

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8686

To amend the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the vicinity of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2026

Mr. GOSAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the vicinity of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF LANDS**  
2 **LOCATED ON THE YUMA PROVING GROUND,**  
3 **ARIZONA, TO SUPPORT MILITARY READINESS**  
4 **AND SECURITY.**

5 The Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 (title  
6 XXIX of Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 1025) is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

8 **“Subtitle H—Yuma Proving**  
9 **Ground, Arizona**

10 **“SEC. 2999B. WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF PUBLIC**  
11 **LAND.**

12 “(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights  
13 and except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the pub-  
14 lic land (including interests in the land) described in sub-  
15 section (b), and all other areas within the boundary of the  
16 land depicted on the map described in that subsection that  
17 may become subject to the operation of the public land  
18 laws, is withdrawn from—

19 “(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-  
20 posal under the public land laws;

21 “(2) location, entry, and patent under the min-  
22 ing laws; and

23 “(3) disposition under all laws relating to min-  
24 eral and geothermal leasing.

1       “(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The public land (in-  
2 cluding interests in the land) referred to in subsection (a)  
3 consists of—

4               “(1) the approximately 21,782.981 acres of  
5 Federal land—

6                       “(A) generally depicted as ‘Highway 95 -  
7 Requested Withdrawal Area’ on of the map ti-  
8 tled ‘U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground With-  
9 drawal Highway 95 Withdrawal Area’, sheet 2  
10 of 3, dated March 12, 2025; and

11                       “(B) excluding the approximately 800  
12 acres of subsurface estate owned by the State  
13 of Arizona within the area generally depicted as  
14 ‘Surface Only Withdrawal/Subsurface Owned by  
15 Non-Federal Entity’ on the map described in  
16 subparagraph (A); and

17               “(2) the approximately 249.29 acres of Federal  
18 land generally depicted as ‘Howard Cantonment -  
19 Requested Withdrawal Area’ on the map titled ‘U.S.  
20 Army Yuma Proving Ground Withdrawal Howard  
21 Cantonment Withdrawal Area’, sheet 3 of 3, dated  
22 March 12, 2025.

23       “(c) RESERVATION; PURPOSE.—The land described  
24 in subsection (b) is reserved for use by the Secretary of  
25 the Army for the purposes specified in Public Land Order

1 No. 848 of July 1, 1952, and as authorized under section  
2 2914.

3 **“SEC. 2999C. MANAGEMENT OF WITHDRAWN AND RE-**  
4 **SERVED LAND.**

5 “(a) **APPLICABLE LAWS.**—The Secretary of the Inte-  
6 rior shall manage the land withdrawn and reserved by sec-  
7 tion 2999B in accordance with—

8 “(1) subtitle A and this subtitle;

9 “(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management  
10 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

11 “(3) any other applicable law.

12 “(b) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—To the extent con-  
13 sistent with applicable law and Executive orders, the land  
14 withdrawn and reserved by section 2999B may be man-  
15 aged in a manner that permits the following activities:

16 “(1) Conservation of wildlife and wildlife habi-  
17 tat.

18 “(2) Preservation of cultural properties.

19 “(3) Management of wild horses and burros.

20 “(4) Control of predatory and other animals.

21 “(5) Recreation, public access, and hunting.

22 “(6) Prevention and appropriate suppression of  
23 brush and range fires resulting from non-military  
24 activities.

1       “(c) NONDEFENSE USES.—Subject to subsection (d),  
2 all nondefense-related uses of the land withdrawn and re-  
3 served by section 2999B, shall be subject to any conditions  
4 and restrictions that the Secretary of the Interior and the  
5 Secretary of the Army jointly determine to be necessary  
6 to permit the defense-related use of the land for the pur-  
7 poses described in this section.

8       “(d) ISSUANCE OF LEASES AND OTHER LAND USE  
9 AUTHORIZATIONS.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
11 rior shall be responsible for the issuance of any  
12 lease, easement, right-of-way, permit, license, or  
13 other instrument authorized by law with respect to  
14 any activity that traverses both—

15                   “(A) the public land withdrawn and re-  
16 served by section 2999B; and

17                   “(B) any other land in the vicinity of the  
18 land withdrawn and reserved by section 2999B  
19 that is not under the administrative jurisdiction  
20 of the Secretary of the Army.

21           “(2) CONSENT REQUIRED.—Except as specified  
22 in section 2999E, any lease, easement, right-of-way,  
23 permit, license, or other instrument issued under  
24 paragraph (1) shall—

1           “(A) only be issued with the consent of the  
2           Secretary of the Army; and

3           “(B) be subject to such conditions as the  
4           Secretary of the Army may require with respect  
5           to the land withdrawn and reserved by section  
6           2999B.

7   **“SEC. 2999D. ASSIGNMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBI-**  
8           **BILITY TO SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.**

9           “(a) **AUTHORITY TO ASSIGN MANAGEMENT RESPON-**  
10          **SIBILITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior may assign the  
11          management responsibilities for the land withdrawn and  
12          reserved by section 2999B to the Secretary of the Army.

13          “(b) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—On assignment of the man-  
14          agement responsibility under subsection (a), the Secretary  
15          of the Army shall manage the land in accordance with—

16                 “(1) subtitle A and this subtitle;

17                 “(2) title I of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a  
18                 et seq.);

19                 “(3) the Federal Land Policy and Management  
20                 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

21                 “(4) cooperative management arrangements en-  
22                 tered into by the Secretary of the Interior and the  
23                 Secretary of the Army; and

24                 “(5) any other applicable law.

1 **“SEC. 2999E. UTILITY CORRIDOR.**

2       “(a) ISSUANCE OF UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Not-  
3 withstanding subsections (c) and (d) of section 2999C, the  
4 Secretary of the Interior may issue rights-of-way within  
5 the Bureau of Land Management designated Parker-  
6 Blaisdell Utility Corridor under the Federal Land Policy  
7 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)  
8 for any critical regional-grid level utility infrastructure to  
9 include above-ground transmission lines, consistent with  
10 the Memorandum of Understanding between the United  
11 States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Man-  
12 agement Yuma Field Office and United States Army Gar-  
13 rison Yuma Regarding the Yuma Proving Ground High-  
14 way 95 Withdrawal, dated February 28, 2025.

15       “(b) LIMITATION ON DELEGATION.—The authority  
16 to issue a right-of-way under subsection (a) may not be  
17 delegated below the level of the Bureau of Land Manage-  
18 ment State Director.

19       “(c) ARMY CONSENT NOT REQUIRED.—The decision  
20 to issue a right-of-way under subsection (a) is not subject  
21 to consent by the Secretary of the Army; however, the Sec-  
22 retary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary  
23 of the Army, shall incorporate conditions in any right-of-  
24 way issued under subsection (a) as much as practicable  
25 to minimize impacts to the mission of the Army.

