

OAK FLAT WITHDRAWAL FROM DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION IS INCLUDED IN BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

Budget reconciliation is underway (read more about the full process here), with House and Senate lawmakers crafting a reported \$3.5 trillion package of new spending and tax breaks. Reconciliation instructions in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget resolution allow up to \$1.75 trillion of the package to come from new borrowing.

The FY 2022 concurrent budget resolution includes instructions for 11 Senate authorizing committees and 12 House authorizing committees to increase deficits by specific amounts over the next decade, up to a maximum of \$1.75 trillion. The budget resolution also includes instructions for both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee to reduce deficits by at least \$1 billion each. Because

lawmakers have promised the package will be fully paid for, this means the Finance and Ways and Means committees will need to come up with offsets for the full \$1.75 trillion of borrowing in addition to any new spending or tax breaks they propose.

The Reconciliation Budget includes the Oak Flat withdrawal included when the House Natural Resources Committee passed the Save Oak Flat Act which would reverse a 2014 decision to give the land the Resolution Copper for a Copper mine via a land exchange. This is included in on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, SEC. 70201. OAK FLAT WITHDRAWAL Subtitle B- Subcommittee on National Subtitle B—Subcommittee.

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Protect Oak Flat Billboard, a collaboration of NSRGNTS artists and Apache Stronghold unify to bring awareness of Oak Flat issue. Billboard is on Interstate 40 near Arizona-New Mexico border.

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(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DISPOSAL.—The term “disposal” means that the lands identified are not available under the

proceedings outlined under section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713).

(2) ENTRY.—The term “entry” has the meaning as it is used under section 103(j) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(j)), in its application to lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(3) LOCATION.—The term “location” has the meaning as it is used under section 2320 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 23), in its application to lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(4) OAK FLAT WITHDRAWAL AREA.—the term “Oak Flat” means the approximately 2,422 acres of Forest System land in the Tonto National Forest in southeastern Arizona commonly known as “Oak Flat” and generally depicted as “Oak Flat Withdrawal Area” on the map titled “Oak Flat Withdrawal” and dated June 15, 2021.

(5) PATENT.—The term

“patent” has the meaning as it is used under section 2325 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 29), in its application to lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (16 U.S.C. 539p) is repealed.

(c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of the enactment of this section, Oak Flat is withdrawn from all forms of disposal, location, entry, and patent.

Committees are currently in the process of writing their respective portions of the reconciliation bill. Once that is finished, the process allows for each chamber’s Budget Committee to combine each part into one reconciliation bill, to be voted on by the full chamber. The deadline for authorizing committees to report their respective bills to their respective Budget Committees is September 15, although that date is not binding.