



Feb. 18, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of chapters representing Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, we urge you to support the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act (H.R. 803) when considered on the House floor next week.

During these unprecedented times, hunters and anglers need access to quality public lands and waters more than ever. Across the nation we saw increased hunting and fishing license sales due to COVID-19. This could lead to higher demand for access to quality public lands and waters, and as such, H.R. 803 would help ensure that critical landscapes will be conserved for future generations.

H.R. 803 consist of eight bills that would designate about 1.49 million acres of public land as wilderness, incorporate more than 1,000 river miles as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and withdraw approximately 1.2 million acres of public land from new oil and gas development. The bills are:

- [Grand Canyon Protection Act](#), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
- [San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act](#), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)
- [Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation and Working Forests Act](#), Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)
- [Central Coast Heritage Protection Act](#), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
- Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
- [Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act](#), Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)
- Colorado Wilderness Act, Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)
- Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

Contained within the landscapes highlighted in H.R. 803 are watersheds, migration corridors, and ranges critical to the health of species including Southern California steelhead, Chinook salmon, elk, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep and many other species. Designating wilderness areas, establishing stream miles as wild and scenic and permanently withdrawing one-million acres of public land from mining development in the Grand Canyon will safeguard the future of our hunting and fishing traditions that depend on our ability to conserve quality habitat and address the needs of wildlife.

BHA chapters urge you to support and pass the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act through the House.

Sincerely,

Justin Nelson
Chairman
Arizona Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Nick Zagaris
Chapter and Event Committee Chairman
California Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

David Lien and Don Holmstrom
Co-Chairmen
Colorado Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Cameron Lankhaar and Carmen Vanbianchi
Co-Chairmen
Washington Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

