



**MICHAEL BENNET**  
U.S. SENATOR *for* COLORADO

## **Progress for Colorado in the Natural Resources Management Act**

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Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet secured a number of provisions important to Colorado in the bipartisan *Natural Resources Management Act* (S.47), commonly referred to as the “lands package.” This is the largest lands package to advance in Congress in the last decade. Bennet led or co-led the following bills and amendments:

### **Permanent LWCF Reauthorization**

The bill permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which protects and promotes access to America’s parks, rivers, forests, and public lands. In 2015, Bennet led an effort with Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) to reauthorize the program for three years. They have introduced legislation in every Congress since to permanently reauthorize LWCF.

### **21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act**

The bill, first [introduced](#) by Bennet with late-Senator John McCain (R-AZ) in 2015, helps place youth and returning veterans in national service positions to protect, restore, and enhance America’s public lands and waters. It enables land management agencies to work more effectively to increase engagement in the outdoors, carry out important missions, and provide in-demand skills training and credentials to corps members.

### **Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act**

The bill, [introduced](#) by Bennet in 2017, names two Southwest Colorado mountain peaks in honor of distinguished mountaineers Charlie Fowler and Christine Boskoff, who died in a 2006 avalanche while attempting to summit Genyen Peak in Tibet. Charlie and Christine were two of the most accomplished climbers in the world and were integral members of the Southwest Colorado community.

### **Pike National Historic Trail Study Act**

The bill, first [introduced](#) by Bennet in 2010, establishes a National Park Service feasibility study that could lead to the designation of explorer Zebulon Pike’s route through the American Southwest—including significant stretches in Colorado—as a National Historic Trail. Bennet [testified](#) in support of the bill before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in 2013.

### **Arapaho National Forest Wedge Expansion Act**

The bill, first [introduced](#) by Bennet in 2015, allows the Forest Service to acquire several parcels of land within a wedge between Rocky Mountain National Park and Arapaho National Forest, incorporating the area into the National Forest. It helps preserve critical wildlife habitat, Colorado River headwaters, and a highly visible view shed in the area commonly referred to as “the Wedge.”

### **Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act**

The bill, first [introduced](#) in 2016, authorizes special use of the Bolts Ditch headgate and the segment of the Bolts Ditch within the Holy Cross Wilderness Area, allowing the town of Minturn to use its existing water rights to fill Bolts Lake. It solves a problem created in 1980 when Congress designated Holy Cross Wilderness area, but inadvertently left Bolts Ditch off of the list of existing water facilities.

### **Crags, Colorado Land Exchange Act**

The bill, first [introduced](#) in 2015, provides for a land exchange to allow the Forest Service to acquire 320 acres of pristine land in the Pike National Forest, improving outdoor recreation opportunities west of Pikes Peak.

### **Amache Study Act**

The bill, [introduced](#) in 2018, directs the Department of the Interior to conduct a special resource study at Amache, a former Japanese American relocation center in Granada, to assess its historical significance and determine the feasibility of its inclusion into the National Park System.

### **Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extensions Act**

The bill, [introduced](#) in 2017, maintains funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through Fiscal Year 2023 to protect four endangered species in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

### **Bows in the Parks Amendment**

The amendment, first [drafted](#) by Bennet in 2012, clarifies that bow hunters with sheathed archery equipment can cross national park lands to access adjacent hunting lands. Currently, bow hunters do not enjoy the same rights to cross national park lands as those with firearms.

### **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Expansion Act**

The bill, [introduced](#) in 2017, allows a private landowner to donate up to 280 acres of land to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The expansion of this National Monument, established in 1969, will improve wildlife habitat protection and expand outdoor recreation opportunities.