

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6783

To provide for conservation on Federal lands in Southern California, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. WATERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for conservation on Federal lands in Southern
California, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills, and Rivers Protection
6 Act of 2025”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

Sec. 101. Designation of wilderness.

Sec. 102. Administration of wilderness.

TITLE II—WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Sec. 111. Wild and scenic rivers designation.

Sec. 112. Wild and scenic rivers study.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 121. Maps and legal descriptions.

Sec. 122. Updates to land and resource management plans.

Sec. 123. Use by members of Indian Tribes.

Sec. 124. Reauthorization of existing water facilities in Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness.

1 **TITLE I—WILDERNESS** 2 **DESIGNATION**

3 **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.**

4 In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
5 1131 et seq.), the following land within California is des-
6 ignated as wilderness and as a component of the National
7 Wilderness Preservation System:

8 (1) CONDOR PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
9 eral land within the Angeles National Forest, com-
10 prising approximately 8,207 acres, as generally de-
11 picted on the map titled “Condor Peak Wilderness—
12 Proposed” and dated June 6, 2019, which shall be
13 known as the “Condor Peak Wilderness”.

14 (2) SAN GABRIEL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—
15 Certain Federal land within the Angeles National
16 Forest, comprising approximately 2,032 acres, as
17 generally depicted on the map titled “San Gabriel

1 Wilderness Additions” and dated June 6, 2019,
2 which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part
3 of, the San Gabriel Wilderness designated by Public
4 Law 90–318 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 82 Stat. 131).

5 (3) SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDI-
6 TIONS.—Certain Federal land within the Angeles
7 National Forest, comprising approximately 11,938
8 acres, as generally depicted on the map titled
9 “Sheep Mountain Wilderness Additions” and dated
10 November 14, 2023, which is incorporated in, and
11 considered to be a part of, the Sheep Mountain Wil-
12 derness designated by section 101(a)(29) of the Cali-
13 fornia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132
14 note).

15 (4) YERBA BUENA WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-
16 eral land within the Angeles National Forest, com-
17 prising approximately 6,694 acres, as generally de-
18 picted on the map titled “Yerba Buena Wilderness—
19 Proposed” and dated June 6, 2019, which shall be
20 known as the “Yerba Buena Wilderness”.

21 **SEC. 102. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
23 land designated as wilderness and as a component of the
24 National Wilderness Preservation System by section 101
25 (referred to in this Act as a “wilderness area”) shall be

1 administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accord-
2 ance with this title and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
3 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in the Wilderness
4 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that
5 Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) shall be considered to be
6 a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 (b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVI-
8 TIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
10 may carry out any activities in a wilderness area as
11 are necessary for the control of fire, insects, or dis-
12 ease in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-
13 derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)).

14 (2) REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL
15 FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—As soon as practicable
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary of Agriculture shall amend the local informa-
18 tion in the Fire Management Reference System of
19 the Forest Service or individual operational plan
20 that applies to each wilderness area.

21 (3) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—Nothing in this title
22 limits funding for fire or fuels management in a wil-
23 derness area.

24 (4) ADMINISTRATION.—In accordance with
25 paragraph (1) and any other applicable Federal law,

1 to ensure a timely and efficient response to a fire
2 emergency in a wilderness area, the Secretary of Ag-
3 riculture shall—

4 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act, establish agency ap-
6 proval procedures (including appropriate delega-
7 tions of authority to the Forest Supervisor and
8 the head of any other applicable agency for re-
9 sponding to fire emergencies); and

10 (B) enter into agreements with appropriate
11 State or local firefighting agencies.

12 (c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section
14 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
15 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects the jurisdic-
16 tion or responsibilities of California with respect to
17 fish and wildlife in California.

18 (2) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In support of
19 the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act
20 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary of Agri-
21 culture may conduct any management activity that
22 the Secretary determines to be necessary to main-
23 tain or restore a fish, wildlife, or plant population or
24 habitat in a wilderness area, if the management ac-
25 tivity is conducted in accordance with—

1 (A) an applicable wilderness management
2 plan;

3 (B) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
4 seq.); and

5 (C) appropriate policies, such as the poli-
6 cies established in Appendix B of the report of
7 the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
8 of the House of Representatives accompanying
9 H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept.
10 101–405).

