

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Re: SJ 10

Please do not send a message to the people of the US and the world that Montana does not value our wild lands and our wilderness.

The Wilderness Study Areas of our state will be most valuable to us if they are left untouched and become Wilderness Areas with a capital W. These are more than just "wild lands" – they become jewels of priceless value – of almost sacred worth – to a world increasingly looking for solace in wild areas.

You'll hear the statistics of more wealth in communities near wilderness. Of the businesses depending on it for a livelihood. And you'll hear about the loggers and shops selling ATVs & snowmobiles who need those areas to work and play in.

They will be persuasive-but your job and the job of the U S Congress is to look beyond today, beyond tomorrow, and into the future to see the best for these lands. Once roaded, logged or mined, they will NEVER again have the pristine landscape and the value it brings FOREVER.

Please don't throw away our wildland heritage for a "quick buck" – and don't even send the message that a few Montanans are willing to do so.

Thank you for your time.

MaryAlice Chester  
520 Clarke St.  
Helena, MT 59601

