

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.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BARRASSO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**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  
10 miles in western Wyoming, managed by the Bridger-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) to allow for the retirement of existing oil  
23 and gas leases within the Wyoming Range With-  
24 drawal Area that are relinquished or otherwise ac-  
25 quired by the United States.

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

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7 ming Range described in subsection (b) is withdrawn  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

9 (1) all forms of appropriation or disposal under  
10 the public land laws;

11 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining  
12 laws; and

13 (3) disposition under laws relating to mineral  
14 and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

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

22 (c) **EXISTING RIGHTS.**—If an existing right to land  
23 otherwise withdrawn from leasing under this section is re-  
24 linquished or otherwise acquired by the United States  
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the land subject

1 to the existing right is withdrawn from leasing in accord-  
2 ance with this section.

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

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 4. RETIREMENT OF CERTAIN LEASES IN THE WYO-**  
15 **MING RANGE.**

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

22 (b) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary may  
23 use non-Federal funds to purchase any lease from a lessee  
24 who requests retirement and repurchase of the lease under  
25 subsection (a).

1 (c) AMOUNT.—

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

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

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

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

13 (3) ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER COMPENSATION.—  
14 Nothing in this Act limits compensation from a pri-  
15 vate, State, or other source in lieu of, or in addition  
16 to, receiving compensation under this section.

17 (d) CANCELLATION OF REPURCHASED AND DO-  
18 NATED LEASES.—

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

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

24 (e) NOTIFICATION OF LEASEHOLDERS.—Not later  
25 than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

1 the Secretary shall provide notice to holders of valid exist-  
2 ing Federal leases within the Wyoming Range Withdrawal  
3 Area of the opportunity for repurchase and retirement  
4 under this section.

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