11 (d) BUFFER ZONES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title estab-
13 lishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around
14 a wilderness area.

15 (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OR USES.—The fact
16 that a nonwilderness activity or use can be seen or
17 heard from within a wilderness area does not pre-
18 clude the activity or use outside the boundary of the
19 wilderness area.

20 (e) MILITARY ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this title pre-
21 cludes—

22 (1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over
23 a wilderness area;

24 (2) the designation of a new unit of special air-
25 space over a wilderness area; or

1 (3) the use or establishment of a military flight
2 training route over a wilderness area.

3 (f) HORSES.—Nothing in this title precludes horse-
4 back riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial
5 saddle or pack stock into, a wilderness area—

6 (1) in accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the
7 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)); and

8 (2) subject to any terms and conditions the
9 Secretary of Agriculture determines necessary.

10 (g) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
11 each wilderness area is withdrawn from—

12 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-
13 posal under the public land laws;

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

16 (3) operation of the mineral materials and geo-
17 thermal leasing laws.

18 (h) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND IN-
19 TERESTS.—Any land within the boundary of a wilderness
20 area that is acquired by the United States shall—

21 (1) become part of the wilderness area in which
22 the land is located;

23 (2) be withdrawn in accordance with subsection
24 (g); and

25 (3) be managed in accordance with—

1 (A) this section;

2 (B) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et
3 seq.); and

4 (C) any other applicable law.

5 (i) CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.—In ac-
6 cordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)
7 and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary
8 of Agriculture may prescribe, the Secretary may authorize
9 the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorolo-
10 gic, or climatological collection devices in a wilderness
11 area if the Secretary determines that the devices and ac-
12 cess to the devices are essential to a flood warning, flood
13 control, or water reservoir operation activity.

14 (j) RECREATIONAL CLIMBING.—Nothing in this title
15 prohibits recreational rock climbing activities in a wilder-
16 ness area, such as the placement, use, and maintenance
17 of fixed anchors, including any fixed anchor established
18 before the date of the enactment of this Act—

19 (1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16
20 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other applicable laws; and

21 (2) subject to any terms and conditions the
22 Secretary of Agriculture determines necessary.

1 **TITLE II—WILD AND SCENIC**
2 **RIVERS**

3 **SEC. 111. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS DESIGNATION.**

4 Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16
5 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(233) LITTLE ROCK CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—

8 The following segments of Little Rock Creek and its
9 tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of
10 Agriculture:

11 “(A) The 10.3-mile segment from its
12 source on Mt. Williamson in sec. 6, T. 3 N., R.
13 9 W., to 100 yards upstream of the confluence
14 with the South Fork Little Rock Creek, as a
15 wild river.

16 “(B) The 6.6-mile segment from 100 yards
17 upstream of the confluence with the South Fork
18 Little Rock Creek to the confluence with
19 Santiago Canyon, as a recreational river.

20 “(C) The 1-mile segment of Cooper Can-
21 yon Creek from 0.25 miles downstream of
22 Highway 2 to 100 yards downstream of Cooper
23 Canyon Campground, as a scenic river.

24 “(D) The 1.3-mile segment of Cooper Can-
25 yon Creek from 100 yards downstream of Co-

1 per Canyon Campground to the confluence with
 2 Little Rock Creek, as a wild river.

3 “(E) The 1-mile segment of Buckhorn
 4 Creek from 100 yards downstream of the
 5 Buckhorn Campground to its confluence with
 6 Cooper Canyon Creek, as a wild river.”.

7 **SEC. 112. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.—Section 5(a) of the
 9 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amend-
 10 ed by adding at the end the following:

11 “(147) EAST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-
 12 FORNIA.—The 12.7-mile segment from the con-
 13 fluence of the Prairie Fork and Vincent Gulch to
 14 100 yards upstream of the confluence with Williams
 15 Canyon.

16 “(148) NORTH FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER,
 17 CALIFORNIA.—The 4.3-mile segment from the con-
 18 fluence with Cloudburst Canyon to 0.25 miles up-
 19 stream of the confluence with the West Fork San
 20 Gabriel River.

