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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

INTRODUCED BY M. LANG, S. HINEBAUCH, D. BARTEL, K. BOGNER, B. GILLESPIE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ESTABLISHING JUNE AS RANGELAND APPRECIATION MONTH.

WHEREAS, the fourth largest state in the country, Montana is home to millions of acres of rangeland with unparalleled sunrises and sunsets; and

WHEREAS, the diverse ecology of rangeland provides a unique way of life for thousands of Montanans; and

WHEREAS, rangeland provides recreational opportunities for Montanans and millions more, such as hunting and fishing, generating significant revenue for our economy and rangeland communities; and

WHEREAS, rangeland sequesters more than 20 percent of the world's terrestrial carbon and provides erosion control and nutrient cycling; and

WHEREAS, rangeland supports many different types of wildlife and provides forage to support Montana's \$1.5 billion livestock industry as it provides a relatively low-input option for raising livestock; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have been stewards of the land for generations, as the sustainability of rangeland is vital for the future of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Montana's rangeland is the backbone of our rich history and a leader in the future of Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the month of June be declared Rangeland Appreciation Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Governor, the MSU Extension, and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

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