



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: Subcommittee on Federal Lands Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Federal Lands; Aniela Butler, Brandon Miller, Taylor Wiseman, Jason Blore, and Colen Morrow – Aniela@mail.house.gov, Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov, Taylor.Wiseman@mail.house.gov, Jason.Blore@mail.house.gov, and Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov; x6-7736
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024
Subject: Legislative Hearing on 6 Bills

The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a legislative hearing on six bills:

- H.R. 1584 (Reps. LaLota), “*Plum Island National Monument Act*”;
- H.R. 1647 (Rep. Moulton), “*Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act*”;
- H.R. 3047 (Rep. Crane), “*Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023*”;
- H.R. 3173 (Rep. Amodei), “*Northern Nevada Development and Conservation Act of 2023*”;
- H.R. 6852 (Rep. Espaillat), “*Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act*”; and
- H.R. 7332 (Rep. Maloy), “*Utah State Parks Adjustment Act*.”

The hearing will take place on **Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Colen Morrow (Colen.Morrow@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- This hearing includes several federal lands-related proposals that reflect local input and coordination from a myriad of interested stakeholders. Those ingredients remain critically important to achieving lasting and meaningful public lands policy.
- Several of the bills on the agenda will revitalize local economies, create new jobs, and reduce lands in the federal estate that no longer serve taxpayers’ interests.
- This hearing also includes legislation that will promote greater public access and enjoyment of lands that are cornerstones of local communities.

II. WITNESSES

Panel I (Members of Congress):

- *To Be Announced*

Panel II (Administration Officials):

- **Mr. Mike Reynolds**, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. [*H.R. 1584, H.R. 1647, H.R. 3047, H.R. 6852 and H.R. 7332*]
- **Mr. Greg Smith**, Associate Deputy Chief – National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C. [*H.R. 3047, H.R. 3173 and H.R. 7332*]

Panel III (Expert Witnesses):

- **The Honorable Daryl Seymore**, Supervisor, Navajo County, Arizona [*H.R. 3047*]
- **Ms. Louise Harrison**, Long Island Natural Areas Manager, Save the Sound, Southold, New York [*H.R. 1584*]
- **Mr. Scott Strong**, Director, Utah Division of State Parks, Salt Lake City, Utah [*H.R. 7332*]
- **The Honorable Bryce Shields**, District Attorney, Pershing County, Nevada [*H.R. 3173*]
- **Ms. Annie Harris**, Director and CEO, Essex Heritage, Salem, Massachusetts [*Minority Witness*] [*H.R. 1647*]
- **Mr. Bobby “Zorro” Hunter**, Chairman of Retired Harlem Globetrotters, and Goodwill Ambassador for the World Conference of Mayors, Tamarac, Florida [*Minority Witness*] [*H.R. 6852*]

III. BACKGROUND

[H.R. 1584 \(Rep. LaLota\), “Plum Island National Monument Act”](#)



Plum Island. Source: Doug Kuntz, 2023.

Located 100 miles east of New York City and approximately one mile from the tip of Long Island’s North Fork, the secluded Plum Island boasts a unique and mysterious history dating back thousands of years. Centuries before the first European settlers arrived in the early 17th century, the Montaukett and Pequot Tribes used the archipelago for hunting.¹ In 1897, Plum Island became home to a lighthouse and Fort Terry, a military installation that protected important shipping

¹ Wick, Steve, “Documentary filmmakers want to tell the story of Plum Island,” The Suffolk Times, <https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2023/09/documentary-filmmaker-tells-the-story-of-plum-island/>.

channels in the Long Island Sound.² However, Plum Island is perhaps most well known for being the location of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) research facility that first opened in 1954.³

The PIADC was a joint endeavor between the USDA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and was on the frontlines of research regarding contagious animal diseases for several decades. Behind “metal doors and frozen inside tamper-proof containers,” the highly secure facility contained vials of foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest, which are “two of the most feared animal contagions of all time.”⁴ If foot-and-mouth disease was ever detected in the wild, it “could wipe out entire herds of livestock and completely halt international agricultural trade.”⁵ Given the importance of the \$258.5 billion livestock industry to the U.S. economy and international food supply chains, the research conducted at PIADC was considered a matter of national security.⁶ Because of the high levels of security and secrecy on the island, it also was the subject of much speculation and conspiracy theories, at one point being the rumored origin point of Lyme disease and known as the “Area 51 of the East Coast.”⁷

