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## NLCS (National Landscape Conservation System) Background

-----What: Full Senate Vote On Senate Omnibus Federal Lands Bill (NLCS), the new Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 1008, which includes the dreaded BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and 190 other land grab bills in one package. Most Senators have something in the package so they will look the other way on the NLCS and other bad parts of the bill. You must make sure they know they will be held responsible at election time.

The vote on the NLCS (National Landscape Conservation System) (New Senate Omnibus Bill Number S 3213) (26,000,000 acre NLCS set up and authored by former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt) is scheduled to take place before Congress leaves. Somewhere in that time when the Senate thinks you are distracted, they will vote on the Senate Omnibus Federal Lands Bill (NLCS). It has no number yet.

-----To see a map of all the areas affected by the NLCS, go to [www.landrights.org](http://www.landrights.org) We have posted a nationwide map with the NLCS on it. It is a big file so you have to be patient as it loads on to your computer.

Senator Diane Feinstein is planning to add 6,000,000 acres more of the California Desert to the package taking it to well over 32,000,000 acres. Majority Leader Harry Reid has added over 100 bills to the Omnibus package so the number of acres could be over 50,000,000 million acres or more.

You must make sure both your Senators know you will hold them personally responsible if the Omnibus Bill and the NLCS pass the Senate.

This huge Senate Omnibus Bill that includes over 190 separate bills that Majority Leader Harry Reid has packaged together. His idea is to put bills from as many Senators as possible in the Omnibus Bill so the Senators will not look closely at the NLCS and other bad bills that are included.

### \*\*\*\*\*ACTION ITEMS

\*\*\*\*\*What You Should Do Now!

-----1. Call, fax and e-mail both your Senators immediately to oppose the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), now part of the Senate Omnibus Federal Lands Bill (No Number Yet). Call any Senator at (202) 224-3121. You can ask for his or her staff person who handles the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). Ask for their fax and e-mail address.

-----2. Call, fax and e-mail all the other Senators from your state. It is too late to send a letter. You need to call and get the fax number.

Deluge your Senators with e-mails, faxes and calls opposing the giant 26,000,000 acre BLM National Landscape Conservation Area land grab. (Plus the 6,000,000 million acres Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) is going to add). Plus all the millions of acres in the entire Senate Omnibus Federal Lands Bill.

-----3. Forward this message to as many people on your list as possible.

-----4. Call your both your Senators to let them know you oppose using Omnibus bills to pass a whole lot of bills at the same time. The NLCS is included. You need to focus on the National Landscape Conservation System and the numerous Wilderness Bills included.

-----5. Think of this bill as the National Landscape Conservation System (26,000,000 acre BLM land lockup) and the new Senate Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008. But included are many other bills.

There are 10 new Wilderness Areas; We've listed the Sponsor in the House or Senate and the early bill number before it was put in this giant Omnibus Land Grab Bill (S 3213).

Monongahela National Forest Wilderness in WV  
Virginia Ridge and Valley Wilderness, Virginia  
Mt. Hood Wilderness, Oregon  
Copper Salmon Wilderness, Oregon

Locks up 26 million acres of various BLM lands in the National Landscape Conservation System. Below is an analysis of the NLCS, National Landscape Conservation System.

Your calls are critical.

Be sure to forward this message to your friends.

You need to know who is on the Committee that passed the NLCS on to the floor. You must make sure they get credit in November.

This is huge:

-----Massive areas of millions of acres of Wilderness Study Areas will be changed into full Wilderness bypassing the normal state-by-state Congressional vote. This is a huge aspect of HR 2016 that they are sneaking by while people are focused on other areas of the bill.

-----Vote Report – ALRA will send you an e-mail telling you how your Member of Congress voted. You need to let him or her know you are watching the vote on HR 2016 carefully.

Please keep up the pressure on your Senators.

The office of your Senators must feel heat for a huge number of calls, faxes and e-mails. Call any Congressman at (202) 224-3121.

When you call, ask for your Senators office. Then ask for the staff person handling the NLCS, National Landscape Conservation System (HR 2016). Tell your Senator to vote NO on any Omnibus Federal Lands Bill.

This is a huge vote that will set the tone for other votes coming up in the House.

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This is Bruce Babbitt's special project. If you want to send Babbitt and his friends a message, make your calls; send your faxes and e-mails. Otherwise Babbitt wins by sneaking the National Landscape Conservation (NLCS) System through the back door.

The NLCS was a back room; underhanded, dark of night sneak attack. You have a chance to stop it before it becomes permanent.

Don't let Babbitt win. He did so much damage during the Clinton Administration. This is your chance to strike back.

You can see the NLCS map on your computer yourself by going to [www.landrights.org](http://www.landrights.org). You will see the link right on the homepage. This is a large file, so it will take a minute or two to come up on your computer screen.

The NLCS will be 32,000,000 acres if Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) does what she wants to do and adds a large part of the California Desert Bill to HR 2016 over on the Senate side.

-----Urgent Action Required

-----This is an all out call to action.

The Senate is expected to vote this week on the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) as part of the Senate Omnibus Federal Lands Bill. No exact title or number available yet.

The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) will essentially place a National Park like regulatory overlay over the top of 26 million BLM acres.

You need to call, fax and e-mail your Congressman to oppose this giant land grab. Please read this message carefully. See all the BLM areas that will be affected.

