

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MONTANA

Resolution to Support Montanans for Healthy Rivers Legislative Proposal for Newly Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in Montana

Whereas, the purpose of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana is,

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.

To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To assist various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.

To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage.

Whereas, these public lands and rivers flowing through these lands are part of our national treasure and heritage and are held in trust for perpetuity to benefit current and future generations of all Americans;

Whereas, the Montanans for Healthy Rivers proposal for new wild and scenic rivers are for protecting the current and future use and enjoyment of rivers flowing through public lands;

Whereas, section 1(a)(b)(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states;

(1)(a)(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

(c) The purpose of this Act is to implement this policy by instituting a national wild and scenic rivers system, by designating the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which and standards according to which additional components may be added to the system from time to time.

Whereas, section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act states;

(4) Within wilderness areas in the national forests designated by this Act, (1) the President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as he may deem desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs,

water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest, including the road construction and maintenance essential to development and use thereof, upon his determination that such use or uses in the specific area will better serve the interests of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial; and (2) the grazing of livestock, where established prior to September 3, 1964, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Whereas, section (7)(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states;

(7)(a) The Federal Power Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act (41 Stat. 1063), as amended (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), on or directly affecting any river which is designated in section 3 of this Act as a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system or which is hereafter designated for inclusion in that system, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established, as determined by the Secretary charged with its administration.

Whereas, the damming of rivers, the flooding of reservoirs and the building of roads directly impacts the Wilderness values of designated Wilderness Areas, and the current and future use, enjoyment and purpose of the Backcountry Horsemen; and

Whereas, having rivers in Wilderness and other Federal public lands designated as “Wild and Scenic” by the US congress prevents the threat of damming rivers; and

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the chairman of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana send a letter to Senators Tester and Daines, Montana’s forthcoming congressman, and Interior Secretary Zinke asking that they introduce the Montanans for Healthy Rivers citizens legislative proposal for new wild and scenic river designations on select rivers and streams in western Montana, in order to maintain current and future use and values for which those rivers and streams are eligible to be designated as Wild and Scenic.

This resolution was approved by the BCHM delegates this 26th day of March, 2017.



Brad Pollman
Chairman, Back Country Horsemen of Montana

MONTANANS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS DRAFT CITIZEN PROPOSAL FOR NEW WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

| RIVER/STREAM | REACH | LENGTH (miles) | VALUES |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Clark Fork Watershed | | | |
| Cache Creek | Source to Fish Creek | 11 | Fisheries, Recreation, Wildlife |
| Monture Creek | Source to Forest Boundary | 17 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| NF Blackfoot | Source to Forest Boundary | 26 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| NF Fish Creek | Source to Fish Creek | 15 | Fisheries, Recreation |
| Rock Creek | Forest Boundary to Clark Fork River | 35 | Fisheries, Recreation |
| Straight Creek | Source to North Fork Fish Creek | 8 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| WF Fish Creek | Source to Fish Creek | 9 | Fisheries, Geology, Botany |
| Middle Fork Flathead Watershed | | | |
| Basin Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 5 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Clack Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 2 | Fisheries |
| Dolly Varden Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 21 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Gateway Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 5 | Scenery, Recreation |
| Granite Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 8 | Fisheries, History, Recreation, Scenery |
| Lake Creek | Scott Lake to Middle Fork Flathead | 1 | Geology, History, Scenery |
| Morrison Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 5 | Fisheries |
| Schafer Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 2 | Fisheries |
| Strawberry Creek | Source to Middle Fork Flathead River | 10 | Fisheries, Scenery |
| North Fork Flathead Watershed | | | |
| Trail Creek | Source to North Fork Flathead River | 11 | Cultural, Fisheries, Geology, History, Scenery, Wildlife |
| Whale Creek | Source to North Fork Flathead River | 14 | Fisheries |
| Yakinikak Creek | Source to Trail Creek | 5 | Fisheries |
| South Fork Flathead Watershed | | | |
| Aeneas Creek | Source to Graves Creek | 9 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Big Salmon Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 10 | Fisheries, History, Recreation, Scenery |
| Bunker Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 20 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Danaher Creek | Limestone Creek to South Fork Flathead | 14 | Fisheries, Scenery, Recreation, History, Cultural |
| Gordon Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 18 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Gorge Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 14 | Fisheries, Recreation |
| Graves Creek | Source to Hungry Horse Reservoir | 5 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Little Salmon Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 13 | Fisheries, History, Recreation, Scenery |
| Lower Twin Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 7 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Quintonkon Creek | Source to Sullivan Creek | 8 | Fisheries |
| Spotted Bear River | Source to South Fork Flathead River | 32 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery |
| Sullivan Creek | Source to Hungry Horse Reservoir | 15 | Fisheries, Recreation |
| Upper Twin Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead | 7 | Fisheries, Scenery, Recreation, Geology |
| White River | Source to South Fork Flathead | 16 | Fisheries, Scenery, Recreation, Geology |
| Young's Creek | Source to South Fork Flathead | 11 | Fisheries, Geology, Recreation, Scenery |
| Swan Watershed | | | |
| Swan River (Upper) | Crystal Lake to Lindbergh Lake, AND Lindbergh Lake to Holland Creek | 9 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Culture, History |
| Swan River (Lower) | Swan River State Forest to Swan Lake | 11 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife |

| Upper Missouri Watershed | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|---|
| Dearborn River | Source to Forest Boundary | 11 | Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife |
| Smith River | Tenderfoot Creek to Deep Creek | 12 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Geology |
| Tenderfoot Creek | Source to Smith River | 5 | Fisheries |
| Missouri Headwaters Watershed | | | |
| Beartrap Canyon Madison | Powerhouse to Black's Ford | 15 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Geology |
| Gallatin River | Yellowstone National Park to Forest Boundary | 39 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Geology |
| Hyalite Creek | Source to Hyalite Reservoir | 7 | Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife |
| Taylor Fork | Source to Gallatin River | 17 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife |
| Upper Madison River | Hebgen Lake to Forest Boundary below Quake Lake | 9 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife |
| South Fork Madison River | Headwaters to Hebgen Lake South Arm | 21 | Fisheries, Recreation, Wildlife |
| Upper Yellowstone Watershed | | | |
| Big Creek | Source to Forest Boundary | 12 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Geology |
| Boulder River | Source to Forest Boundary | 27 | Recreation, Scenery |
| East Rosebud Creek | Source to East Rosebud Lake, AND East Rosebud Lake to Forest Boundary | 20 | Scenery, Recreation, History, Geology |
| Lake Fork Rock Creek | Source to Rock Creek | 8 | Scenery, Geology |
| Rock Creek | Source to Forest Boundary | 13 | Recreation, Wildlife |
| Stillwater River | Source to Forest Boundary | 27 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Geology |
| West Boulder River | Source to Forest Boundary | 17 | Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Wildlife, Geology |
| West Stillwater River | Source to Forest Boundary | 15 | Recreation, Scenery |
| WF Rock Creek | Source to Rock Creek | 10 | Scenery, Recreation, Geology |

TOTAL: 54 segments

694 miles