

Calendar No. 350

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 526

To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

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

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Reported by Ms. MURKOWSKI, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development.

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 “Buffalo Tract Protec-
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL.**

2 (a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Subject to valid existing rights,
3 the Bureau of Land Management land described in sub-
4 section (b) is withdrawn from all forms of mineral develop-
5 ment under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing or min-
6 eral materials, including locatable minerals.

7 (b) ~~BLM LAND DESCRIBED.~~—The Bureau of Land
8 Management land referred to in subsection (a) is the land
9 identified as “Tract A”, “Tract B”, “Tract C”, and
10 “Tract D” on the map entitled “Placitas, New Mexico
11 Area Map” and dated March 11, 2016.

12 (c) ~~DISPOSAL OF SURFACE ESTATE.~~—

13 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Subject to paragraph (2),
14 nothing in this section prohibits the disposal of the
15 surface estate of the Bureau of Land Management
16 land described in subsection (b) under—

17 (A) the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
18 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

19 (B) the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly
20 known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes
21 Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

22 (2) ~~OWNERSHIP OF MINERAL ESTATE.~~—Any
23 disposal of the surface estate of the Bureau of Land
24 Management land described in subsection (b) shall
25 be subject to the condition that the mineral estate
26 of that land shall remain under the ownership of the

1 Bureau of Land Management, subject to the with-
 2 drawal described in subsection (a).

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Buffalo Tract Protection*
 5 *Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL.**

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the*
 8 *Federal land described in subsection (b) is withdrawn from*
 9 *all forms of—*

10 *(1) location, entry, and patent under the mining*
 11 *laws; and*

12 *(2) disposition under the mineral leasing, min-*
 13 *eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.*

14 *(b) DESCRIPTION.—The Federal land referred to in*
 15 *subsections (a) and (c) is the approximately 4,288 acres of*
 16 *land administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land*
 17 *Management and generally depicted as “Tract A”, “Tract*
 18 *B”, “Tract C”, and “Tract D” on the map entitled*
 19 *“Placitas, New Mexico Area Map” and dated November 13,*
 20 *2019.*

21 *(c) SURFACE ESTATE.—*

22 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the reservation of*
 23 *the mineral estate under paragraph (2), nothing in*
 24 *this Act prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from*

1 *conveying the surface estate of the Federal land de-*
2 *scribed in subsection (b) in accordance with—*

3 *(A) the Federal Land Policy and Manage-*
4 *ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or*

5 *(B) the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly*
6 *known as the “Recreation and Public Purposes*
7 *Act”)* (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

8 (2) *MINERAL ESTATE.*—*Any conveyance of the*
9 *surface estate of the Federal land described in sub-*
10 *section (b) shall require a reservation of the mineral*
11 *estate to the United States.*

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