

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 706

To withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the National Wildlife Refuge System land in Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2023

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the National Wildlife Refuge System land in Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws.

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 “Ruby Mountains Pro-
5 tection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYS-**
2 **TEM LAND.**

3 (a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
4 the approximately 309,272 acres of Federal land and in-
5 terests in the land located in the Ruby Mountains subdis-
6 trict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest within the
7 area depicted on the Forest Service map entitled “S. 258
8 Ruby Mountains Protective Act” and dated December 5,
9 2019, as “National Forest System Lands” are withdrawn
10 from all forms of operation under the mineral leasing laws.

11 (b) APPLICATION.—Any land or interest in land with-
12 in the boundary of the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the
13 Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest that is acquired by the
14 United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall
15 be withdrawn in accordance with subsection (a).

16 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in
17 subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public in-
18 spection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

19 **SEC. 3. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE**
20 **REFUGE SYSTEM LAND.**

21 (a) WITHDRAWAL.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing
23 rights, the approximately 39,926.10 acres of Federal
24 land and interests in the land located in the Ruby
25 Lake National Wildlife Refuge and depicted on the
26 United States Fish and Wildlife Service map entitled

1 “S. XXX Ruby Mountains Protection Act” and
2 dated February 23, 2021, as “Ruby Lake National
3 Wildlife Refuge” are withdrawn from all forms of
4 operation under the mineral leasing laws, subject to
5 paragraph (2).

6 (2) EXCEPTION.—The withdrawal under para-
7 graph (1) shall not apply to noncommercial refuge
8 management activities by the United States Fish
9 and Wildlife Service.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—Any land or interest in land with-
11 in the boundary of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Ref-
12 uge that is acquired by the United States after the date
13 of enactment of this Act shall be withdrawn in accordance
14 with subsection (a).

15 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in
16 subsection (a)(1) shall be on file and available for public
17 inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States
18 Fish and Wildlife Service.

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