

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4  
2 INTRODUCED BY K. WHITE

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4 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA OPPOSING THE  
5 FEDERAL FOREST JOBS AND RECREATION ACT OF 2011.

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7 WHEREAS, the State of Montana is known for its vast abundance of natural resources, such as minerals,  
8 oil, gas, and timber, and for its agricultural operations, all of which are vital to providing jobs to support our local  
9 and state economies; and

10 WHEREAS, federal wilderness and national monument designations diminish the ability for these natural  
11 resources to be utilized to the fullest extent for the benefit of the people; and

12 WHEREAS, the health of Montana's landscapes depends on active management and use of these  
13 natural resources; and

14 WHEREAS, a recent statewide survey found that 52% of Montanans surveyed oppose new federal  
15 wilderness designations, while 32% support new federal wilderness designations; and

16 WHEREAS, a Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest survey found that 97% of users recreate on  
17 nonwilderness lands; and

18 WHEREAS, the resources contained in Montana are vital to our nation's economy and national security;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest is the largest national forest in Montana; and

21 WHEREAS, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest is a mineral-rich forest; and

22 WHEREAS, access to these mineral resources is important to future generations and vital to our national  
23 security; and

24 WHEREAS, application of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 necessarily requires that mineral resources  
25 be identified and inventoried prior to wilderness designation; and

26 WHEREAS, vast amounts of mineral resources will not have been identified and inventoried prior to  
27 federal designation as wilderness under the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011; and

28 WHEREAS, application of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 necessarily requires that all private  
29 inholdings be identified and inventoried prior to designation as wilderness; and

30 WHEREAS, private inholdings of land, fences, water facilities, grazing rights, and existing structures will

1 not have been identified and inventoried prior to federal designation of land as wilderness under the federal  
2 Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, these private inholdings are vital to the economic well-being of communities; and

4 WHEREAS, taking of property violates the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution by  
5 restricting private property in such a way as to interfere with investment-backed expectations; and

6 WHEREAS, the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011 may violate coordination requirements  
7 of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the Multiple-Use  
8 Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1977, the Clean Air  
9 Act, the Data Quality Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act and  
10 regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality; and

11 WHEREAS, coordination is critical to local governments in development and planning for the predictability  
12 and sustainability of their communities; and

13 WHEREAS, the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011 removes the ability of local government  
14 to coordinate with federal land management agencies in actions directly impacting local economies; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011 will designate an additional 650,000  
16 acres as permanent wilderness; and

17 WHEREAS, nothing in the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011 will guarantee continued  
18 access for multiple-use recreation.

19  
20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
21 MONTANA:

22 That the members of this House of Representatives stand in opposition to the federal Forest Jobs and  
23 Recreation Act of 2011 until:

24 (1) all mineral resources and private inholdings are identified and inventoried;

25 (2) coordination requirements with local governments are included in the language of the federal Forest  
26 Jobs and Recreation Act of 2011; and

27 (3) trigger language is included to ensure mandated timber harvests are completed before permanent  
28 designation of wilderness.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President  
30 of the United States, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and

1 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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