

## HR 3543

### Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Public Lands and Natural Resources

**Introduced:** Jul 28, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. (Jul 28, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3543>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Jul 28, 2017
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Sep 7, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 28, 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 1417	Identical bill	Sep 7, 2018: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
115 S 2068	Related bill	Nov 2, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## **Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act of 2017**

This bill directs the Department of Interior to categorically exclude vegetative management activities that establish or improve habitat for greater sage-grouse and mule deer from environmental review requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Examples of vegetative management activities include restoring native vegetation following a natural disturbance or preventing the expansion of nonnative or invasive vegetation into such habitat.

A categorical exclusion under NEPA is a category of actions which do not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required. The bill prohibits the categorical exclusion from including: (1) activity conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness study area, or (2) activity for the construction of a permanent road or trail.

Before commencing a vegetative management activity that is covered by a categorical exclusion, Interior must develop a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan, covering at least 20 years, to ensure that management of the treated area does not degrade the habitat gains secured by the vegetative management activity.

Vegetative material resulting from vegetative management activity may be: (1) used for fuel wood or other products; or (2) piled or burned, or both.

Native vegetative cover must be reestablished on a temporary road constructed in connection with a categorically excluded vegetative management activity in order to minimize soil erosion from areas disturbed by the temporary road.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 28, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 28, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.