

  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for conservation on Federal lands in Southern California, and  
for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To provide for conservation on Federal lands in Southern  
California, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills, and Rivers Protection  
6 Act of 2025”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

## TITLE I—WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

- Sec. 101. Designation of wilderness.  
Sec. 102. Administration of wilderness.

## TITLE II—WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

- Sec. 111. Wild and scenic rivers designation.  
Sec. 112. Wild and scenic rivers study.

## TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 121. Maps and legal descriptions.  
Sec. 122. Updates to land and resource management plans.  
Sec. 123. Use by members of Indian Tribes.  
Sec. 124. Reauthorization of existing water facilities in Pleasant View Ridge  
Wilderness.

1                   **TITLE I—WILDERNESS**  
2                   **DESIGNATION**

3   **SEC. 101. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.**

4           In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
5 1131 et seq.), the following land within California is des-  
6 ignated as wilderness and as a component of the National  
7 Wilderness Preservation System:

8           (1) CONDOR PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-  
9 eral land within the Angeles National Forest, com-  
10 prising approximately 8,207 acres, as generally de-  
11 picted on the map titled “Condor Peak Wilderness—  
12 Proposed” and dated June 6, 2019, which shall be  
13 known as the “Condor Peak Wilderness”.

14           (2) SAN GABRIEL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—  
15 Certain Federal land within the Angeles National  
16 Forest, comprising approximately 2,032 acres, as  
17 generally depicted on the map titled “San Gabriel  
18 Wilderness Additions” and dated June 6, 2019,

1 which is incorporated in, and considered to be a part  
2 of, the San Gabriel Wilderness designated by Public  
3 Law 90–318 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 82 Stat. 131).

4 (3) SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDI-  
5 TIONS.—Certain Federal land within the Angeles  
6 National Forest, comprising approximately 11,938  
7 acres, as generally depicted on the map titled  
8 “Sheep Mountain Wilderness Additions” and dated  
9 November 14, 2023, which is incorporated in, and  
10 considered to be a part of, the Sheep Mountain Wil-  
11 derness designated by section 101(a)(29) of the Cali-  
12 fornia Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132  
13 note).

14 (4) YERBA BUENA WILDERNESS.—Certain Fed-  
15 eral land within the Angeles National Forest, com-  
16 prising approximately 6,694 acres, as generally de-  
17 picted on the map titled “Yerba Buena Wilderness—  
18 Proposed” and dated June 6, 2019, which shall be  
19 known as the “Yerba Buena Wilderness”.

20 **SEC. 102. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
22 land designated as wilderness and as a component of the  
23 National Wilderness Preservation System by section 101  
24 (referred to in this Act as a “wilderness area”) shall be  
25 administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accord-

1   ance with this title and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
2   1131 et seq.), except that any reference in the Wilderness  
3   Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that  
4   Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) shall be considered to be  
5   a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

6       (b) FIRE MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVI-  
7   TIES.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
9       may carry out any activities in a wilderness area as  
10      are necessary for the control of fire, insects, or dis-  
11      ease in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wil-  
12      derness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)).

13          (2) REVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL  
14      FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—As soon as practicable  
15      after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
16      retary of Agriculture shall amend the local informa-  
17      tion in the Fire Management Reference System of  
18      the Forest Service or individual operational plan  
19      that applies to each wilderness area.

20          (3) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—Nothing in this title  
21      limits funding for fire or fuels management in a wil-  
22      derness area.

23          (4) ADMINISTRATION.—In accordance with  
24      paragraph (1) and any other applicable Federal law,  
25      to ensure a timely and efficient response to a fire

1 emergency in a wilderness area, the Secretary of Ag-  
2 riculture shall—

3 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of  
4 the enactment of this Act, establish agency ap-  
5 proval procedures (including appropriate delega-  
6 tions of authority to the Forest Supervisor and  
7 the head of any other applicable agency for re-  
8 sponding to fire emergencies); and

9 (B) enter into agreements with appropriate  
10 State or local firefighting agencies.

11 (c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section  
13 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
14 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects the jurisdic-  
15 tion or responsibilities of California with respect to  
16 fish and wildlife in California.

17 (2) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In support of  
18 the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act  
19 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary of Agri-  
20 culture may conduct any management activity that  
21 the Secretary determines to be necessary to main-  
22 tain or restore a fish, wildlife, or plant population or  
23 habitat in a wilderness area, if the management ac-  
24 tivity is conducted in accordance with—

1 (A) an applicable wilderness management  
2 plan;

3 (B) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et  
4 seq.); and

5 (C) appropriate policies, such as the poli-  
6 cies established in Appendix B of the report of  
7 the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
8 of the House of Representatives accompanying  
9 H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (H. Rept.  
10 101–405).

