

## 2017 Committee Accomplishments

Since the beginning of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House Committee on Natural Resources has acted aggressively to expand onshore and offshore American energy development, improve access to and management of federal lands and waters, protect states’ rights, solve the nation’s catastrophic wildfire crisis, secure western water abundance and drought relief, protect and boost infrastructure, empower Indian and Alaska Native communities, and reform and improve landmark environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

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## Congressional Review Act

### **Protecting Jobs and Affordable Energy (H.J. Res. 38)**

Congress passed and the President signed H.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution of disapproval of the Stream Protection Rule, reversing the rule and preventing any substantially similar rule to regulate the coal industry out of business from being issued in the future. [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

- Provides certainty to state regulators tasked with regulating 97% of the coal mines in the U.S. and enforcing existing federal mining regulations
- Prevents the removal of one half or more of total U.S. Coal reserves from being available for extraction
- Restores an important stream of state and federal tax revenue associated with coal extraction across the country
- Ensures that OSM cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress

### **Protecting State and Local Input in Federal Land Management (H.J. Res. 44)**

Congress passed and President Trump signed H.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution of disapproval to reverse the BLM's Planning 2.0 Rule. [Press Release](#), [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

- Returns authority to local communities most affected by federal land management decisions
- Ensures that BLM cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress

### **Protecting States' Authority to Manage Fish and Game (H.J. Res. 69)**

Congress passed and President Trump signed H.J. Res. 69 preventing an unlawful power grab in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuges and dangerous precedent to be set on the management of state fish and wildlife for the lower 48 states. [Press Release](#), [Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

- Restores the rule of law as Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) initial rule violates the "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act" granting the State of Alaska to manage fish and wildlife resources of state, private and federal lands

- Blocks the top-down, one-size-fits-all management policies from FWS bureaucrats
- Ensures that FWS cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress

### **Protecting Responsible Energy Development (H.J. Res. 36)**

The House passed H.J. Res. 36 on February 3, 2017. The joint resolution aims to save critical energy jobs and domestic production – mostly from small, marginal producers.

[Info](#), [One Pager](#), [The Scope](#)

- Restores the Rule of Law – BLM does not have the authority to regulate air quality, that is solely vested with the EPA and states as written in the Clean Air Act
- Acknowledges that methane emissions from oil and natural gas have significantly declined as domestic production has surged
- Reduces duplicative and burdensome regulations of the Obama administration that undermine successful, existing state regulations
- Encourages innovation and recognizes strides industry has taken to reduce emissions
- Benefits taxpayers and states from securing an essential stream of revenue from oil and gas royalties
- Ensures that BLM cannot issue a rule that is substantially the same without authorization from Congress



## Creating Domestic Energy & Mineral Abundance

### **ANWR Provision in the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” (H.R. 1) – signed into law**

The “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” includes language that opens a small portion of the non-wilderness 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for responsible energy development. The provision will create affordable energy, jobs and energy abundance. [Press Release](#)

### **“Helium Extraction Act of 2017” (H.R. 3279) – passed House**

The “Helium Extraction Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), amends the Mineral Leasing Act to allow helium extraction from gas on federal lands under the same lease terms as oil and gas. Helium is an essential element used in medical, defense and energy related services such as MRIs, missile guidance systems and semiconductors. Given Qatar’s recent political crisis, the bill works to alleviate potential future supply concerns by facilitating the production of helium on federal lands, while providing a fair return to the taxpayer. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)

### **“SECURE American Energy Act” (H.R.4239) – passed Committee**

The “SECURE American Energy Act,” co-sponsored by House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT), overhauls oil and gas policy on federal lands and waters. The bipartisan bill provides regulatory certainty by eliminating federal duplication and promoting access to federal lands. The bill will result in a boom in oil, gas and wind, create jobs, and ensure affordable fuel for American families. It will also send critical dollars into both federal and state coffers. [Press Release](#), [One-Pager](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act” (H.R. 825) – passed Committee**

The “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act,” introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), promotes the development of renewable energy on federal lands. The bill streamlines the permitting process for wind, solar, and geothermal energy general and establishes a Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund to be used to conserve land affected by renewable development. [Memo](#)

### **“American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act” (H.R. 1399) – passed Committee**



The “American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act,” introduced by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), reduces the royalty rate for soda ash to two percent from six percent for five years.

