A Bill

The Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act designates certain lands around the east and south side of Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest as: a) Wilderness Additions to the Three Sisters Wilderness and Waldo Lake Wilderness; and b) a Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area to preserve the wild and untrammeled nature of the forest while allowing the current multi-user recreation activities to be continued.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act”

SECTION 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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SECTION 3. KEEP WALDO WILD PROTECTIONS

(a) Definitions
In this section:
(1) Waldo Lake Wilderness. - The term “Waldo Lake Wilderness” means the land designated as wilderness by section 3(4) of the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 USC § 1132; Pub. L. 98-328 § 3(10)).
(2) Three Sisters Wilderness
The term “Three Sisters Wilderness” means the land designated as wilderness by section 3(4) of the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 (16 USC § 1132; Pub. L. 88-577 § 3).
(3) Charlton Wilderness Addition
The term “Charlton Wilderness” means certain land in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests in the State of Oregon part of the Waldo Lake Wilderness, comprising approximately 5,600 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “XXXX”, dated xx 20xx.
(4) West Waldo Wilderness Addition
The term “West Waldo Wilderness Addition” means certain land in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon adjacent to and part of the Waldo Lake Wilderness and comprising approximately 3,400 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “XXXX”, dated xx 20xx.
(5) Deer Camp Wilderness Addition
The term “Deer Camp Wilderness Addition” means certain land in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon adjacent to and part of the Waldo Lake Wilderness and comprising approximately 2,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “XXXX”, dated xx, 20xx.

(6) Cultus Wilderness Addition
The term “Cultus Wilderness Addition” means certain land in the Deschutes National Forest in the State of Oregon adjacent to and part of the Three Sisters Wilderness and comprising approximately 2,300 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “XXXX”, dated xx, 20xx.

(7) Betty Lake Wilderness Addition
The term “Betty Lake Wilderness Addition” means certain land in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon adjacent to and part of the Waldo Wilderness and comprising approximately 1,700 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “XXXX”, dated xx, 20xx.

(8) Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area
The term “Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area” means the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area, comprising approximately 60,000 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area”, dated xx, 20xx, and established under subsection (c)(1)(A) of this section. The Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area includes the following units located in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests in the State of Oregon: Maiden Peak, South Waldo, Charlton, Cultus, Middle Waldo, Marilyn Lakes, Deer Camp Lake, and Betty Lake. The intent of this act is to manage those areas within the Backcountry Recreation Area boundaries as primitive or semi-primitive areas in perpetuity.

(9) Secretary
The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) Purposes
The purposes of the Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act are to—

(1) Wilderness Additions - create additional areas of Wilderness contiguous or adjacent to existing Wilderness that will preserve the primitive nature, wildlife habitat, and quietude of the forest and watershed immediately surrounding Waldo Lake.

(2) Backcountry Recreation Area - protect the remainder of the Waldo Lake watershed and immediate surrounding natural area that is not inside current or proposed Wilderness areas but is appropriate to remain a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized area by designation as a Backcountry Recreation Area.

(i) Allowed Activities – continued non-motorized trail activities such as hiking, mountain biking, skiing and snowshoeing, horse riding, hunting, and traditional Native American seasonal harvesting by tribal members. The creation of new trails is allowed but limited [Section (d).(2).(D)].

(ii) Prohibited Activities – new human developments, mining, logging, drilling, new roads, motorized activities off existing developed roads, and low altitude flying (less than 1000 feet AGL) by human directed apparatus such as airplanes, helicopters, hot air balloon, drones, or jet packs.

(3) Water Quality - maintain the water quality of Waldo Lake as one of the purist freshwater bodies in the world
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(4) **Wildlife** - maintain the area’s core wildlife habitats and connectivity of the cascade wildlife corridor along the cascade crest.

(5) **Human Encroachment** - preserve the highly valued non-motorized recreational opportunities of the area from further human development.

(6) **Scenic Treasures** – protect the unique scenic values of the area’s lakes, streams, buttes, geologic features, and vistas.

(7) **Cultural Protection** – The land covered by the Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act is land ceded by the Molalla, Kalapuya and Chinookan Tribes confederated under the Kalapuya Etc. Treaty of Jan. 1855, who’s descendants are represented by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and that ceded territory and usual and accustomed areas of the Klamath Tribes and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are also nearby or overlap this landscape.” Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act will provide protection for Native American sacred sites and cultural resource, and access for tribal members of the above tribes.

(8) **Forest and Wildlife Protection** - provide increased protection for its high-altitude old growth forests, remote lakes, wildlife and wild flora, and wildlife habitat along the crest of the Cascade Mountains in central Oregon.

(c) **Establishment**

(1) **Establishment**

(A) The Secretary shall establish the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests in the State of Oregon, comprising approximately 60,000 acres, as generally depicted on the map described in subsection (a)(8) of this section.

(B) The Secretary shall establish Waldo Lake Wilderness additions

The Charlton Lake, West Waldo, Deer Camp, and Betty Lake Wilderness Additions, as depicted on the map “Waldo Lake Wilderness Additions” are hereby designated as wilderness, subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act [16 USC §1131 et. seq.] and shall become a component of the National Wilderness System and shall be added to the Waldo Lake Wilderness. Where the Wilderness boundaries are adjacent to existing trails and roads, the boundaries will be set back 250 feet from those trails and roads.

