

2009

**TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF NEW WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA
SUBMITTED BY: THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, in the current congressional session the U.S. Senate voted to set aside more than 2 million acres in nine states as protected wilderness; and

WHEREAS, this bill did not include lands designated for wilderness in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the last Montana additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System occurred in 1983; and

WHEREAS, fourteen wilderness advocates, including past national and local political leaders and past National Forest Service officers, recently signed a letter to Montana's U.S. Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester and U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg, urging them to make new wilderness designations in Montana a priority; and

WHEREAS, there is great public expectation that some Montana lands may be added to our Wilderness Preservation System which includes the following campaigns and proposals:

1. **The Blackfoot-Clearwater Cooperative Stewardship Project**
2. **The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership Proposal**
3. **The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Campaign**
4. **The Sleeping Giant and Gates of the Mountain Wilderness Campaign**
5. **The Great Burn Proposal**
6. **The Winton Weydemeyer Wilderness Campaign**
7. **The Rocky Mountain Front Wilderness Campaign; and**

WHEREAS, the Back Country Horsemen of Montana have endorsed many of these proposals and would like to see additional acres combined into our National Wilderness Preservation System. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Back Country Horsemen of Montana calls upon its chapters and members to work jointly with others and assist with drafting proposals to further the preservation of Montana's special places as wilderness; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Back Country Horsemen of Montana recommends the inclusion of the following affirming statement in all new Montana wilderness legislation: **Traditional recreational saddle and pack stock use is recognized as an appropriate and historical use of wilderness; and be it**

FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution and the supporting slide show be sent to the Back Country Horsemen of America, U.S. Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester, U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, the Montana Wilderness Association, The Wilderness Society, The Blackfoot-Clearwater Cooperative Stewardship Project, The Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership, Friends of the Scotchman Peaks, The Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front, Pat Williams, Dale Bosworth, Regional Forester Tom Tidwell, Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell, and whomever else deemed appropriate.