[Memo](#)



## Committee Infrastructure Proposals

### **“BOR Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act” (H.R. 1967) – passed House**

The “Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act,” introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), streamlines the permitting of non-federal pumped storage hydroelectric projects at certain BOR facilities. By eliminating regulatory permitting confusion, the bill provides for greater certainty in hydropower markets and more clean, affordable energy for consumers. [Memo](#)

### **“Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act” (H.R. 660) – passed Committee**

The “Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act,” introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) requires the Department of the Interior to publish reports detailing rehabilitation needs at their facilities, which provide vital irrigation water for Western farmers and the nation’s fruit and vegetable crops. [Memo](#)

### **Expanding Alaskan Hydropower Infrastructure (H.R. 220) – passed Committee**

Introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), the bill authorizes the expansion of the Terror Lake hydroelectric project to meet electricity demand for the Kodiak Island community. The bill adds 33,000 megawatt-hours of generation each year for the Island’s residents. [Memo](#)

### **“Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2017” (H.R. 1807) – passed Committee**

The “Public Water Supply Invasive Species Compliance Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), exempts water transfers between the States of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana from Lacey Act restrictions that can lead to unwarranted water supply disruptions. [Memo](#)

### **“Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act” (H.R. 3281) – passed Committee**

The “Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act,” introduced by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), streamlines the process of transferring select Bureau of Reclamation projects or facilities to local water users in order to incentivize new non-federal investment in water infrastructure and afford more efficient management of water and water-related facilities. [Memo](#)

## **“King Cove Road Land Exchange Act” (H.R. 218) – passed House**

The “King Cove Road Land Exchange Act,” introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), authorizes a land exchange between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska to construct an 11-mile, life-saving road connecting the remote community of King Cove to a modern, all-weather airport with access to emergency medical services in Cold Bay, Alaska. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#)



## Environmental Stewardship & Responsible Resource Development

### **“Community Reclamation Partnership Act” (H.R. 2937) – passed House**

The “Community Reclamation Partnership Act,” introduced Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL), enables non-governmental entities to participate in the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and contribute their own resources towards such projects. The bill addresses impediments potential “Community Reclaimers” face in the reclamation process by allowing states to assume liability on their behalf, shielding them from any undue legal liability under the law. [Memo](#)

### **“Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017” or “RECLAIM Act” (H.R. 1731) – passed Committee**

The “RECLAIM Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), addresses outstanding abandoned mine lands (AML) issues, including ensuring that monies authorized to be spent under the program are limited to reclamation work alone, while encouraging economic revitalization of coal communities nationwide. [Memo](#)

### **“Mining School Enhancement Act” (H.R. 2053) – passed Committee**

The “Mining Schools Enhancement Act,” introduced by Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ), amends the “Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977” to provide support to mining and mineral engineering programs in the United States. Within the next 10 to 15 years, approximately 70 percent of the United States’ mining industry’s technical leaders will reach retirement age. The bill addresses the issues of a retiring workforce by requiring the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to direct at least 70 percent of its research funding to mining schools to “enhance and support mining and mineral engineering programs.” [Memo](#)





## Improving Public Access to Federal Lands & Waters

### **The “Guides and Outfitters Act” or “GO Act” (H.R. 289) – passed Committee**

The “GO Act,” increases public access to recreation activities on federal lands by streamlining the special recreation permit process. Among other provisions, the bill prevents federal agencies from imposing fees for portions of trips that take place outside of federal lands, authorizes joint permits for cross-jurisdictional trips, and eliminates duplicative and costly environmental reviews for uses that are similar to previously authorized uses. [Press Release](#). [Memo](#)