(C) The Secretary shall establish Three Sisters Wilderness addition

The Cultus Lake Wilderness Addition, as depicted on the map “XXXX” is hereby designated as wilderness, subject to the provisions of the Wilderness Act [16 USC §1131 et seq.], shall become a component of the National Wilderness System, and shall be added to the Three Sisters Wilderness. Where the Wilderness boundaries are adjacent to existing trails and roads, the boundaries will be set back 250 feet from those trails and roads.

(d) **Administration**

(1) **In general**

The Secretary shall administer the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area in accordance with this section and the laws (including regulations) applicable to the National Forest System and shall
administer the wilderness designated by this Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act [16 USC §1131 et. seq.].

(2) Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area Management Plan

(A) Timeline for planning
Not later than two (2) years after the date of establishment of the Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act, the Forest Service shall prepare a comprehensive Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area Management Plan.

(B) Requirements
The Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area Management Plan shall provide for a broad range of resources and values within the Backcountry Recreation Area, including, but not limited to —

(i) non-motorized recreation
(ii) harvesting of traditional Native American forest products by tribal members, such as gathering mushrooms and material to make baskets; and
(iii) educational and research opportunities.

(C) Public Steering Committee
A Public Steering Committee will be formed comprised of representatives from stakeholder groups such as: relevant environmental groups, local forest collaborative groups, local governments, appropriate federally recognized tribes with jurisdictional claims to the area, mountain biking groups, hunting groups, equestrian groups, and other engaged recreation groups as appropriate. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide community input to management decisions made by the Forest Service. The US Forest Service will designate, support, and manage the activities of the Steering Committee.

(D) Trails
The trails designated and depicted on the map Forest Service “XXXX Trails maps” shall be the permitted trails in the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area upon establishment of the Area. Trails will not allow motorized conveyances. Additional trails may be established in order to complete currently considered mountain biking systems, such as a connector route for the Oregon Timber Trail from Bunchgrass ridge to South Waldo, select connector routes adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail to the east of Waldo Lake, and a new trail from the intersection of the Lemish Lake trail and the 4636 Rd. along the south side of that road past Little Cultus Lake and on to the Cultus Lake Lodge.
However, new trails for both mountain biking and other allowed uses shall not add more than 10% of existing total trail miles to the trail network existing at the time of establishment of the Backcountry Recreation Area in order to preserve the backcountry nature of the area. The Steering Committee shall advise, and the Forest Service will have final decision-making authority for such new trail work in the WBRA. The Waldo Backcountry Recreation Management Plan shall only provide for non-motorized-use of these trails.

(E) Forest Management
Returning fire back to the landscape is an important goal and shall be done using input from Native American tribes consistent with traditional cultural burning practices and the latest fire and forest management science.

(F) Plan amendments
The Secretary may amend the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area Management Plan as the Secretary may determine to be necessary, consistent with the procedures, purposes, and prohibitions of this section.

(3) Management of newly designated wilderness
(A) Not later than two (2) years after the date of the date of establishment of the areas designated as wilderness by this Act, the Forest Service shall either:
   (i) prepare a wilderness management plan for the areas designated as wilderness by this Act according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act [16 USC §1131 et seq.] and its implementing regulations; or
   (ii) amend existing plans for the Waldo Wilderness Area and/or the Three Sisters Wilderness to include management guidelines for the areas designated as wilderness by this Act.

(4) Cultural and historic resource inventory
(A) In general
Not later than one (1) year after the date of establishment of the Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act Area, the Secretary shall review and revise the inventory of the cultural and historic resources on the public land in the Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act Area. The Forest Service shall ensure the protection and tribal access for their use of these resources.

(5) Prohibitions
(A) Motorized vehicles and engines shall not be permitted in the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area with the exception of existing roads located at the outside boundaries of units XX, 20xx. Roads scheduled for decommissioning on that date shall not be included as existing roads for the purposes of this Act. The use of gas-powered wheeled and tracked equipment is permitted in the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area for the maintenance of permitted trails and for fire-fighting.
   (B) There shall be no permanent commercial enterprise and no permanent road within the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area consistent with the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area Management Plan. Commercial services may be performed within the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area to the minimum extent necessary for activities that are proper for realizing the recreational or conservation purposes of the area consistent with the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Management Plan.

(6) Hunting and fishing
(A) In general
Subject to applicable Federal and State law, the Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing in the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area.

(B) Limitation
The Secretary shall designate zones in which, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment of the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area, in consultation with the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

(7) Timber cutting
(A) The Secretary shall prohibit the cutting and/or selling of trees in the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area other than for the maintenance of campgrounds and roads.
(B) Incidental removal of trees is permitted if conducted for the purpose of maintenance of existing trails, roads, and campgrounds, as designated by the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Management Plan.

(8) Withdrawal
(A) Subject to valid existing rights, all lands in the Keep Waldo Wild Protection Act are withdrawn from—
   (i) any form of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public lands laws
   (ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
   (iii) disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws.

(9) Recreation
(A) Recognition
Congress recognizes non-motorized recreation as an appropriate use of the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area in the areas where it is currently allowed. Motorized use will continue to be allowed only as specified herein and where it is currently authorized at the time of passage of this Act.
(B) Minimum levels
The Management Plan shall permit recreation activities at not less than the levels in existence on XXXX, 20xx.
(C) Higher levels
The Management Plan may provide for levels of recreation use higher than the levels in existence on XXXX, 20xx, if such uses are consistent with the protection of the resource values of the Waldo Backcountry Recreation Area. Any increase in usage must be recommended by the Steering Committee and approved by the Forest Service.