EXHIBIT 21
DATE 4.3.07
SB 78

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

P.O. Box 1874 • Bozeman, Montana 59771 • (406) 586-1593 • fax (406) 556-2839 • gyc@greateryellowstone.org

Testimony is Support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 3
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee
April 3, 2007

Amy McNamara, National Parks Program Director
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

On behalf of the 1,300 Montana members of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, I urge you to support Senate Joint Resolution 3, a resolution urging Montana's Congressional delegation to actively support full funding of our national parks.

Montana is blessed with incredible natural and cultural resources. We are fortunate to have many of those resources protected and managed for the public by the National Park Service. Our national parks, battlefields, monuments, historic sites and recreation areas span the state geographically and offer educational, cultural and recreational opportunities to Montana residents and visitors. Businesses in Gardiner, Wisdom, Deer Lodge, Kalispell and countless other communities benefit from our national parks and the tourists they continue to draw.

Montana's national parks are suffering from documented under funding. When under funded, our parks often fail to live up to the expectations of visitors. The Park Service is unable to provide our parks with the management necessary to maintain their luster and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Today, it is not uncommon for park visitors to never come in contact with a park ranger or attend an educational talk or walk. Unfortunately, visitors are finding visitor centers closed earlier, unclean restrooms, and buildings, benches and education kiosks in need of repair.

Each year close to 3 million visitors experience Yellowstone National Park. Unfortunately, Yellowstone is chronically under funded. A 2003 report by the Park Service estimates that Yellowstone is under funded by as much as 35 percent. It is time for Congress to be doing more to protect and provide for America's first national park.

A resolution to support full funding for our national parks from the Montana legislature will send a strong message to Senators Baucus and Tester and Representative Rehberg. A vote in support of restoring the park system by the Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 supports gateway communities, local businesses, Montana residents and out-of-state visitors.

Thank you for considering this important resolution.