

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 534

To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development.

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 “Buffalo Tract Protec-
5 tion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
8 the Federal land described in subsection (b) is withdrawn
9 from all forms of—

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

3 (2) disposition under the mineral leasing, min-
4 eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

5 (b) DESCRIPTION.—The Federal land referred to in
6 subsections (a) and (c) is the approximately 4,288 acres
7 of land administered by the Director of the Bureau of
8 Land Management and generally depicted as “Tract A”,
9 “Tract B”, “Tract C”, and “Tract D” on the map entitled
10 “Placitas, New Mexico Area Map” and dated November
11 13, 2019.

12 (c) SURFACE ESTATE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the reservation of
14 the mineral estate under paragraph (2), nothing in
15 this Act prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from
16 conveying the surface estate of the Federal land de-
17 scribed in subsection (b) in accordance with—

18 (A) the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
19 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

20 (B) the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly
21 known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes
22 Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

23 (2) MINERAL ESTATE.—Any conveyance of the
24 surface estate of the Federal land described in sub-

1 section (b) shall require a reservation of the mineral
2 estate to the United States.

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