

REINSTATING FIRED FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS

Failed: 48-52

SUMMARY:

The Senate rejected an amendment that would have offered support to reinstate federal land managers working for the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service who were fired, leaving these important agencies understaffed (*February 20, 2025, Roll Call No. 68*).

BACKGROUND:

During the first months of 2025, the Trump Administration laid off more than 5,000 workers from federal land management agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. This included rangers, biologists, trail crew members, archaeologists, maintenance workers, educators, and others whose job was to ensure the welfare of our natural resources and those who visit our national parks, refuges and public lands.

As a result, these firings left our federal lands understaffed and undermaintained. It removed on-the-ground stewards who benefited federal lands and wildlife, and left roles unfilled that would have provided oversight to protect lands from industrial energy development, livestock operations, and mining. With less staff, agencies have been unable to conduct sorely needed conservation and restoration activities, such as surveying and caretaking for imperiled wildlife that need urgent attention or restoring degraded streams and fish habitat.

Senator Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) sponsored Amendment 540 to the FY 2025 Senate Budget Resolution that initiated the Senate reconciliation process. This amendment would have reinstated the thousands of federal employees fired at the beginning of 2025, which would have restored the ability of federal agencies to complete their popular, mandated, statutory duties to safeguard our nation's natural and cultural resources.

OUTCOME:

On February 20, 2025, the Senate rejected Amendment 540 to S. Con. Res. 7, 48-52. "Yes" was the pro-conservation vote.