11 (d) BUFFER ZONES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title estab-  
13 lishes a protective perimeter or buffer zone around  
14 a wilderness area.

15 (2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES OR USES.—The fact  
16 that a nonwilderness activity or use can be seen or  
17 heard from within a wilderness area does not pre-  
18 clude the activity or use outside the boundary of the  
19 wilderness area.

20 (e) MILITARY ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this title pre-  
21 cludes—

22 (1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over  
23 a wilderness area;

24 (2) the designation of a new unit of special air-  
25 space over a wilderness area; or

1           (3) the use or establishment of a military flight  
2       training route over a wilderness area.

3       (f) HORSES.—Nothing in this title precludes horse-  
4       back riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial  
5       saddle or pack stock into, a wilderness area—

6           (1) in accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the  
7       Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)); and

8           (2) subject to any terms and conditions the  
9       Secretary of Agriculture determines necessary.

10       (g) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
11       each wilderness area is withdrawn from—

12           (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-  
13       posal under the public land laws;

14           (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining  
15       laws; and

16           (3) operation of the mineral materials and geo-  
17       thermal leasing laws.

18       (h) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND IN-  
19       TERESTS.—Any land within the boundary of a wilderness  
20       area that is acquired by the United States shall—

21           (1) become part of the wilderness area in which  
22       the land is located;

23           (2) be withdrawn in accordance with subsection  
24       (g); and

25           (3) be managed in accordance with—

1 (A) this section;

2 (B) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et  
3 seq.); and

4 (C) any other applicable law.

5 (i) CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.—In ac-  
6 cordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)  
7 and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary  
8 of Agriculture may prescribe, the Secretary may authorize  
9 the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorolo-  
10 gic, or climatological collection devices in a wilderness  
11 area if the Secretary determines that the devices and ac-  
12 cess to the devices are essential to a flood warning, flood  
13 control, or water reservoir operation activity.

14 (j) RECREATIONAL CLIMBING.—Nothing in this title  
15 prohibits recreational rock climbing activities in a wilder-  
16 ness area, such as the placement, use, and maintenance  
17 of fixed anchors, including any fixed anchor established  
18 before the date of the enactment of this Act—

19 (1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16  
20 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other applicable laws; and

21 (2) subject to any terms and conditions the  
22 Secretary of Agriculture determines necessary.



1       **TITLE II—WILD AND SCENIC**  
2                   **RIVERS**

3   **SEC. 111. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS DESIGNATION.**

4       Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16  
5   U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6   lowing:

7               “(233) LITTLE ROCK CREEK, CALIFORNIA.—

8       The following segments of Little Rock Creek and its  
9       tributaries, to be administered by the Secretary of  
10      Agriculture:

11              “(A) The 10.3-mile segment from its  
12              source on Mt. Williamson in sec. 6, T. 3 N., R.  
13              9 W., to 100 yards upstream of the confluence  
14              with the South Fork Little Rock Creek, as a  
15              wild river.

16              “(B) The 6.6-mile segment from 100 yards  
17              upstream of the confluence with the South Fork  
18              Little Rock Creek to the confluence with  
19              Santiago Canyon, as a recreational river.

20              “(C) The 1-mile segment of Cooper Can-  
21              yon Creek from 0.25 miles downstream of  
22              Highway 2 to 100 yards downstream of Cooper  
23              Canyon Campground, as a scenic river.

24              “(D) The 1.3-mile segment of Cooper Can-  
25              yon Creek from 100 yards downstream of Co-

1 per Canyon Campground to the confluence with  
2 Little Rock Creek, as a wild river.

3 “(E) The 1-mile segment of Buckhorn  
4 Creek from 100 yards downstream of the  
5 Buckhorn Campground to its confluence with  
6 Cooper Canyon Creek, as a wild river.”.

7 **SEC. 112. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.—Section 5(a) of the  
9 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amend-  
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

11 “(147) EAST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-  
12 FORNIA.—The 12.7-mile segment from the con-  
13 fluence of the Prairie Fork and Vincent Gulch to  
14 100 yards upstream of the confluence with Williams  
15 Canyon.

16 “(148) NORTH FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER,  
17 CALIFORNIA.—The 4.3-mile segment from the con-  
18 fluence with Cloudburst Canyon to 0.25 miles up-  
19 stream of the confluence with the West Fork San  
20 Gabriel River.

