

Senate JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41
 INTRODUCED BY Robert Ferguson Manning E. Smith

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS AND THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVESTOCK IN THE CHARLES M. RUSSELL GAME RANGE.

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation transferring the Charles M. Russell Game Range from the joint administration of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to administration by the Fish and Wildlife Service only; and

WHEREAS, this transfer of authority has caused confusion and concern among livestock producers operating within the Game Range; and

WHEREAS, the Charles M. Russell Game Range is, by tradition, "cow country" and the livestock industry is an integral and important part of Charles Russell country; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order creating the Charles M. Russell Game Range recognized that livestock grazing and game production are compatible in this area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

INTRODUCED BILL

OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the 45th Montana Legislature urges the Congress of the United States and all federal and state agencies to recognize that the Charles M. Russell Game Range is not merely a wildlife refuge but also an important livestock and game range that should be administered as such, in conformity with the Executive Order that created the Game Range.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 45th Montana Legislature requests the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to implement the intent of this Executive Order by adopting rules concerning grazing in the Charles M. Russell Game Range in accordance with the Federal Range Code and by considering the stability of the livestock industry in future administrative decisions concerning the area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of State to Senators Lee Metcalf and John Helcher, Representatives Max Baucus and Ron Marlenee, and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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SJRH

Approved by Committee
on Natural Resources

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SECOND READING

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