

## **RESCINDING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE HEALTH RULE**

Passed 212-202

### **SUMMARY:**

The House passed a bill that would rescind the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, which puts conservation, access to nature, wildlife, and climate change mitigation on equal footing with energy extraction on BLM public lands. (*April 30, 2024, Roll Call No. 165*).

### **BACKGROUND:**

Until earlier this year, public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management have subordinated conserving wildlife and ecosystems to oil and gas development and other extractive activities. These toxic practices contribute to climate change and destroy habitat to the detriment of wildlife and natural places. BLM lands face increasingly challenging threats from the joint biodiversity and climate crisis, but only 14% of BLM lands receive adequate protections and most are open to extractive uses. In 2024, BLM promulgated the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule to require public land planning to consider conservation, watershed and land health, restoration of damaged lands, mitigation of adverse impacts, and protection of critical natural resources. The rule also prioritizes nature loss, protecting wildlife, safeguarding outdoor access and recreation, and designating and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah) introduced the Western Economic Security Today Act of 2024 (WEST Act), H.R. 3397. H.R. 3397 would rescind the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, undermining the BLM's newly enhanced conservation and sustainability efforts on public lands and preventing any similar rulemaking in the future. This would return to the unbalanced multi-use public land system of the past that favored extraction of fossil fuels on public lands that cause climate change. It would also render ineffective the land management health practices, mitigation and restoration tools, and protections for wildlife habitat in the BLM's Conservation and Landscape Health Rule.

### **OUTCOME:**

On April 30, 2024, the House passed H.R. 3397, 212-202. "No" was the pro-conservation vote.