To sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act of 2017”.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:
Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—FOREST RESTORATION

Sec. 101. Landscape assessment.
Sec. 102. Environmental review of collaboratively developed restoration projects.

TITLE II—RECREATION

Sec. 201. Otatsy Recreation Management Area.
Sec. 203. Trail-based recreation.

TITLE III—CONSERVATION

Sec. 301. Designation of wilderness areas.
Sec. 302. Administration of wilderness areas.
Sec. 303. Maps and legal descriptions.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the Seeley Lake Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.


(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Montana.
TITLE I—FOREST RESTORATION

SEC. 101. LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT.

(a) LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in collaboration with interested parties, shall complete a landscape assessment of the District.

(b) REQUIRED COMPONENTS.—The landscape assessment under subsection (a) shall—

(1) assess the ecological condition of forests and watersheds within the District; and

(2) identify restoration actions needed to facilitate ecosystem sustainability, resilience, and health by assisting in the recovery of forest ecosystems within the District.

(c) USE OF EXISTING ASSESSMENTS.—The Secretary may fulfill the requirement under subsection (a) through the use of any landscape assessment being carried out as of the date of enactment of this Act that contains the components required under subsection (b).

(d) RESTORATION SCHEDULE.—As soon as practicable after the completion of the landscape assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary, in collaboration with interested parties, shall develop for the District a 10-year schedule of restoration projects.
SEC. 102. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF COLLABORATIVELY DEveloped Restoration Projects.

(a) Definition of Collaboratively Developed Restoration Project.—In this section, the term “collaboratively developed restoration project” means an activity or set of activities that fulfills the eligibility requirements of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program under section 4003(b) of Public Law 111–11 (16 U.S.C. 7303(b)).

(b) Environmental Review.—A collaboratively developed restoration project within the District may be carried out in accordance with the provisions applicable to hazardous fuel reduction projects under sections 104, 105, and 106 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6514–6516).

(c) Objector Meeting.—In accordance with section 218.11 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), the Secretary may request a meeting with an objector to any collaboratively developed restoration project within the District.

TITLE II—RECREATION

SEC. 201. OTATSY RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA.

(a) Establishment.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the Lolo National Forest comprising approximately 2,013 acres, as generally de-
picted on the Map, is designated as the “Otatsy Recreation Management Area” (referred to in this section as the “recreation management area”).

(b) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the recreation management area in accordance with—

(1) this section, to conserve, protect, and enhance the scenic, fish and wildlife, recreational, backcountry heritage, and other natural resource values of the recreation management area; and

(2) any laws (including regulations) relating to the National Forest System.

(c) PROHIBITIONS.—Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e), the following shall be prohibited on Federal land within the recreation management area:

(1) Permanent roads.

(2) Timber harvest.

(3) Except as necessary to provide for snowmobile use, to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the recreation management area, and to protect public health and safety—

(A) the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles; and

(B) the establishment of temporary roads.

(d) USE OF SNOWMOBILES.—The use of snowmobiles shall be allowed within the recreation management area—
(1) between December 1 and April 1;

(2) during periods of adequate snow cover, as determined by the Secretary; and

(3) subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(e) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary may carry out any measures in the recreation management area that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of those activities with a State or local agency.

(f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the recreation management area (including any Federal land acquired after the date of enactment of this Act for inclusion in the recreation management area) is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

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

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.
SEC. 202. SPREAD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA.

(a) Establishment.—Subject to valid existing rights, certain Federal land in the Lolo National Forest, comprising approximately 3,835 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, is designated as the “Spread Mountain Recreation Area” (referred to in this section as the “recreation area”).

(b) Management.—The Secretary shall manage the recreation area in accordance with—

(1) this section, to conserve, protect, and enhance the scenic, fish and wildlife, recreational, backcountry heritage, and other natural resource values of the recreation area; and

(2) any laws (including regulations) relating to the National Forest System.

(c) Prohibitions.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the following shall be prohibited on the Federal land within the recreation area:

(1) Permanent roads.

(2) Timber harvest.

(3) Except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the recreation area and to protect public health and safety—

(A) the use of motorized vehicles; and

(B) the establishment of temporary roads.
(d) **Mechanized Vehicles, Pedestrians, and Horse Travel.**—Nothing in this section prohibits—

1. the use of mechanized vehicles, access by pedestrians, or horse travel within the recreation area; or

2. the construction of trails for use by mechanized vehicles, pedestrians, and horse travel within the recreation area.

(e) **Wildfire, Insect, and Disease Management.**—In accordance with this section, the Secretary may take any measures in the recreation area that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of those activities with a State or local agency.

(f) **Withdrawal.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the recreation area (including any Federal land acquired after the date of enactment of this Act for inclusion in the recreation area) is withdrawn from all forms of—

1. entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

2. location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

3. disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.
SEC. 203. TRAIL-BASED RECREATION.

(a) Definition of Collaboratively Developed.—In this section, the term “collaboratively developed” means a proposal that is developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

(1) includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and

(2) is transparent and nonexclusive.

