

S 1731

Forest Management Improvement Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Aug 2, 2017

Current Status: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-112.

Latest Action: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-112. (Sep 27, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1731>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Sep 27, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 2068	Related bill	Nov 2, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Forest Management Improvement Act of 2017

This bill makes categorical exclusions, from requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to conduct environmental assessment and environmental impact statements, available to the Forest Service to conduct forest management activities on up to 10,000 acres of National Forest System land for each exclusion to:

- create early seral habitat forests;
- improve wildlife habitats;
- commercially thin forest stands on suited timberlands; and
- salvage trees that are dead and/or dying and were damaged by such events as wind, fire, or construction.

For a forest management activity, the Forest Service:

- in an NEPA-prepared environmental impact statement, shall study, develop, and describe only the activity and the alternative of no action; and
- in an NEPA-prepared environmental assessment, shall not be required to study, develop, and describe the alternative of no action.

The bill makes permanent the authority to designate, at state request, treatment areas in national forests that are experiencing an insect or disease epidemic.

The bill revises authorities for watershed restoration and protection services.

The Department of Agriculture shall establish a pilot arbitration program under which specified forest management projects challenged in a civil action may be designated for an alternative dispute resolution procedure instead of judicial review.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 27, 2017:** Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-112.
- **Aug 2, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 2, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.