In 2009, DHS selected Manhattan, Kansas, as the site of a new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to replace the PIADC.⁸ Congress directed Plum Island to be sold in 2008 before reversing course in 2020 when that requirement was repealed.⁹ H.R. 1584 would establish Plum Island as a national monument. The Department of the Interior (DOI) would be directed to manage the national monument for ecological conservation, historical preservation, and cultural heritage. Typically, agencies will conduct special resource studies to determine whether it is suitable and feasible to add new units of federal land under the control of DOI. Plum Island has not received such a study yet. This bipartisan bill is co-led by Representative Courtney (D-CT-02).

[H.R. 1647 \(Rep. Moulton\), “Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”](#)

In 1938, the Secretary of the Interior established the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the first-ever national historic site in the country to conserve and interpret the 600-year maritime history of New England.¹⁰ This site, which is managed by the National Park Service (NPS), celebrates the importance of colonial-era trade, the role of privateers during the Revolutionary War, and the postwar global trade that helped the U.S. establish economic independence.¹¹ The 9-acre site along the Salem waterfront consists of

² Parks & Trails New York, “Save Plum Island”, July 25, 2019, <https://www.ptny.org/newsandmedia/e-news-1/2019/07/save-plum-island>.

³ DHS, Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) Fact Sheet, <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/st-piadc-fact-sheet>.

⁴ Muller, Madison, “A Mysterious Lab Is Shutting Down. It’s the End of an Era for Biosecurity.,” September 8, 2023, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-09-08/plum-island-why-area-51-of-the-east-coast-is-moving-to-kansas>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Fox Business, “Various livestock animals and their impact on the US economy,” <https://www.foxbusiness.com/money/farm-animals-livestock-economy>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ USDA, “National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility”, <https://www.usda.gov/nbaf>.

⁹ Long Island Press, “Congress Blocks Sale of Plum Island in Covid-19 Relief Bill”,

<https://www.longislandpress.com/2020/12/22/u-s-congress-blocks-sale-of-plum-island-in-budget-bill/>.

¹⁰ National Park Service, “America’s First National Historic Site”, <https://www.nps.gov/sama/index.htm>.

¹¹ National Park Service, “Salem Maritime National Historic Site”, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/maritime/sal.htm>.

twelve historic structures, a downtown visitor center, and the *Friendship of Salem*, a replica of a famous sailing ship built in 1797.¹² H.R. 1647 would redesignate the site as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park.” This is a more appropriate designation for the site because it includes multiple properties and buildings, whereas national historic sites typically contain only a single historical feature.¹³ The legislation also requires NPS to conduct a boundary study of sites and resources associated with maritime history, military history, and coastal defense in the Salem area to assess the suitability and feasibility of adding these sites to the boundary of the National Historical Park. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) is leading companion legislation in the Senate.¹⁴

H.R. 3047 (Rep. Crane), “Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023”

Pinedale and Alpine are two small, rural communities in the eastern portion of Arizona surrounded by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Pinedale, located in Navajo County, contains less than 500 residents, while Alpine, located in Apache County, boasts a population of just 141 people.¹⁵ Both communities have struggled for more than a decade to find appropriate space to expand their respective cemeteries, given the



The footprint of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in eastern Arizona.

Source: Eastern Arizona Courier, 2018.

large footprint of federal forest land. Both cemeteries are currently located on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land and operate under special use permits. Without an expansion, the cemeteries will soon run out of burial plots, and families will be forced to travel long distances to bury their loved ones. To address this, Pinedale and Alpine worked with county representatives and local partners to identify additional land to expand their cemeteries.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ National Park Service, “Designations of National Park System Units”, <https://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/designations.htm>.

¹⁴ S. 961; <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/961>.

¹⁵ Southwestern USA Hiking, “What is Pinedale, AZ famous for?”, Donna Yewchin, August 16,2020, <https://www.southwesternusahiking.com/post/what-s-pinedale-az-famous-for>. World Population Review, “Alpine Arizona Population 2024”, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/alpine-az-population>.