### **“Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017” (H.R. 3115) – passed House**

The “Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Rick Nolan (D-MN), facilitates the NorthMet Land Exchange between the U.S. Forest Service and Poly Met Mining, Inc. The bill swaps federal land for private inholdings within the Superior National Forest, resolving a long running complication regarding split ownership of surface and mineral rights and creating new opportunities for fishing, hunting and other types of outdoor recreation.” [Memo](#)

### **Amending the Wilderness Act to Ensure Use of Bicycles, Wheelchairs, Strollers and Game Carts (H.R. 1349) – passed Committee**

H.R. 1349, introduced by Subcommittee on Federal Lands Chairman Tom McClintock (R-CA), clarifies that the Wilderness Act never intended for a universal ban of wheelchairs, adaptive cycles, bicycles, and other human-powered implements in wilderness areas. [Press Release](#)

### **“Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2017” or “SHARE Act” (H.R. 3668) – passed Committee**

The “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2017” or “SHARE Act,” introduced by Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC), expands opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, increases safety and hearing protection for sportsmen and women and protects Second Amendment rights. [Press Release](#). [One-Page](#)

### **“Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act” (H.R. 200) – passed Committee**



The “Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act,” introduced by Chairman Emeritus Don Young (R-AK), reauthorizes and modernizes the Magnuson-Stevens Act by implementing regional flexibility, tailored management practices and improved data collection for America’s federal fisheries. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)



## Protecting States' Rights and Improving Federal Land Management

### **“Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act” (H.R. 428) – passed House**

The “Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act,” introduced by Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX), commissions a survey of the gradient boundary along the Red River to end decades of confusion over the true boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. The bill brings certainty to landowners along the Red River. [Press Release](#). [One Pager](#)

### **“Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act” or “Miner Act” (H.R. 3905) – passed House**

The bipartisan “Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act” or “Miner Act,” introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN), spurs economic growth and job creation through responsible development of mineral resources in Minnesota’s Superior National Forest by reversing a politically motivated mineral withdrawal under the Obama Administration. [Press Release](#). [Memo](#)

### **“Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017” or “FLAIR Act” (H.R. 2199) – passed Committee**

The “Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND), improves federal land management, resource conservation, environmental protection, and use of federal real property by the development of a multipurpose cadastre of federal property and identifying inaccurate, duplicate and out-of-date federal land inventories. [Press Release](#). [Memo](#)

### **“Washington County, Utah, Public Lands Management Implementation Act” (H.R. 2423) – passed Committee**

The “Washington County, Utah, Public Lands Management Implementation Act,” introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT), implements compromises local Utah officials negotiated in good-faith with the BLM over 8 years ago to create a 4-mile transportation corridor in the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area in Southern Utah. This important corridor meets the needs of the city of St. George while minimizing the impacts to desert tortoise habitat. [Memo](#)



## Water Abundance & Drought Prevention

### **“Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act” (H.R. 1654) – passed House**

The “Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act,” introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), creates a “one-stop-shop” permitting process through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for new or expanded nonfederal surface storage facilities. The bill reduces conflicting agency permit requirements that impose unnecessary costs and burdens on water storage infrastructure. [One Pager](#)

### **“Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017” or the “GROW ACT” (H.R. 23) – passed House**

The “GROW Act,” introduced by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA), addresses underlying federal policy, regulatory and administrative failures that have contributed to the mismanagement of water supplies across the West. It expands water storage, improves infrastructure, ensures water reliability and protects water rights. The GROW Act gives federal agencies the tools they need to help safeguard communities from the arduous effects of future droughts. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#)

### **“Water Rights Protection Act of 2017” (H.R.2939) – passed Committee**

The “Water Rights Protection Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO), protects privately held water rights from federal overreach. It prohibits the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture from requiring private entities to relinquish their water rights to the federal government as a permit condition to continue operating on federal lands – an abuse of power with which Western states have been repeatedly threatened. [Press Release](#), [Memo](#)