21 “(149) WEST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-  
22 FORNIA.—The 8.3-mile segment from 0.25 miles  
23 downstream of its source near Red Box Gap in sec.  
24 14, T. 2 N., R. 12 W., to the confluence with Bob-  
25 cat Canyon.”.

1 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—Section 5(b) of the Wild  
2 and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended  
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 “(24) EAST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-  
5 FORNIA; NORTH FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-  
6 FORNIA; WEST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER, CALI-  
7 FORNIA.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years  
9 after the date on which funds are made avail-  
10 able to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary  
11 of Agriculture shall—

12 “(i) complete each of the studies de-  
13 scribed in paragraphs (147) through (149)  
14 of subsection (a); and

15 “(ii) submit to Congress a report de-  
16 scribing the results of each such study.

17 “(B) STUDY REQUIREMENT.—In carrying  
18 out each of the studies described in paragraphs  
19 (147) through (149) of subsection (a), the Sec-  
20 retary of Agriculture shall identify opportunities  
21 to administer the segment described in each  
22 such paragraph in partnership with State, re-  
23 gional, local, and community stakeholders.”.

1       **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**

2       **SEC. 121. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-  
5 culture shall prepare a map and legal description of each  
6 wilderness area.

7           (b) FORCE OF LAW.—Each map and legal description  
8 prepared under subsection (a) shall have the same force  
9 and effect as if included in this title, except that the Sec-  
10 retary of Agriculture may correct any clerical or typo-  
11 graphical error in the maps and legal descriptions.

12          (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal de-  
13 scription prepared under subsection (a) shall be kept on  
14 file and available for public inspection in the appropriate  
15 offices of the Forest Service.

16       **SEC. 122. UPDATES TO LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGE-**  
17                               **MENT PLANS.**

18           As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment  
19 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall incorporate  
20 the designations and studies required by this Act into up-  
21 dated management plans for the Angeles National Forest.

22       **SEC. 123. USE BY MEMBERS OF INDIAN TRIBES.**

23           (a) ACCESS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall en-  
24 sure that Indian Tribes have access, in accordance with  
25 the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), to the wilder-

1   ness areas, wild and scenic river, and the wild scenic river  
2   study streams designated by this Act for traditional cul-  
3   tural and religious purposes.

4       (b) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,  
6       the Secretary of Agriculture, on request of an Indian  
7       Tribe, may temporarily close to the general public 1  
8       or more specific portions of the wilderness areas,  
9       wild and scenic river, and the wild scenic river study  
10      streams designated by this Act to protect the privacy  
11      of the members of the Indian Tribe in the conduct  
12      of traditional cultural and religious activities.

13          (2) REQUIREMENT.—Any closure under para-  
14      graph (1) shall be—

15           (A) made in such a manner as to affect  
16       the smallest practicable area for the minimum  
17       period of time necessary for the activity to be  
18       carried out; and

19           (B) be consistent with—

20               (i) Public Law 95–341 (commonly  
21       known as the “American Indian Religious  
22       Freedom Act”) (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.);

23               (ii) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
24       1131 et seq.); and

1 (iii) the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act  
2 (16 U.S.C. 1276 et seq.).

3 **SEC. 124. REAUTHORIZATION OF EXISTING WATER FACILI-**  
4 **TIES IN PLEASANT VIEW RIDGE WILDERNESS.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUED USE.—The  
6 Secretary of Agriculture may issue a special use authoriza-  
7 tion to the owners of a water transport or diversion facility  
8 (referred to in this section as a “facility”) located on Na-  
9 tional Forest System land in the Pleasant View Ridge Wil-  
10 derness for the continued operation, maintenance, and re-  
11 construction of the facility if the Secretary determines  
12 that—

13 (1) the facility was in existence on the date on  
14 which the land on which the facility is located was  
15 designated as part of the National Wilderness Pres-  
16 ervation System (referred to in this section as “the  
17 date of designation”);

18 (2) the facility has been in substantially contin-  
19 uous use to deliver water for the beneficial use on  
20 the non-Federal land of the owner since the date of  
21 designation;

22 (3) the owner of the facility holds a valid water  
23 right for use of the water on the non-Federal land  
24 of the owner under State law, with a priority date  
25 that predates the date of designation; and

1           (4) it is not practicable or feasible to relocate  
2       the facility to land outside of the Pleasant View  
3       Ridge Wilderness and continue the beneficial use of  
4       water on the non-Federal land recognized under  
5       State law.

6       (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A special use author-  
7       ization issued under this section shall be subject to such  
8       terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appro-  
9       priate to protect wilderness resources and values.