H.R. 3047 would convey small parcels of land within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests to Apache and Navajo Counties for the purpose of expanding existing cemeteries. In Alpine, the bill would convey the existing 2.56-acre Alpine Cemetery, as well as an additional 8.06 acres of land adjacent to the cemetery, to Apache County. Likewise, the legislation would convey 5 acres of USFS land, including the existing 2.5-acre Pinedale Cemetery, to Navajo County. The additional land from both conveyances would be used to expand the respective cemeteries for the Alpine and Pinedale communities. The bill stipulates that the cost of the conveyances, including surveys and environmental analysis, will be paid for by the respective counties.

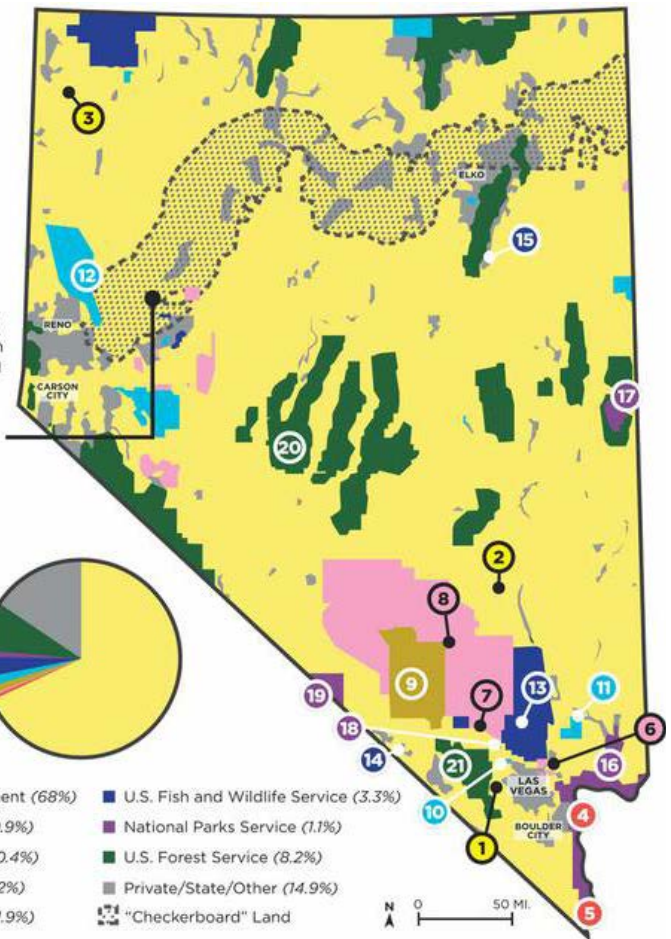
H.R. 3173 (Rep. Amodei), “Northern Nevada Development and Conservation Act of 2023”

There is no state with a greater percentage of federal land than Nevada, which contains 56,262,610 acres of federal land, more than 80 percent of its total land mass.¹⁶ The lack of private and locally controlled lands creates significant challenges for rural Nevada communities in their efforts to generate economic activity and facilitate important public purposes, such as the construction of new roads and schools. Federal lands are not taxable, which also creates an enormous strain on the state and local governments that must provide

MAPPING THE STATE'S LAND OWNERS

WHAT IS THE CHECKERBOARD?
A swath of land covering 4.2 million acres in the Central Pacific Railroad corridor along Interstate 80 is referred to as the “checkerboard” because it intermixes privately owned and BLM-managed parcels.

HOW MUCH OF NEVADA DOES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWN?



Federal Land in Nevada. **Source:** Las Vegas Sun, 2015.

critical services such as law enforcement, search and rescue, firefighting, waste disposal, and emergency medical services. A large federal footprint also brings with it a large and diverse group of stakeholders with opinions on how management should be carried out. Reaching a compromise on federal land proposals can, therefore, be extremely challenging and necessitates compromises to ensure lasting and effective land management policies.

¹⁶ Congressional Research Service, “Federal Land Ownership: Overview and Data”, Carol Hardy Vincent and Laura A. Hanson, February 21, 2020, <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/R42346?source=search>.

