

WYOMING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Resolution Number: Public Lands 1-2009

RESOLUTION OPPOSING NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT (HR 980)

Whereas: HR 980 would designate an additional 6,514,000 acres to the national wilderness system in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, regardless of their unsuitability and failure to meet the wilderness criteria outlined in the 1964 Wilderness Act; and

Whereas: This additional wilderness would include: 265,000 acres to be added to the ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS ADDITIONS administered by the Gallatin, Custer, or Shoshone National Forest;

An additional 173,000 acres to be added to the NORTH ABSAROKA WILDERNESS administered by the Shoshone or Gallatin National Forest,

An additional 339,000 acres in the WASHAKIE WILDERNESS administered by the Shoshone National Forest or the Bureau of Land Management,

An additional 29,000 acres added to the FITZPATRICK WILDERNESS of which 14,000 acres is administered by the Shoshone National Forest or the Bureau of Land Management, as well as an additional 15,000 acres in the Bench Mark/Warm Springs area administered by the Shoshone National Forest,

An additional 24,000 acres added to the TETON WILDERNESS administered by the Bridger Teton National Forest,

An additional 106,000 acres added to the GROS VENTRE WILDERNESS administered by the Bridger Teton National Forest,

An additional 230,000 acres added to the BRIDGER WILDERNESS administered by the Bridger Teton National Forest or the Bureau of Land Management (Scab Creek),

An additional 60,000 acres added to the POPO AGIE WILDERNESS administered by the Shoshone National Forest or the Bureau of Land Management,

An additional 90,000 acres in new wilderness administered by the Custer or Shoshone National Forests to include the LINE CREEK PLATEAU/DEEP LAKE WILDERNESS,

An additional 9,000 acres in new wilderness administered by the Shoshone National Forest to include the PASS CREEK WILDERNESS, BAYER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, POPO CANYON WILDERNESS, AND CLARK FORK WILDERNESS,

An additional 564,000,000 acres in new wilderness designation administered by the Bighorn National Forest, Bighorn National Recreation Area or the Bureau of Land Management to include the LITTLE BIGHORN WILDERNESS, WALKER PRAIRIE WILDERNESS, DEVIL'S CANYON WILDERNESS, HIDEOUT CREEK WILDERNESS, BEAR ROCKS WILDERNESS, HORSE CREEK MESA WILDERNESS, PETES HOLE WILDERNESS, GROMMOND CREEK WILDERNESS, HAZELTON PEAKS WILDERNESS, LEIGH CREEK WILDERNESS, MEDICINE LODGE WILDERNESS, ALKALI CREEK WILDERNESS, TRAPPER CREEK CANYON WILDERNESS, NORTH FORK POWDER RIVER WILDERNESS, GARDNER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, HONEYCOMBS WILDERNESS, BUFFALO CREEK WILDERNESS, LYSITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AND LOST WATER CANYON WILDERNESS.

An additional 1,417,000 acres in new wilderness administered by the Bridger Teton to include MONUMENT RIDGE WILDERNESS, MUNGER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, LITTLE SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, PALISADES WILDERNESS, MT. LEIDY HIGHLANDS WILDERNESS, SALT RIVER RANGE WILDERNESS, COMMISSARY RIDGE WILDERNESS, SOUTH WYOMING RANGE WILDERNESS, GRAYBACK RIDGE WILDERNESS, GANNETT HILLS/SPRING CREEK/RAYMOND MOUNTAIN, LITTLE COTTONWOOD WILDERNESS, NORTH MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, GRAYBACK RIDGE EAST WILDERNESS and LAKE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS,

An additional 187,000 acres in new wilderness administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming to include MCCULLOUGH PEAKS WILDERNESS, SHEEP MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, RED BUTTE WILDERNESS, BOBCAT DRAW BADLANDS WILDERNESS, CEDAR MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, COPPER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS, FULLER PEAK WILDERNESS, AND LYSITE BADLANDS WILDERNESS.

Whereas: These additions to the National Wilderness System will have tremendous negative impacts to the economies of the counties in which they occur and ultimately to the economy of surrounding counties and the State of Wyoming; and,

Whereas: The continuation of all multiple use activities, including motorized recreation, outfitting, grazing, timber harvest activities, and energy development is crucial to the long term economic diversity of all Wyoming Counties and the State of Wyoming;

Whereas: Forest health activities and emergency management would be extremely difficult or impossible to conduct under this scenario.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Wyoming County Commissioners Association is in adamant, strong opposition to the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (HR 980).

Passed by the General Body of the Wyoming County Commissioners Association on
May 1, 2009

S/Terrence D. Wolf, President
Wyoming County Commissioners Association