

## S 2828

### Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Nov 7, 2019

**Current Status:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearing

**Latest Action:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-380. (Sep 16, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2828>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 7, 2019

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Sep 16, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act

This bill addresses various public land concerns in Malheur County in Oregon.

The bill directs the Department of the Interior to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for certain federal land in the county. Interior shall develop plans for areas that are ecologically degraded or most at risk of being ecologically degraded. Interior shall establish the Malheur Community Empowerment for Owyhee Group, which shall, among other things, use such statement to review projects proposed to the Bureau of Land Management by group members, ranchers holding grazing permits on the federal land, or other members of the public.

The bill also

- establishes a network to monitor such land,
- designates 1,133,481 acres of federal lands in the county as wilderness and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System,
- designates a 14.7-mile segment of Owyhee River as a recreational river,
- establishes improvements for certain loop roads,
- requires separate feasibility studies concerning Owyhee Reservoir,
- requires improvements to existing Oregon State Parks and private camps on the shore of the Reservoir,
- establishes a dude ranch at Birch Creek,
- requires a feasibility study on a specified rails-to-trails project,
- requires a feasibility study on marketing communities or portions of the county as the Gateway to the Oregon Owyhee,
- requires a determination of the use and conditions under which the Jordan Valley Airstrip may be used to support firefighting, and
- establishes the Native Seed Center as the primary federal native seed repository in the Western States.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 16, 2020:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-380.
- **Nov 7, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 7, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.