H.R. 3173 reflects Nevada's ongoing pursuit to achieve a balance between public purposes, economic development, and conservation goals through years of careful negotiations between local stakeholders. The bill affects lands in Washoe (primarily the Incline Village General Improvement District and the City of Sparks), Pershing, Douglas, Elko, and Lyon (primarily the City of Fernley) Counties, as well as Carson City. The bill reflects individual negotiations agreed to at the county level that were combined and are now reflected in this legislation. In total, this bill removes or permits the sale of over 180,000 acres from the federal estate. Among the proposed uses of this conveyed federal land are the expansion of state parks, flood management, water infrastructure, open space, residential development, surface estate for a mining interest, road construction, and the resolution of checkboard lands. The legislation also transfers over 2,600 acres to the Washoe Tribe. Creating more local control of these lands will help economically revitalize northern Nevada and create new job opportunities for its residents.

H.R. 3173 also contains several restrictive land use designations. This includes the designation of roughly 150,000 acres of federal land as wilderness. Importantly, the bill would release nearly 50,000 acres of wilderness study areas. Additionally, the bill contains a substantial mineral withdrawal of more than 309,000 acres of federal land in the Ruby Mountains, located in Elko County, from oil and gas leasing. Similar to the economic development provisions of the bill, these provisions were negotiated and agreed to at a local county level.

Representative Amodei has introduced this legislation in several Congresses. Earlier versions of the bill included provisions that were ultimately included in the final version of the fiscal year (FY) 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to expand the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) by over 558,000 acres. That provision allowed the Navy to nearly triple the size of a critically important training range.¹⁷ The expansion of the training range ultimately made it into the final version of the NDAA. While there was bipartisan agreement from the Nevada delegation on the inclusion of these public lands proposals as well, consensus from all the committees of jurisdiction remained elusive, and they were ultimately removed. In the 118th Congress version of the bill, the amount of acreage included in restrictive designations has significantly decreased to reflect the completion of the FRTC modernization. For comparison, the 117th version of this bill included over 317,000 acres of new wilderness designations and over 320,000 acres of National Conservation Area designations.

[H.R. 6852 \(Rep. Espailat\), "Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act"](#)

Located in the heart of the Harlem neighborhood in New York City, the Greg Marius Court at Holcomb Rucker Park (Rucker Park) is a historically significant basketball destination that has hosted numerous legendary basketball players throughout its storied history. Rucker Park is named after Holcomb Rucker, the park's playground director from 1948 to 1964.¹⁸ Holcomb

¹⁷ Nevada Appeal, "Expansion of Fallon Range Training Complex secured" December 6, 2022, <https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/2022/dec/06/nevada-delegation-secure-expansion-of-the-navys-fallon-range-training-complex-in-ndaa-bill-text/>.

¹⁸ NYC Parks, "Holcomb Rucker Park", <https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/holcombe-rucker-park/history>.

Rucker was a World War II veteran, a junior high school teacher, and the originator of the “Rucker Tournament,” a basketball tournament he created to provide a positive outlet for local youth and promote racial equality in sports.¹⁹ Throughout his life, Rucker was credited with helping over 700 kids receive college scholarships for athletics.²⁰ Following his death in 1965, Rucker Park and the associated basketball tournaments continued to grow in importance culturally for Harlem and for basketball enthusiasts everywhere. The park has been described as a “Mecca of Basketball,” with legendary NBA players such as Wilt Chamberlin, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and many others have played there.²¹ The park has also been featured in many documentaries as the birthplace of streetball, a form of basketball that emphasizes creativity over formal rules. H.R. 6852 would designate Holcomb Rucker Park as a National Commemorative Site. This designation would not make the park a unit of the National Park System, would not affect private property rights, and would not affect the administration of the park by New York City and the State of New York. The bill is co-led by Delegate Moylan (R-GU-At Large).

