

Senate JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

INTRODUCED BY *R. Steinhilber*

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INITIATE A STUDY OF THE KOOTENAI AND YAAK RIVERS FOR DESIGNATION AS WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

WHEREAS, Libby Dam has already impounded 90 miles of the Kootenai River, leaving only 40 miles of free flowing river left in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Lights Power Company is planning to build a dam and powerhouse at Kootenai Falls, a unique scenic, geological, and recreational area; and

WHEREAS, the Katka Dam Site in Idaho, 10 miles from the Montana State Line, is being seriously considered for development by the Idaho Water Resources Board; and

WHEREAS, there are four active dam sites on the Yaak River, the major tributary of the Kootenai below Kootenai Falls; and

WHEREAS, the scenic and recreational qualities of the remaining free flowing Kootenai River and the unspoiled Yaak River are of local, state, and national significance.

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

That the Montana Legislature requests the United States Forest Service to initiate a study to determine if the Kootenai and Yaak Rivers can be classified under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, thereby preserving the remaining free flowing river reaches for future generations to enjoy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Montana Congressional Delegation and to the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

-End-

SJR 21

Without Recommendation
Natural Resources

Senate JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 INTRODUCED BY *Esteb*

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