(b) Expanded Trail Recreation Opportunities.—

(1) In General.—If a local collaborative group submits to the Secretary, by not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, a collaboratively developed proposal to improve motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail opportunities within the District, the Secretary—

(A) shall analyze the proposal in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) subject to appropriations, and in accordance with subsection (d), may provide for the construction of any of the routes included in the proposal.

(2) Priority.—In completing the analysis required by paragraph (1)(A), in accordance with subsection (d), the Secretary shall give priority to ex-
panding motorized and nonmotorized recreational
trail opportunities within the District that are in the
public interest.

(3) **DEADLINE.**—The Secretary shall complete
the analysis required by paragraph (1)(A) by not
later than 3 years after the date on which the Sec-
retary receives the applicable collaboratively devel-
oped proposal.

(e) **USE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND CONTRIBU-
TIONS.**—The Secretary may accept volunteer services and
contributions from non-Federal sources to construct and
maintain recreational trails under this section.

(d) **COMPLIANCE.**—In carrying out this section, the
Secretary shall comply with—

(1) each provision of law (including regulations)
that is generally applicable to the National Forest
System; and

(2) this Act.

(e) **EFFECT OF SECTION.**—Nothing in this section
affects the ownership or management of, or any other
right relating to, any non-Federal land (including any in-
terest in non-Federal land).
SEC. 301. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and subject to valid existing rights, the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) **Bob Marshall Wilderness Additions.**—Certain land in the Lolo National Forest, comprising approximately 39,422 acres generally depicted as the “North Fork Blackfoot-Monture Creek Addition (Bob Marshall Addition)” and approximately 7,784 acres generally depicted as the “Grizzly Basin of the Swan Range Addition” on the Map, is incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

(2) **Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition.**—Certain land in the Lolo National Forest, comprising approximately 4,462 acres generally depicted as the “West Fork Clearwater Addition” on the Map, is incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Mission Mountains Wilderness designated by Public Law 93–632 (88 Stat. 2153).

(3) **Scapegoat Wilderness Additions.**—Certain land in the Lolo National Forest, comprising
approximately 27,392 acres generally depicted as the
“North Fork Blackfoot-Monture Creek Addition
(Scapegoat Addition)” on the Map, is incorporated
in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the
Scapegoat Wilderness designated by Public Law 92–
395 (86 Stat. 578).

SEC. 302. ADMINISTRATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
each wilderness addition designated by section 301 shall
be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the
Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any
reference in that Act to the effective date of the Act shall
be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment
of this Act.

(b) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND IN-
TERESTS.—Any land within the boundary of a wilderness
area designated by section 301 that is acquired by the
United States shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area in which
the land is located;

(2) be withdrawn in accordance with subsection
(c); and

(3) be managed in accordance with this section,
the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), and
any other applicable law.
(c) **Withdrawal.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land designated as wilderness by section 301 is withdrawn from all forms of—

1. entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
2. location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
3. disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(d) **Wildfire, Insect, and Disease Management.**—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may carry out any measures in the wilderness additions designated by section 301 that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of those activities with a State or local agency.

(e) **Access to Private Land.**—In accordance with section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary shall provide to any owner of private land within the boundary of a wilderness addition designated by section 301 access to the private land.

(f) **Fish and Wildlife.**—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State with
respect to fish and wildlife, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping.

(g) **Snow Sensors and Stream Gauges.**—Nothing in this title prevents the installation or maintenance of hydrological, meteorological, or climatological instrumentation in a wilderness addition designated by section 301, if the Secretary determines that the installation or maintenance of the instrumentation is necessary to advance the scientific, educational, or conservation purposes of the wilderness area.

(h) **Livestock.**—The grazing of livestock in the wilderness additions established by section 301, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary determines to be necessary, in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2) the guidelines described in House Report 96–617 to accompany H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress.

(i) **Outfitting and Guide Activities.**—

(1) **In General.**—In accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)), commercial services (including author-
ized outfitting and guide activities) within the wil-
derness additions designated by section 301 may be
authorized to the extent necessary for activities that
fulfill the recreational or other wilderness purposes
of the wilderness areas, in accordance with section

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this title requires the
Secretary to modify any permit in effect as of the
date of enactment of this Act to provide outfitting
and guide services within the wilderness additions
designated by section 301 on a determination by the
Secretary that the activities are in compliance with
section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
1133(d)(5)).

(j) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designation of a wilder-
ness addition by section 301 shall not create any
protective perimeter or buffer zone around the wil-
derness area.

(2) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact
that a nonwilderness activity or use can be seen or
heard from an area within a wilderness addition des-
ignated by section 301 shall not preclude the con-
duct of the activity or use outside the boundary of
the wilderness area.
SEC. 303. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of—

(1) the Otatsy Recreation Management Area established by section 201(a);

(2) the Spread Mountain Recreation Area established by section 202(a); and

(3) each wilderness addition designated by section 301.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit the maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(c) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under subsection (b) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct any typographical errors in the maps or legal descriptions.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (b) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices
of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.