

Calendar No. 139118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 706****[Report No. 118–65]**

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

JULY 19, 2023

Reported by Mr. MANCHIN, without amendment

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”.

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

8 (a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
9 the approximately 309,272 acres of Federal land and in-
10 terests in the land located in the Ruby Mountains subdis-
11 trict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest within the
12 area depicted on the Forest Service map entitled “S. 258
13 Ruby Mountains Protective Act” and dated December 5,
14 2019, as “National Forest System Lands” are withdrawn
15 from all forms of operation under the mineral leasing laws.

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20 be withdrawn in accordance with subsection (a).

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

1 **SEC. 3. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE**
2 **REFUGE SYSTEM LAND.**

3 (a) WITHDRAWAL.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing
5 rights, the approximately 39,926.10 acres of Federal
6 land and interests in the land located in the Ruby
7 Lake National Wildlife Refuge and depicted on the
8 United States Fish and Wildlife Service map entitled
9 “S. XXX Ruby Mountains Protection Act” and
10 dated February 23, 2021, as “Ruby Lake National
11 Wildlife Refuge” are withdrawn from all forms of
12 operation under the mineral leasing laws, subject to
13 paragraph (2).

14 (2) EXCEPTION.—The withdrawal under para-
15 graph (1) shall not apply to noncommercial refuge
16 management activities by the United States Fish
17 and Wildlife Service.

18 (b) APPLICATION.—Any land or interest in land with-
19 in the boundary of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Ref-
20 uge that is acquired by the United States after the date
21 of enactment of this Act shall be withdrawn in accordance
22 with subsection (a).

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

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1ST Session

S. 706

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