

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2229

To withdraw certain Federal land in the Wyoming Range from leasing and provide an opportunity to retire certain leases in the Wyoming Range.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 25, 2007

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To withdraw certain Federal land in the Wyoming Range from leasing and provide an opportunity to retire certain leases in the Wyoming Range.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wyoming Range Leg-
5 acy Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Wyoming Range, a rugged chain of
9 mountains running north-south for greater than 100

1 miles in western Wyoming, managed by the Bridger-
2 Teton National Forest, contains some of the finest
3 scenic views, wildlife habitat, and outdoor rec-
4 reational opportunities in the State of Wyoming;

5 (2) the Wyoming Range provides world-class
6 hunting and fishing opportunities;

7 (3) many area outfitters, ranchers, and busi-
8 nesses rely on the habitat and recreational values of
9 the Wyoming Range remaining undiminished;

10 (4) energy development on Federal land in the
11 State of Wyoming contributes significantly to domes-
12 tic energy production in the United States; and

13 (5) consistent with the multiple use mandate
14 for national forest land, currently producing oil and
15 gas leases within the Wyoming Range would be un-
16 affected by this Act.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act are—

18 (1) to establish the Wyoming Range With-
19 drawal Area, which would withdraw areas in the Wy-
20 oming Range portion of the Bridger-Teton National
21 Forest from location, entry, leasing, and patent
22 under the mining laws; and

23 (2) to allow for the retirement of existing oil
24 and gas leases within the Wyoming Range With-

1 drawal Area that are relinquished or otherwise ac-
2 quired by the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN LAND IN THE WYOMING**
4 **RANGE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid rights in exist-
6 ence on the date of enactment of this Act and subsections
7 (c) and (d) (including valid rights under leases in effect
8 on the date of enactment of this Act), land in the Wyo-
9 ming Range described in subsection (b) is withdrawn
10 from—

11 (1) all forms of appropriation or disposal under
12 the public land laws;

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

15 (3) disposition under laws relating to mineral
16 and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

17 (b) COVERED LAND.—Subsection (a) applies to all
18 Forest Service land and federally owned minerals located
19 within the boundaries of the Bridger-Teton National For-
20 est identified on the map entitled “Wyoming Range With-
21 drawal Area” and dated October 17, 2007, on file with
22 the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service and the Office
23 of the Supervisor of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

24 (c) EXISTING RIGHTS.—If an existing right to land
25 otherwise withdrawn from leasing under this section is re-

1 relinquished or otherwise acquired by the United States
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the land subject
3 to the existing right is withdrawn from leasing in accord-
4 ance with this section.

5 (d) **BUFFERS.**—Nothing in this section requires—

6 (1) the creation of a protective perimeter or
7 buffer area outside the boundaries of the land with-
8 drawn under this section; or

9 (2) any prohibition on activities that can be
10 seen or heard from within the boundaries of the land
11 withdrawn under this section.

12 (e) **FOREST PLAN.**—The Bridger-Teton National
13 Forest Plan (including any revisions) shall apply to any
14 land within the Bridger-Teton National Forest that is not
15 withdrawn under this section and any leases of that land.

16 **SEC. 4. RETIREMENT OF CERTAIN LEASES IN THE WYO-**
17 **MING RANGE.**

18 (a) **REQUEST FOR LEASE RETIREMENT.**—A lessee of
19 a valid existing Federal oil, gas, or other mineral lease
20 within the Wyoming Range Withdrawal Area covered by
21 section 3(b) may submit a written request to the Secretary
22 of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
23 retary”) for the retirement and repurchase of the lease.

24 (b) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary may
25 use non-Federal funds to purchase any lease from a lessee

1 who requests retirement and repurchase of the lease under
2 subsection (a).

3 (c) AMOUNT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
5 and (3), the amount of the purchase price for a
6 lease retired under this section shall be based on fair
7 market value, as determined from an appraisal that
8 is agreed to by the Secretary and the lessee.

9 (2) DONATIONS AUTHORIZED.—A lessee may—

10 (A) waive a claim to compensation, in
11 whole or in part, under this section; and

12 (B) donate to the Secretary a valid exist-
13 ing lease in the Wyoming Range Withdrawal
14 Area.

15 (3) ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER COMPENSATION.—

16 Nothing in this Act limits compensation from a pri-
17 vate, State, or other source in lieu of, or in addition
18 to, receiving compensation under this section.

19 (d) CANCELLATION OF REPURCHASED AND DO-
20 NATED LEASES.—

21 (1) CANCELLATION.—The Secretary shall can-
22 cel each lease that is acquired under this section.

23 (2) WITHDRAWAL.—Land that is subject to a
24 lease that is cancelled under paragraph (1) is with-
25 drawn in accordance with section 3.

1 (e) NOTIFICATION OF LEASEHOLDERS.—Not later
2 than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
3 the Secretary shall provide notice to holders of valid exist-
4 ing Federal leases within the Wyoming Range Withdrawal
5 Area of the opportunity for repurchase and retirement
6 under this section.

7 (f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing
8 in this section affects any authority the Secretary may
9 otherwise have to modify, suspend, or terminate a lease
10 without compensation.

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