

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

IN THE HOUSE

February 3, 1979

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Natural Resources.

February 5, 1979

Rereferred to Committee on
Fish and Game.

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27
 2 INTRODUCED BY F. Allen Sheldon
 3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THAT THE
 6 PROVISIONS OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964 CALLING FOR
 7 CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS BE FULLY UTILIZED WHILE
 8 RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WILDERNESS;
 9 REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES ADOPT
 10 FLEXIBLE GUIDELINES FOR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT, ESPECIALLY TO
 11 INSURE THAT LIVESTOCK PERMITTEES ARE NOT ECONOMICALLY HARMED
 12 BY WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

13
 14 WHEREAS, wilderness designation of suitable federal
 15 lands is a legitimate and legally recognized form of
 16 multiple use pursuant to section 2 of the Multiple
 17 Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960; and

18 WHEREAS, wilderness provides an array of important
 19 multiple uses, including but not limited to dispersed
 20 recreation, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and clean,
 21 stable waterflows for downstream uses; and

22 WHEREAS, approximately 70% of the national forest land
 23 in Montana and other western states is available for timber
 24 management, developed recreation, and other intensive uses;
 25 and

1 WHEREAS, most of the remaining undeveloped forest lands
 2 are remote high-elevation areas with a low potential for
 3 commodity production; and

4 WHEREAS, unwarranted public subsidies are often needed
 5 to develop roadless lands in cases where the costs of
 6 development exceed the value of commodities such as timber
 7 from marginal growing sites; and

8 WHEREAS, management of wilderness should not be unduly
 9 restrictive but should exhibit the inherent flexibility in
 10 the Wilderness Act of 1964 to provide important wilderness
 11 benefits to American society; and

12 WHEREAS, livestock grazing is fully compatible with
 13 wilderness management and there has never been any
 14 curtailment in numbers of livestock permitted to graze in
 15 wilderness because of wilderness designation; and

16 WHEREAS, federal land management agencies should both
 17 insure that the economic viability of a livestock operation
 18 is not harmed because of wilderness designation and that the
 19 livestock permittee is given reasonable vehicular access
 20 when necessary to economically manage his grazing permit;
 21 and

22 WHEREAS, wilderness is of national significance, but
 23 the decision to develop or preserve a potential addition to
 24 the national wilderness preservation system has national,
 25 state, and local implications requiring careful consultation

1 between Congress, the Administration, and the local people
2 most affected; and

3 WHEREAS, our country must find a proper balance between
4 preservation and development of our natural resources, and
5 programs such as the Second Roadless Area Review and
6 Evaluation (RARE II) should properly reflect this balance.

7
8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
9 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 That the existing provisions in the Wilderness Act of
11 1964 calling for consultation with the Governor and other
12 local officials be fully utilized by the Administration and
13 Congress in arriving at sound wilderness decisions, while at
14 the same time recognizing the national significance of
15 wilderness in these decisions.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal land
17 management agencies are urged to adopt flexible guidelines
18 for the management and protection of designated wilderness
19 and that special attention be given to insure that fair and
20 reasonable treatment is afforded to livestock interests
21 holding permits within wilderness and potential wilderness.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal land
23 management agencies should conduct a thorough and objective
24 economic analysis of potential additions to the National
25 Wilderness Preservation System to insure that areas

1 allocated to development can be developed in a
2 cost-effective manner without unwarranted subsidization from
3 the American taxpayer.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the federal
5 land management agencies give special attention to insure
6 that local communities dependent upon raw materials from
7 public lands are not adversely affected by wilderness
8 designation, while at the same time insuring that high
9 quality roadless areas are added to our nation's wilderness
10 system.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of
12 Montana shall forward copies of this joint resolution to the
13 President of the United States, the Secretary of the
14 Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Chairman of the
15 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Chairman
16 of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and the
17 Montana Congressional Delegation.

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