[H.R. 7332 \(Rep. Maloy\), “Utah State Parks Adjustment Act”](#)

Utah’s state parks are renowned not only for their striking beauty and plentiful attractions but also for being well-managed and enduringly popular. In 2023, Utah’s 46 state parks received over 12 million visitors, significantly exceeding the 10.6 million people who visited the five national parks located in the state during the same year.²² Utah officials have welcomed this disparity, noting that increased travel to state parks results in more evenly distributed visitation patterns and helps prevent overcrowding at the more famous national parks.²³ Further, despite receiving growing crowds, Utah’s state parks have not experienced significant increases in littering, vandalism, or other problems that frequently plague other heavily trafficked parks.²⁴

Recognizing these advantages, H.R. 7732 would transfer approximately 782 acres of federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in the Utah State Parks (USP) system and for related public purposes. The parcels included in this conveyance consist of federal lands that are either adjacent

¹⁹ Harlem World, “Harlem’s Holcomb Rucker”, November 6, 2011, <https://www.harlemworldmagazine.com/harlems-holcombe-rucker/>

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ New York Times, “A Street Basketball Mecca Gets a Face-Lift”, Jonathan Abrams, October 10, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/10/sports/basketball/rucker-park-renovation.html>

²² Carter Williams, “12 million people visited Utah state parks in 2023. These were the most and least popular ones,” KSL.com, February 12, 2024, <https://www.ksl.com/article/50870532/12-million-people-visited-utah-state-parks-in-2023-these-were-the-most-and-least-popular-ones>.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

to or comprise inholdings within current USP boundaries.²⁵ H.R. 7732 would convey six small parcels of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, collectively amounting to approximately 280 acres, to Antelope Island State Park (Antelope Island).²⁶ These six plots are inholdings owned by BLM that are located within Antelope Island’s existing boundaries.²⁷ The legislation would also convey a single parcel of approximately 272 acres of USFS land to Fremont Indian State Park.²⁸ The parcel is directly adjacent to Fremont Indian’s current boundary in Sevier County, Utah.²⁹ Finally, the bill would convey several parcels of BLM land, collectively totaling roughly 230 acres, within and adjacent to Wasatch Mountain State Park (Wasatch Mountain).³⁰

Conveying these properties from the federal estate to USP would pave the way for needed improvements in land and natural resource management. BLM testified before the Senate that the bill “would improve manageability and dispose of isolated Federal parcels that are difficult to manage.”³¹ The legislation thus promises to bring about greater administrative efficiencies that will benefit park visitors and the landscapes under USP jurisdiction. Additionally, since Antelope Island and Wasatch Mountain were among Utah’s ten most-visited state parks in 2022 and 2023, H.R. 7732



Wasatch Mountain State Parks. **Source:** Natalie Ockey, 2023/James Cowlin, 2013/Adam Barker, no date.

²⁵ “Maloy and Lee introduce bill to transfer parcels of federally owned land in Utah to the state,” Utah Policy, February 14, 2024, <https://utahpolicy.com/news-release/70014-maloy-and-lee-introduce-bill-to-transfer-parcels-of-federally-owned-land-in-utah-to-the-state>.

²⁶ “Utah State Parks Adjustment Act,” U.S. Senate Report 118–148, December 20, 2023, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CRPT-118srpt148/pdf/CRPT-118srpt148.pdf>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

could potentially bring increased tourism revenues to the State of Utah.³² Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) has introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & SECTION-BY-SECTION

H.R. 1584 (Rep. LaLota), “Plum Island National Monument Act”

Section 2. Plum Island National Monument

- Establishes Plum Island, New York, as a national monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of shared cultural heritage.
- Requires DOI to prepare a general management plan for the monument.
- The general management plan must be completed within three years after receiving funds for the preparation of that plan.
- Requires the general management plan to be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1647 (Rep. Moulton), “Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”

Section 2. Salem Maritime National Historical Park.

- Re-designates the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the Salem Maritime National Historical Park.

Section 3. Boundary Study.

- Directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a boundary study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of including sites and resources associated with maritime history, coastal defenses, and military history within the boundaries of the National Historical Park.
- Specifies the study area shall encompass Salem, Massachusetts generally, the Salem Armory Visitor Center building, and Salem Armory Park.

H.R. 3047 (Rep. Crane), “Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023”

Section 2. Conveyance of Certain Land with the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests to Navajo County, Arizona.

- Conveys two parcels, including a 2.5-acre parcel encompassing the existing Pinedale cemetery and 2.5 acres of adjacent USFS land to expand the cemetery to Navajo County, Arizona.
- Sets guidelines for finalizing the map of the conveyance and provides for technical corrections to the map.
- Requires a survey of the parcels to determine the exact acreage and legal description.

