

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

2 INTRODUCED BY E. BOLDMAN

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY IN
6 MONTANA AND RELATED REGULATIONS, FEES, AND STANDARDS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL
7 RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.

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9 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of the land in Montana is owned by the federal government, another 5% is
10 owned by the state, and together those lands and associated waters form the backbone of the state's hunting,
11 fishing, and outdoor recreation economy; and

12 WHEREAS, the \$2.5 billion generated annually by outdoor recreation places Montana second in the
13 nation for the outdoor recreation economy as a percent of the gross domestic product; and

14 WHEREAS, the importance of outdoor recreation and the Montana way of life depends on a
15 relationship of understanding and respect between federal land managers, state agencies, and the Legislature;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, recreational opportunities abound on Montana's 94 million acres, and outdoor recreation is
18 core to the state's outdoor heritage; and

19 WHEREAS, Montana's recreation economy, fueled by its residents and the more than 10 million visitors
20 to the state each year, is diverse and far-reaching; and

21 WHEREAS, Montana's outdoor recreation industry is a significant and growing part of the state's
22 economy, contributing to well-paying jobs and local and state tax bases; and

23 WHEREAS, a vibrant future for outdoor recreation is critical to the well-being of Montana's citizens and
24 communities; and

25 WHEREAS, improving the relationship between federal and state agencies and the Legislature is key
26 to solving and preventing controversies over land use, forest and range management, and wildlife
27 management, as well as improving local economies that rely on outdoor recreation related to federal lands.

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

3 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
4 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine at a statewide and
5 county level:

6 (1) the economic benefits of recreational lands, waters, and experiences in Montana;

7 (2) the economic contributions of outdoor recreation in Montana, including economic impacts by
8 demography and recreational activity and economic impacts on public and private lands by type and location;

9 (3) how outdoor recreation expenditures trickle down through the state's economy and the
10 distribution of outdoor recreation economic activity at the local and regional level; and

11 (4) the impacts of development and population growth on recreation providers and communities in
12 Montana.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study:

14 (1) examine the regulations and oversight of outdoor recreational activities and the maintenance of
15 infrastructure and facilities with a goal of ensuring public safety; and

16 (2) investigate standards, licensing requirements, and related fees and expenses charged to
17 recreation businesses and operators.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
19 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
21 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
23 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.

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