

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1981

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to utilize grazing for wildfire risk reduction, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2025

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to utilize grazing for wildfire risk reduction, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strategic Grazing to
5 Reduce Risk of Wildfire Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**
7 **TION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
2 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
3 the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
4 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
5 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

6 (2) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
7 has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the
8 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
9 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

10 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
11 retary concerned” means—

12 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
13 spect to National Forest System land; and

14 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
15 spect to public lands.

16 (b) STRATEGY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary concerned, in coordination with holders of
20 permits to graze livestock on Federal land under the
21 jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned and in con-
22 sultation with other relevant stakeholders described
23 in paragraph (3), shall develop a strategy to utilize
24 livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool

1 consistent with the laws applicable to the Secretary
2 concerned.

3 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy developed
4 under paragraph (1) shall consider—

5 (A) the use of grazing on vacant grazing
6 allotments during instances of drought, wildfire,
7 or other natural disasters that disrupt grazing
8 on allotments already permitted;

9 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
10 hazardous fuels, including on Federal land
11 within the wildland urban interface (as defined
12 in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restora-
13 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511)), and other
14 critical areas identified by the Secretaries con-
15 cerned;

16 (C) recommending the use of targeted
17 grazing when providing technical assistance to
18 communities and Indian Tribes in their efforts
19 to reduce wildfire risk and implement wildfire
20 management strategies;

21 (D) the use of temporary permits to pro-
22 mote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of
23 cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses,
24 including any potential need for the use of graz-
25 ing outside permitted animal unit months and

1 season of use, as appropriate for the explicit
2 purposes of targeted fuels reduction of cheat-
3 grass and other invasive annual grasses;

4 (E) the use of targeted grazing to aid in
5 controlling invasive annual grasses, including
6 cheatgrass;

7 (F) the use of targeted grazing in postfire
8 recovery efforts, as appropriate;

9 (G) an integrated use of advanced tech-
10 nologies such as virtual fencing to dynamically
11 adjust livestock placement;

12 (H) the use of grazing on Federal land in
13 a manner that—

14 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
15 that Federal land; and

16 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
17 land management plan;

18 (I) a workforce development plan to ensure
19 that Federal workers have the necessary skills
20 to manage livestock grazing programs and de-
21 ploy technologies;

22 (J) the use of cooperative agreements with
23 States, local governments, Indian Tribes, and
24 local firefighting agencies to reduce hazardous
25 fuels and invasive annual grasses, including re-

1 imbursements authorized under other provisions
 2 of law, including under good neighbor agree-
 3 ments under section 8206 of the Agricultural
 4 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

5 (K) other applicable statutory or regu-
 6 latory authorities, as determined by the Sec-
 7 retary concerned.

8 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-
 9 egy under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned
 10 shall consult with—

11 (A) applicable States;

12 (B) applicable units of local government;

13 (C) applicable Indian Tribes;

14 (D) applicable utility authorities;

15 (E) applicable firefighting agencies;

16 (F) land management organizations;

17 (G) outdoor recreation, conservation, and
 18 sportsmen organizations; and

19 (H) other interested members of the appli-
 20 cable community.

21 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—
 22 Nothing in this section affects any livestock grazing pro-
 23 gram being carried out as of the date of enactment of this
 24 Act by the Secretary concerned.

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