

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1500

To accelerate the Wilderness designation process by establishing a timetable for the completion of wilderness studies on Federal Lands.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1999

Mr. HANSEN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. SALMON, Mr. STUMP, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. POMBO, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCINNIS, and Mr. ROHRABACHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To accelerate the Wilderness designation process by establishing a timetable for the completion of wilderness studies on Federal Lands.

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 “America’s Wilderness Pro-  
5 tection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1           (1) The designation of certain Federal lands as  
2 Wilderness is beneficial to the American people.

3           (2) The Wilderness Act of 1964 and of the  
4 Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976  
5 provided for the study of certain lands for wilderness  
6 suitability. Areas undergoing such a study have been  
7 generally known as “Wilderness Study Areas”.—

8           (3) Wilderness Study Areas were intended as  
9 interim management designations pending comple-  
10 tion of wilderness suitability studies. Wilderness  
11 Study Area status was not intended as a substitute  
12 for wilderness designation by Congress.

13           (4) It was not the intent of Congress that areas  
14 continue under Wilderness Study Area status indefi-  
15 nitely. Perpetuation of Wilderness Study Area status  
16 is undesirable and hinders the Wilderness designa-  
17 tion process. Lands that merit Wilderness designa-  
18 tion should be granted the full protection that such  
19 a status would afford, and those lands which do not  
20 merit such a designation should be released so that  
21 they can be managed for the public good as accorded  
22 by law.

23           (5) The establishment of a timetable for the  
24 completion of wilderness studies would facilitate the

1 wilderness designation process by supplying a time-  
2 frame within which Congress must Act.

3 **SEC. 3. TIMETABLE FOR WILDERNESS STUDY COMPLETION.**

4 (a) EXISTING WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—All  
5 areas designated as wilderness study areas as of the date  
6 of the enactment of this Act shall be released from wilder-  
7 ness study area status on the earlier of the following:

8 (1) The date 10 years after the date of enact-  
9 ment of this Act.

10 (2) The date on which the area is designated by  
11 Act of Congress as wilderness.

12 (b) SUBSEQUENT WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—Any  
13 wilderness study area designated after the date of enact-  
14 ment of this Act shall remain in wilderness study area sta-  
15 tus until the earlier of the following:

16 (1) The date 10 years after the date of designa-  
17 tion.

18 (2) The date on which the area is designated by  
19 Act of Congress as wilderness.

20 After such 10-year period, any such area not designated  
21 as wilderness by Act of Congress shall be released from  
22 wilderness study area status.

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