If NLCS (HR 2016) passes, it will hurt your state and community.

We've sent you a list of all the Members of the House Natural Resources Committee. We sent previously you a summary of how they voted on HR 2016 in Committee. How they voted is repeated below. Make sure your Congressman gets a call giving him or her credit for their vote if they are on the list below.

-----You must call, e-mail and fax any Members of the Committee from your State urging him or her to vote no on HR 2016. They will be the leaders both for and against HR 2016 on the House Floor.

-----Call at least five neighbors, friends and business associates to urge them to call, fax and e-mail against HR2016. Send this message to your whole list if possible.

See Action Items Below:

NLCS Plans To Put Into Law The Babbitt National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) he set up in the dark of Night in the last few months of the Clinton Administration.

HR 2016 Essentially Places A National Park Type Regulations Overlay Over Millions Of Acres Of BLM Land. You know that will hurt multiple-use and private property in or near those areas.

Access to and use of 26,000,000 million acres of Federal land will be affected. If Senator Diane Feinstein gets her way, she will add 6,000,000 more for a total of 32,000,000 acres off limits to you.

Vast amounts of private land will be limited in use and access.

New federal regulations will be imposed on vast amounts of private land.

-----Here are just some of the people who will be hurt by HR 2016.

Ranchers;

Miners;

Oil and Gas explorationists;

Hunters;

Fishermen;

Off-Highway Vehicle users;

Campers;

Other recreation advocates;

Adjacent Private property owners;

Inholders;

Horseback riders;

Forestry advocates;

Rock Collectors;

Tourists;

and many others will lose if the National Landscape Conservation System passes into law.

-----Local rural communities will be especially hurt. The economic damage will spread like a cancer. HR 2016 must be stopped.

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From "Federal Parks and Recreation Newsletter:" We have added to it.

-----Congress seeks to codify new NLCS Land Grab. Seventeen House members from both parties teamed up in April, 2007 to introduce legislation (HR 2016) that would give the National Landscape Conservation System official Congressional certification.

The system, administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was created administratively by former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt during the Clinton years.

In June 2000 the Interior Department under the guidance of former Secretary Babbitt established the 26 million acre NLCS in BLM to protect what they called special areas.

The NLCS consists of major conservation areas in 12 western states, including 15 national monuments, 13 national conservation areas, Steens Mountain area in Oregon, Headwaters Forest Reserve in northern California, 36 wild and scenic rivers, 148 wilderness areas, 4,264 miles of national trails, and more than 600 wilderness study areas.

Making the NLCS permanent threatens recreation, access, grazing, mining, oil and gas and many other uses. Gradually these areas will be turned into parks with traditional uses strangled and roads cut off. Private property owners and inholders in the areas can say so long to their property rights. You will see new areas nominated for NLCS status gradually eroding BLM multiple-use.

Four Democratic senators introduced counterpart legislation (S 1139) in April, 2007. Said chief sponsor of the Senate bill, Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), "Given the broad public support for these areas, I expect this bill to be non-controversial and it is my hope that it will be able to move quickly through the Congress and enactment into law." Bingaman chairs the Senate Energy Committee. Non-Controversial?

The four lead House sponsors of HR 2016, all co-chairs of an NLCS caucus, are Reps. Mary Bono (R-CA), Rick Renzi (R-AZ), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Jim Moran (D-VA). Reps. Bono and Renzi need to receive lots of contacts. The others are not likely to change their position but should receive as many calls as possible.

Creating this massive new conservation area program (read land grab) will take money especially from the National Park Service that is way behind in deferred maintenance and other uses. It will also take money from vast areas of BLM lands. The NLCS will eventually become a huge new agency with thousands of additional bureaucrats added over time.

Any promises made when these areas like Steens Mountain and the Missouri Breaks National Monument and all the other affected monuments as well as the Grand Staircase National Monument and many others will be conveniently forgotten as more and more regulations are added.

The NLCS will convert millions of acres of now accessible BLM land into park-like areas with park-like regulations and will be gradually managed like a park. Gradually existing uses will be strangled out of existence.

Supporters of the NLCS insist they are not competing with other conservation programs for fiscal 2008 appropriations. One said, "We do want to see a shift in the funding priorities of the BLM itself. Specifically, the oil and gas program of the BLM has become the dominant program of the BLM at the expense of some the best lands and waters of the American West."

It is the nature of the Congressional appropriations beast that money for all programs in the Interior appropriations bill comes out of the same pot and the programs compete with each other.

One of the sponsors of the bill to codify the NLCS, Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO), said the measure would not affect management of lands or existing rights or public access. Added Salazar, "The bill does, however, recognize that these landscapes are of great interest to the American people and should be managed to protect their values."

Does anyone believe setting up the NLCS would not change the management of these areas? If that were true, why would Congress want to do it?

American Land Rights will be sending out thousands of faxes, letters and e-mails to alert landowners, rural communities and allies about the danger and work to build more allies in Congress to stop the NLCS from passing. ALRA needs your support to defeat the massive new National Landscape Conservation System.

It is critical that private property owners and Federal land users make a big push now to head off this attack on private property and access to Federal lands.

It is so much cheaper to fight it early than to wait. Hit it hard now. Call, write and fax your Congressman. You must overwhelm his or her office with calls between now and when Congress goes home. You may call any Senator at (202) 224-3121.

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