

S 2073

National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program 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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Nov 2, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2073>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Nov 2, 2017
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Nov 2, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 6, 2017
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Nov 9, 2017
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Feb 27, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 2, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2921	Related bill	Nov 1, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a limited, voluntary pilot program under which owners and operators of rights-of-way on National Forest System (NFS) land may conduct vegetation management projects on NFS land adjacent to or near those rights-of-way to better protect utility infrastructure from potential passing wildfires.

USDA shall give priority to an owner or operator of a right-of-way that has worked with Forest Service fire scientists and used technologies to improve utility infrastructure protection prescriptions.

Vegetation management projects shall involve only limited and selective vegetation management activities that:

- create the least amount of disturbance necessary to protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfires;
- may include thinning, fuel reduction, creation, and treatment of shaded fuel breaks;
- are conducted only on NFS land adjacent to the participant's right-of-way or within 75 feet of it; and
- are not conducted on a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, a designated wilderness area, or an inventoried roadless area.

Each vegetation management project, including each of those activities selected, shall be subject to approval by the Forest Service.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 2, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 2, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.