

HR 636

Forest Litigation Reform Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Jan 30, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry. (Feb 23, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/636>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Rosendale Sr., Matthew M. [R-MT-2]

Party: Republican • State: MT • Chamber: House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 23, 2023
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 30, 2023
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 21, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Forest Litigation Reform Act of 2023**

This bill sets forth provisions regarding legal challenges to federal forest management activities on land suitable for timber production.

The bill revises the standard of review for a court considering a request for injunctive relief applicable to an agency's qualified forest management activity. Specifically, a court must balance the impact to the ecosystem of undertaking the agency action against not undertaking the agency action.

The bill also limits the length of preliminary injunctive relief and stays pending appeal in such cases to 60 days.

Additionally, the bill directs the Department of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands, and the Department of the Interior, with respect to public lands, to each establish a discretionary arbitration pilot program as an alternative dispute resolution process for challenges to qualified forest management activities.

The bill prohibits amounts from being obligated or expended from the Claims and Judgment Fund and awards to pay any fees or other expenses to any plaintiff related to an action challenging a qualified forest management activity.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 23, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry.
- **Feb 21, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Jan 30, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 30, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and the Judiciary, 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.