## Catastrophic Wildfire Relief & Forestry Reform

### **“Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017” (H.R. 2936) – passed the House**

The “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire and dramatically improves the health and resiliency of federal forests. The bipartisan bill is a comprehensive forest management package that solves the fire-borrowing problem and gives federal land managers immediate tools to increase the pace and scale of management and restoration projects. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#), [Chairman Bishop Op-Ed](#), [The Scope: What They’re Saying](#), [Myth vs. Fact](#), [List of Supporters](#), [Info-graphic](#), [Memo](#)

### **“Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act” (H.R. 1873) – passed House**

The “Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act,” introduced by Reps. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR), provides streamlined processes for the removal of hazardous vegetative overgrowth adjacent to transmission and distribution lines on federal lands, reducing the threat of wildfires and enhancing electric grid reliability. [Press Release](#), [One Pager](#)

### **“Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act” (H.R. 2075) – passed Committee**

The “Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act,” introduced by Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), adjusts the eastern boundary of the Whychus-Deschuted Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect hundreds of homes in the community of Crooked River Ranch. This modest adjustment of federal bureaucratic boundaries removes restrictions that severely restrict fire prevention activities and limit the tactics available to firefighter to protect life and property in the event of catastrophic wildfire. [Memo](#)



## Reforming Landmark Natural Resource & Environmental Laws

### **Antiquities Act**

Passed in 1906, the Antiquities Act authorizes the president to protect "antiquities," or objects of historic interest under imminent threat and requires all designations be "confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected." The Act is not a landscape-conservation tool, and using it as such is an obvious breach of the plain language of the law. Presidents of both parties have repeatedly abused the Act – President Obama used it 37 times to designate 553.6 million acres of land and water, equivalent to 830 times the size of Rhode Island. The Act was created with noble intent, tailored for specific uses and limited circumstances. The Committee continues to work to restore the original intent of the law and prevent future abuses.

- **“National Monument Creation and Protection Act” or “CAP Act” (H.R. 3990) – passed Committee**

The “National Monument Creation and Protection Act” or “CAP Act,” introduced by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT), protects archeological resources while ensuring public transparency and accountability in the executive’s use of the Antiquities Act. [Press Release](#). [Memo](#)

### **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

Republicans continue to conduct extensive oversight of ESA and will soon be advancing legislative reforms to improve and reform the Act. Signed into law in 1973, over 1,564 species have been listed under the ESA, but only 23 recovered species have been delisted, amounting to a one percent success rate. Republicans believe we can improve ESA through reforms that promote scientific data transparency, increase local and state engagement, and de-incentivize abusive litigation that siphons critical resources away from actual species recovery. The Committee has passed multiple bills to reform the ESA.

- **“Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017” (H.R. 424) – passed Committee**

The “Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017,” introduced by Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) reissues the final rules from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to delist the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes region and maintains effective state wolf management in Wyoming. [Memo](#)



- **“Listing Reform Act” (H.R. 717) – passed Committee**

The “Listing Reform Act,” introduced by Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) allows for the consideration of economic factors in threatened listing decisions. It also provides flexibility to agencies’ prioritization in processing listing petitions, which relieves FWS from excessive litigation and allows more resources to be used for species conservation and recovery. [Memo](#)

- **“State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act” (H.R. 1274) – passed Committee**

The “State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act,” introduced by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), fosters greater cooperation between the federal government and states by ensuring state, local and tribal scientific data is factored into ESA species listing decisions. [Memo](#)

- **“Saving America’s Endangered Species Act” or “SAVES Act” (H.R. 2603) – passed Committee**

The “Saving America’s Endangered Species Act” or “SAVES Act,” introduced by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), removes duplicative permitting requirements for interstate movement of nonnative endangered species enhancing opportunities for conservation. [Memo](#)

- **“Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act” (H.R. 3131) – passed Committee**

The “Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act,” introduced by Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI), combats the recent proliferation of ESA-related litigation by capping attorneys’ fees to the same reasonable levels allowed for other types of citizen lawsuits against the government. [Memo](#)

## **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

Republicans continue to conduct extensive oversight of NEPA demonstrating the need to modernize the statute and prevent it from being used as a bureaucratic tool to delay or impede domestic energy production, infrastructure development, forest management and range of other responsible, job-supporting activities.

