

S 2068

Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Nov 2, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Nov 2, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2068>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Nov 2, 2017
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Nov 2, 2017
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Nov 2, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 2, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1417	Related bill	Sep 7, 2018: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
115 S 605	Related bill	Sep 27, 2017: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-112.
115 S 1731	Related bill	Sep 27, 2017: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-112.
115 HR 3543	Related bill	Jul 28, 2017: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
115 S 879	Related bill	Apr 6, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
115 HR 1483	Related bill	Mar 23, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017

This bill prohibits any further consultation from being required by the Departments of Agriculture (USDA) or the Interior after the approval of land and resource management plans for National Forest System (NFS) lands or land use plans for public lands, respectively, with respect to: (1) the listing of a species as threatened or endangered or a designation of a critical habitat, if such a plan has already been adopted; or (2) any provision of such plan.

Interior shall develop one or more categorical exclusions, from requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to conduct environmental assessment and environmental impact statements, for specified vegetative management activities that are carried out to establish or improve habitat for the greater sage-grouse or mule deer.

The Forest Service shall prepare an environmental assessment for each ecosystem restoration project, stewardship contracting project, and project under a good neighbor agreement on certain NFS land. Under the assessment, it shall study and describe in each project both the proposed action and a no-action alternative.

The Forest Service shall establish an arbitration pilot program as an alternative dispute resolution process in lieu of judicial review for such projects.

The Forest Service shall prioritize and carry out ecosystem restoration projects to accomplish one or more of specified objectives.

A categorical exclusion is made available for certain forest management activities in order to: (1) expedite specified critical response actions, (2) meet forest plan goals for early seral and early successional forests, (3) improve wildlife habitats, and (4) thin forests.

The bill makes permanent USDA's authority to designate treatment areas that are experiencing an insect or disease epidemic.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 2, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 2, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.
- **Oct 25, 2017:** Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Hearings held prior to introduction and/or referral. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-227.