19 (B) as a source of traditional plants and
20 other materials.