

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 2-19-09

HB HJ 18

In Support of HJR No.18

Testimony from  
Jennifer Thompson  
Helena, MT

I would like to see the Montana Legislature vouch for the concerns of Montanans and protection of the landscape through supporting this joint resolution to remove the railroad cars along the Missouri River Corridor between Helena and Great Falls as well as prohibiting the storage of railroad cars in the future in this scenic area.

Reflecting on Article IX of the Montana constitution under  
Environment and Natural Resources

“(3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation...”

I feel we are reducing the Missouri River Corridor from Helena to Great Falls to a lower level of serviceability both for fishermen and wildlife by allowing these railroad cars to be parked in this scenic area.

The parked railroad cars lend to a decline towards an inferior state of quality landscape, weakening the power of an intact visual landscape that in itself promotes tourism and recreational opportunity.

I think that it is important to prevent Montana from becoming a “dumping ground” for any company or the federal government that wants to dispose of equipment, substance or other objects they are not using for the moment for whatever reason deemed by that company or government. Montana should have more say about

what influences their landscape and potential economic benefit that comes directly from the intact quality of a visual landscape.

To remove these stored railway cars sets an important precedent and projects a mindset; saying that Montana will not be used for a dumping ground for any equipment, object or substance in the future.

I think that we need to assert our state rights and uphold our constitution. Sections (2) and (3) in HJR No. 18 sets in place the foundation for future legislation prohibiting car storage along tracks in this especially scenic area.

There is an important economic benefit for keeping this particular stretch of the Missouri intact as a quality, visual landscape and accessible to fisherman. There are more out-of-state license plates on cars and trucks parked along the interstate or the recreation road on any summer evening than there are MT plates. Tourism is an important part of the Montana economy. We need to keep the visual landscape intact along the Missouri River Corridor in order to attract and satisfy fisherman, tourists, birdwatchers, and floaters from Montana and from out-of-state. The intact visual landscape directly relates to the natural tourism draw that we have in Montana which directly influences the economy in the small communities like Craig and Wolf Creek along the Missouri River and in Helena and Great Falls.

Please support HJR No. 18 that demands removal of railroad cars along the Missouri River between Helena and Great Falls and that sets in place a foundation for legislation in the future that would protect this scenic river corridor.

Definition of a quality visual landscape: An extended view afforded by an expansive landscape without obstruction to sight over and through time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is centered at the bottom of the page.

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*Montana's*



**MONTANA**

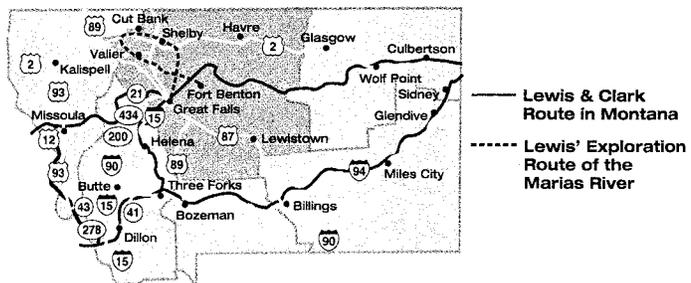
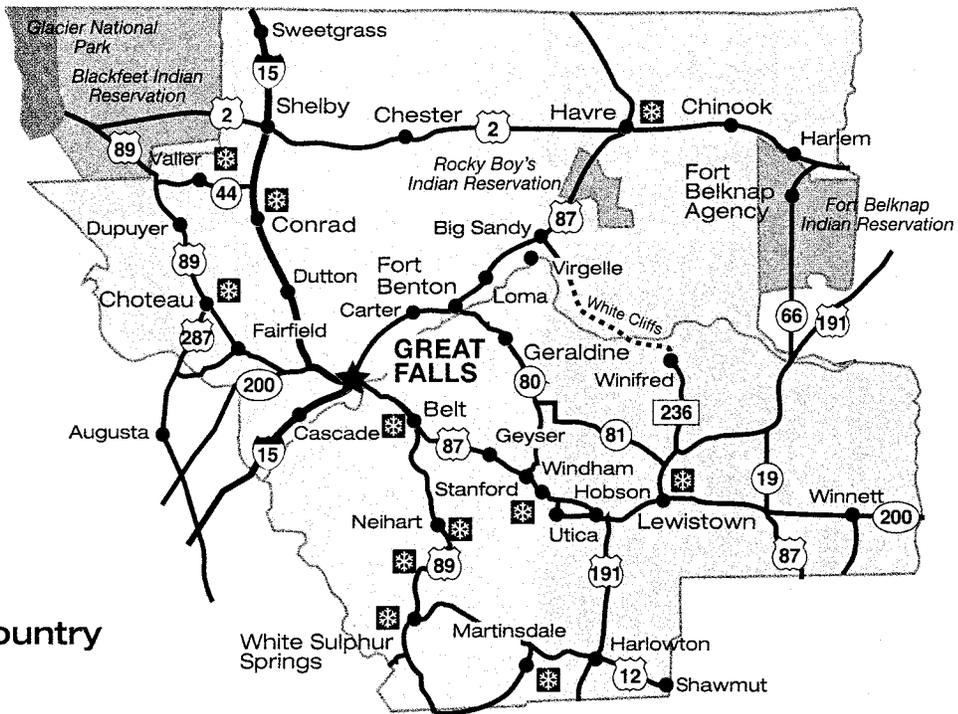


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Lukas Draxl testing the air time off a backcountry cliff near Cooke City in the Beartooth Range. Photo by Jeff Hawe.

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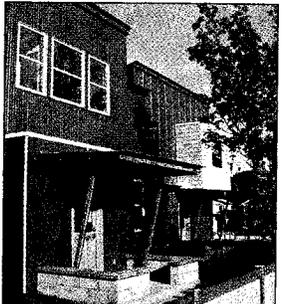
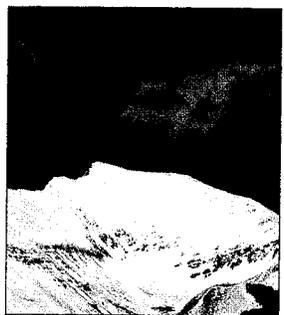
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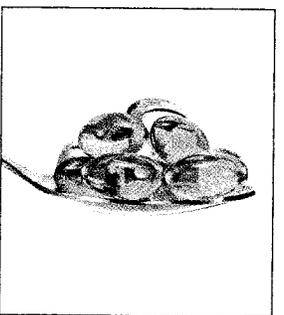
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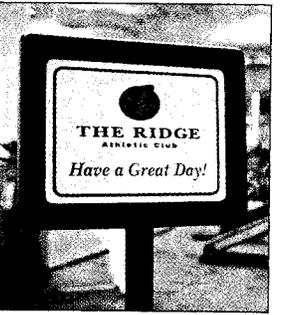
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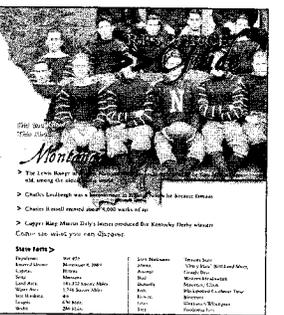


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