21 “(149) WEST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-
 22 FORNIA.—The 8.3-mile segment from 0.25 miles
 23 downstream of its source near Red Box Gap in sec.
 24 14, T. 2 N., R. 12 W., to the confluence with Bob-
 25 cat Canyon.”.

1 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Section 5(b) of the Wild
2 and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 “(24) EAST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-
5 FORNIA; NORTH FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-
6 FORNIA; WEST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-
7 FORNIA.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
9 after the date on which funds are made avail-
10 able to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary
11 of Agriculture shall—

12 “(i) complete each of the studies de-
13 scribed in paragraphs (147) through (149)
14 of subsection (a); and

15 “(ii) submit to Congress a report de-
16 scribing the results of each such study.

17 “(B) STUDY REQUIREMENT.—In carrying
18 out each of the studies described in paragraphs
19 (147) through (149) of subsection (a), the Sec-
20 retary of Agriculture shall identify opportunities
21 to administer the segment described in each
22 such paragraph in partnership with State, re-
23 gional, local, and community stakeholders.”.

1 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**

2 **SEC. 121. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
5 culture shall prepare a map and legal description of each
6 wilderness area.

7 (b) FORCE OF LAW.—Each map and legal description
8 prepared under subsection (a) shall have the same force
9 and effect as if included in this title, except that the Sec-
10 retary of Agriculture may correct any clerical or typo-
11 graphical error in the maps and legal descriptions.

12 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal de-
13 scription prepared under subsection (a) shall be kept on
14 file and available for public inspection in the appropriate
15 offices of the Forest Service.

16 **SEC. 122. UPDATES TO LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGE-**
17 **MENT PLANS.**

18 As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment
19 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall incorporate
20 the designations and studies required by this Act into up-
21 dated management plans for the Angeles National Forest.

22 **SEC. 123. USE BY MEMBERS OF INDIAN TRIBES.**

23 (a) ACCESS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall en-
24 sure that Indian Tribes have access, in accordance with
25 the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), to the wilder-

1 ness areas, wild and scenic river, and the wild scenic river
2 study streams designated by this Act for traditional cul-
3 tural and religious purposes.

4 (b) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
6 the Secretary of Agriculture, on request of an Indian
7 Tribe, may temporarily close to the general public 1
8 or more specific portions of the wilderness areas,
9 wild and scenic river, and the wild scenic river study
10 streams designated by this Act to protect the privacy
11 of the members of the Indian Tribe in the conduct
12 of traditional cultural and religious activities.

13 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Any closure under para-
14 graph (1) shall be—

15 (A) made in such a manner as to affect
16 the smallest practicable area for the minimum
17 period of time necessary for the activity to be
18 carried out; and

19 (B) be consistent with—

20 (i) Public Law 95–341 (commonly
21 known as the “American Indian Religious
22 Freedom Act”) (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.);

23 (ii) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
24 1131 et seq.); and

1 (iii) the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
2 (16 U.S.C. 1276 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 124. REAUTHORIZATION OF EXISTING WATER FACILI-**
4 **TIES IN PLEASANT VIEW RIDGE WILDERNESS.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUED USE.—The
6 Secretary of Agriculture may issue a special use authoriza-
7 tion to the owners of a water transport or diversion facility
8 (referred to in this section as a “facility”) located on Na-
9 tional Forest System land in the Pleasant View Ridge Wil-
10 derness for the continued operation, maintenance, and re-
11 construction of the facility if the Secretary determines
12 that—

13 (1) the facility was in existence on the date on
14 which the land on which the facility is located was
15 designated as part of the National Wilderness Pres-
16 ervation System (referred to in this section as “the
17 date of designation”);

18 (2) the facility has been in substantially contin-
19 uous use to deliver water for the beneficial use on
20 the non-Federal land of the owner since the date of
21 designation;

22 (3) the owner of the facility holds a valid water
23 right for use of the water on the non-Federal land
24 of the owner under State law, with a priority date
25 that predates the date of designation; and

1 (4) it is not practicable or feasible to relocate
2 the facility to land outside of the Pleasant View
3 Ridge Wilderness and continue the beneficial use of
4 water on the non-Federal land recognized under
5 State law.

6 (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A special use author-
7 ization issued under this section shall be subject to such
8 terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appro-
9 priate to protect wilderness resources and values.

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