

Exhibit Number: 2

The following exhibit is a folder that has an assortment of pamphlets, and other documents that cannot be scanned. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.



**Senate Natural Resources Committee
Senate Joint Resolution 10
The testimony of John Gatchell, Conservation Director
Montana Wilderness Association
January 26, 2005**

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 1/26/2005
BILL NO. SJ 10

Chairman Roush and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

I appear before you today to represent the views of 6000 members of the Montana Wilderness Association regarding SJ 10.

The Montana Wilderness Association was founded 47 years ago by Montana hunters, conservationists and small business owners to conserve Montana's wild public lands.

Today—as in the 1950s—our members view Montana's remaining wilderness and wildlands as a public land trust, to be held and managed so that the character of the land and the clean waters, the hunting, fishing, camping and outdoor traditions these lands sustain remain intact for future Montanans.

SJ 10 is a relic of past battles and approaches that have failed time and again to offer constructive solutions.

This very resolution was tabled by the House Natural Resources Committee last session. There are many factual errors.

Of 11 “whereas” statements, only one is directly related to the single action this resolution asks Congress to take:

To remove statutory protection from seven wilderness study areas in the crown of Montana's mountains.

These are traditional Montana backcountry areas that provide some of the purest water, finest hunting, fishing, camping and mountain expanses in the nation:

Similarly, these areas have limited oil and gas potential.

It's vitally important to understand that we are seeking new approaches to these old problems.

We do need Congress to act:

1. We need lasting commitments from our government to conserve Montana's outdoor legacy—commitments we can rely on and pass on to our kids.
2. The small mills need stronger commitments—more certainty—from our government to help keep them in business.
3. We need to get past denial and recognize that the process of making decisions on our public lands—whether for wilderness, conservation, logging—needs fixing.

Our members are taking new approaches—we're talking and working with old adversaries.

We spent seven months in 2003 visiting small mills and talking to representatives of the Montana Logging and Wood Products Association to develop new ways to solve these perennial problems.

You have in your packet a letter from the Montana Snowmobile Association which expresses their support for winter recreation agreements we have negotiated as "*the model for the future.*"

Those agreements now include two of the wilderness study areas which are the target of this resolution.

Our new approach has allowed us to move beyond warring philosophies to work out our differences across national forest landscapes.

We are transforming old adversaries into new partners with far greater potential to get things done. SJ 10 represents the failed

DAVID HADSEN PAGE 02
Don Fleck
P.O. Box 1575
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January 26, 2005

Senate Natural Resource Committee

Dear Committee Members:

This letter concerns proposed Senate Joint Resolution 10, sponsored by Sen. Aubyn Curtis, which calls for the repeal of the Wilderness Study Act of 1977.

I am strongly opposed to Resolution 10 as it calls for the removal of the current protection of the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. I live in Sen. Curtis' district and I and many of my fellow residents are avid and frequent users of the Ten Lakes area. This currently is a protected area and we want it to stay that way.

I am not sure why Sen. Curtis is attempting to remove protection from an area used and loved by so many of her constituents. Should her effort succeed I believe the case for actual wilderness protection of the Ten Lakes Area will have been made all the more stronger. I sincerely doubt that this is what Sen. Curtis intends.

In sum, this call to pass Resolution 10 would seem to be misguided and I ask that the members of the Senate Natural Resource Committee vote NO on SJ10.

Sincerely,

Don Fleck



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