³² Carter Williams, “12 million people visited Utah state parks in 2023. These were the most and least popular ones,” KSL.com, February 12, 2024, <https://www.ksl.com/article/50870532/12-million-people-visited-utah-state-parks-in-2023-these-were-the-most-and-least-popular-ones>.

- Requires the conveyance to be done without consideration, subject to valid existing rights, and by quitclaim deed.
- Exempts the USFS from disclosure requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.
- Requires Navajo County to pay for all associated costs with the conveyance, including a survey and any environmental analyses or resource surveys.

Section 3. Conveyance of Certain Land with the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests to Apache County, Arizona.

- Conveys two parcels, including a 2.56-acre parcel encompassing the existing Alpine cemetery and 8.06 acres of adjacent USFS land to expand the cemetery to Apache County, Arizona.
- Sets guidelines for finalizing the map of the conveyance and provides for technical corrections to the map.
- Requires a survey of the parcels to determine the exact acreage and legal description.
- Requires the conveyance to be done without consideration, subject to valid existing rights, and by quitclaim deed.
- Exempts the USFS from disclosure requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.
- Requires Apache County to pay for all associated costs with the conveyance, including a survey and any environmental analyses or resource surveys.

H.R. 3173 (Rep. Amodei), “Northern Nevada Development and Conservation Act of 2023”

Title I: Douglas County.

- Transfers approximately 67 acres of USFS land to the State of Nevada to be used for state parks.
- Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to implement a cooperative management agreement for the Tahoe Rim Trail.
- Conveys approximately 7,777 acres to Douglas County, Nevada, for flood management and public purposes.
- Allows up to 10,000 acres of land identified in the existing Carson City RMP to be sold along with an additional 31.5-acre parcel.
- Conveys approximately 1,084 acres to Douglas County to be used for open space.
- Transfers approximately 2,669 acres of land into trust for the Washoe Tribe along with other lands managed by the BLM and USFS already administered for such purpose.
- Designates 12,392 acres as the Burbank Canyons Wilderness and sets specific management requirements for the wilderness area.
- Releases 1,065 acres of wilderness in the Burbank Canyons Wilderness Study Area.
- Allows for the conveyance of USFS land in the Lake Tahoe Basin for recreation and public purposes.
- Directs the issuance of special use permits for 188 acres for critical flood protection and water infrastructure sites.

Title II: Incline Village Fire Protection.

- Conveys two parcels totaling approximately 14 acres to the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) for public uses, including fire risk reduction and recreation.

Title III: Northern Nevada Flood Protection Management.

- Conveys four parcels totaling approximately 534 acres to the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) for flood attenuation, riparian restoration, and protection along the Truckee River.

Title IV: Ruby Mountains Protection Act.

- Withdraws from all forms of operation under mineral leasing laws approximately 309,272 acres located in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, subject to valid existing rights.
- Withdraws from all forms of operation under mineral leasing laws approximately 39,926 acres located in the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, subject to valid existing rights.

Title V: Carson City Public Lands Correction.

- Conveys approximately 258 acres of BLM land to Carson City, Nevada.
- Conveys approximately 0.45 acres of USFS land to Carson City to be used for a roundabout connecting South Stewart Street and South Curry Street.
- Removes reversionary interests on three parcels already held by Carson City to allow for economic development.
- Disposes of 28 acres of land identified for disposal by the BLM.
- Allows for the disposal of approximately 17.45 acres of Carson City land for future residential development.
- Sets provisions for the disposition of proceeds from land sales under this title.
- Allows for the delayed sale of certain parcels.

Title VI: Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation.

- Establishes the Checkerboard Resolution Area in Pershing County, Nevada, and authorizes the sale or exchange of lands previously identified for disposal by the BLM in a streamlined manner.
- Authorizes the sale of the surface estate to an owner of a mining claim, a mill site, or a tunnel site that exists in the Checkerboard Resolution Area on the date of enactment for fair market value.
- Conveys approximately 10 acres to Pershing County for the Unionville Cemetery.
- Designates approximately 136,072 acres of wilderness.

Title VII: Federal Complex.

- Establishes a joint federal complex to be used by the BLM Nevada State Office, USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe Headquarters, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- Allows for up to 10 percent of funds generated by the legislation to go towards costs for the complex.

