

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior
to utilize grazing for wildfire risk reduction, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and
referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary
of the Interior to utilize grazing for wildfire risk reduc-
tion, and for other purposes.

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 “Strategic Grazing to
5 Reduce Risk of Wildfire Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**
7 **TION.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
10 “National Forest System” has the meaning given

1 the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
2 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
3 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

4 (2) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
5 has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the
6 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
7 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

8 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
9 retary concerned” means—

10 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
11 spect to National Forest System land; and

12 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
13 spect to public lands.

14 (b) STRATEGY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary concerned, in coordination with holders of
18 permits to graze livestock on Federal land under the
19 jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned and in con-
20 sultation with other relevant stakeholders described
21 in paragraph (3), shall develop a strategy to utilize
22 livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool
23 consistent with the laws applicable to the Secretary
24 concerned.

1 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy developed
2 under paragraph (1) shall consider—

3 (A) the use of grazing on vacant grazing
4 allotments during instances of drought, wildfire,
5 or other natural disasters that disrupt grazing
6 on allotments already permitted;

7 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
8 hazardous fuels, including on Federal land
9 within the wildland urban interface (as defined
10 in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restora-
11 tion Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511)), and other
12 critical areas identified by the Secretaries con-
13 cerned;

14 (C) recommending the use of targeted
15 grazing when providing technical assistance to
16 communities and Indian Tribes in their efforts
17 to reduce wildfire risk and implement wildfire
18 management strategies;

19 (D) the use of temporary permits to pro-
20 mote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of
21 cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses,
22 including any potential need for the use of graz-
23 ing outside permitted animal unit months and
24 season of use, as appropriate for the explicit

1 purposes of targeted fuels reduction of cheat-
2 grass and other invasive annual grasses;

3 (E) the use of targeted grazing to aid in
4 controlling invasive annual grasses, including
5 cheatgrass;

6 (F) the use of targeted grazing in postfire
7 recovery efforts, as appropriate;

8 (G) an integrated use of advanced tech-
9 nologies such as virtual fencing to dynamically
10 adjust livestock placement;

11 (H) the use of grazing on Federal land in
12 a manner that—

13 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
14 that Federal land; and

15 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
16 land management plan;

17 (I) a workforce development plan to ensure
18 that Federal workers have the necessary skills
19 to manage livestock grazing programs and de-
20 ploy technologies;

21 (J) the use of cooperative agreements with
22 States, local governments, Indian Tribes, and
23 local firefighting agencies to reduce hazardous
24 fuels and invasive annual grasses, including re-
25 imbursements authorized under other provisions

1 of law, including under good neighbor agree-
2 ments under section 8206 of the Agricultural
3 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

4 (K) other applicable statutory or regu-
5 latory authorities, as determined by the Sec-
6 retary concerned.

7 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-
8 egy under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned
9 shall consult with—

10 (A) applicable States;

11 (B) applicable units of local government;

12 (C) applicable Indian Tribes;

13 (D) applicable utility authorities;

14 (E) applicable firefighting agencies;

15 (F) land management organizations;

16 (G) outdoor recreation, conservation, and
17 sportsmen organizations; and

18 (H) other interested members of the appli-
19 cable community.

20 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—

21 Nothing in this section affects any livestock grazing pro-
22 gram being carried out as of the date of enactment of this
23 Act by the Secretary concerned.