

HR 2921

National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jun 15, 2017

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and F

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Nov 1, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2921>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Buck, Ken [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Jun 15, 2017
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Jun 23, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 11, 2017
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 1, 2017
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 26, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2	Related bill	Dec 20, 2018: Became Public Law No: 115-334.
115 S 2073	Related bill	Nov 2, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the House reported version is repeated here.)

National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017

(Sec. 2) This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct a limited, voluntary pilot program to permit vegetation management projects on National Forest System (NFS) land adjacent to rights-of-way to better protect utility infrastructure from potential passing wildfires.

Program participants must have a right-of-way on NFS land. USDA shall give priority to holders of a right-of-way who have worked with Forest Service fire scientists and used technologies, such as light detection and ranging surveys, to improve utility infrastructure protection prescriptions.

Vegetation management projects will involve limited and selective vegetation management activities, which:

- shall create the least amount of disturbance necessary to protect utility infrastructure from passing wildfires;
- may include thinning, fuel reduction, and creation and treatment of shaded fuel breaks;
- must only take place adjacent to the participant's right-of-way or within 75 feet of it;
- must not take place in any designated wilderness area, wilderness study area, or inventoried roadless area; and
- shall be subject to approval by the Forest Service.

Participants shall not be held liable to the federal government for damage that was proximately caused by activities conducted pursuant to an approved vegetation management project, unless:

- such activities were carried out in a manner that was grossly negligent or that was in violation of criminal law, or
- the damage was caused by the participant's failure to comply with the specific safety requirements imposed by the Forest Service as a condition of participation in the pilot program.

In order to implement the pilot program in an efficient and expeditious manner, USDA may waive or modify specific provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including to allow for the development of contracts or agreements on a noncompetitive basis.

USDA may:

- retain any funds provided to the Forest Service by participants in the pilot program, and
- use such funds to conduct such program.

The bill states that the authority to conduct the pilot program and any vegetation management projects under such program will expire on December 21, 2027.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
- **Oct 31, 2017:** Mr. Crawford moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Oct 31, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8280-8282)
- **Oct 31, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2921.
- **Oct 31, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H8280-8281)
- **Oct 31, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H8280-8281)
- **Oct 31, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Oct 19, 2017:** Reported by the Committee on Agriculture. H. Rept. 115-357, Part I.
- **Oct 19, 2017:** Committee on Natural Resources discharged.
- **Oct 19, 2017:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 261.
- **Oct 4, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Oct 4, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
- **Jul 11, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.
- **Jun 26, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Jun 15, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 15, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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.