Title VIII: Implementation of White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act.

- Amends the Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 disposition of proceeds to include additional public services determined by the county, such as water and sewer infrastructure.
- Allows for BLM to issue corrective patents of up to 5 acres in White Pine County, Nevada, for private lands adjacent to public lands where surveying errors exist.

Title IX: Fernley Economic Development Act.

- Conveys approximately 12,085 acres of federal land for fair market value to the City of Fernley, Nevada, for economic development. Any gross proceeds from the sale shall be deposited into the existing Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) special account.

Title X: Conveyances to the City of Sparks.

- Conveys approximately 40 acres to the City of Sparks, Nevada, to be used for a cemetery.
- Conveys approximately 714 acres to the City of Sparks to be used for public parks.

Title XI: General Provisions.

- Allows for the conveyance of federal lands that are leased, patented, or authorized as a right-of-way through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to eligible entities.
- Provides guidance on the use of surface estate sand and gravel for developments authorized through SNPLMA.
- States no water rights shall be affected by this legislation.
- Amends an existing conveyance of land from the BLM to Storey County, Nevada, to include approximately 40 additional acres.

Title XII: Greenlink West Project.

- Maintains the existing right-of-way for NV Energy for the GreenLink Transmission Line on the eastern shore of Walker Lake, which was put into trust for the Walker River Paiute Tribe as part of the FRTC Modernization.

[H.R. 6852 \(Rep. Espaillat\), “Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act”](#)

Section 3. National Commemorative Site.

- Designates Holcomb Rucker Park in Harlem, New York, as the “Holcomb Rucker Park National Commemorative Site.”
- Specifies the Commemorative Site shall not be considered a unit of the National Park System.
- Specifies the designation shall not affect the rights of any private property owners.
- Specifies the legislation does not affect the administration of the site by New York City or the State of New York.

H.R. 7332 (Rep. Maloy), “Utah State Parks Adjustment Act”

Section 2. Conveyance of Certain Federal Land to the State of Utah.

- Conveys roughly 280 acres of BLM land to the State of Utah for inclusion in Antelope State Park.
- Conveys approximately 230 acres of BLM land to the State of Utah for inclusion in Wasatch Mountain State Park.
- Conveys roughly 272 acres of USFS land to the State of Utah for inclusion in Freemont Indian State Park. Several specific conditions apply to this conveyance, including provisions specifying:
 - USFS shall retain easements for roads and trails.
 - USFS will convey certain water rights to the State that provides water to the Castle Rock Campground and Belknap Historic Guard Station interpretive site.
 - A survey, paid for by the state, shall be conducted if the Secretary of Agriculture determines it is necessary.
 - Permitted livestock grazing shall continue.
 - USFS shall continue to use and maintain roads, trails, water rights, and specific interpretative sites.
- Specifies each conveyance shall be subject to valid existing rights and made without consideration and by quitclaim deed.
- Sets guidelines for finalizing the map of the conveyance and making technical corrections.
- Requires the land conveyed to be used for public purposes or otherwise revert to Federal ownership.

V. COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that S. 961, the Senate companion to H.R. 1647, would “cost less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2028 period”, subject to the availability of appropriations.³³

None of the other bills on the agenda have received a formal cost estimate from CBO.

VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

In testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, NPS testified in support of S. 961, the Senate companion to H.R. 1647.³⁴ Additionally, USFS expressed a desire to work on specific concerns related to access and continued public use of USFS

³³ Congressional Budget Office, “S.961, Salem Maritime National Historic Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”, November 16, 2023, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59768>.

³⁴ Statement of Michael A. Caldwell before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Regarding S. 961 <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/39ACBB01-8B7F-4876-9BB1-DAC2CAB02D38>.

land conveyed by S. 2136, the Senate companion to H.R. 7332.³⁵ BLM testified in support of that companion legislation.³⁶

The administration's position on the remaining bills is unknown.

VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

[H.R. 3173](#)

³⁵ Testimony of Chris French before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/198EA19F-6648-425C-A6FD-23731042B793>.

³⁶ Statement of Thomas Heinlein before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, <https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2023-07/07.12.23%20SENR%20Hearing%20BLM%20Testimony.pdf>.