

Glenda Wiles

From: Karen and Van <skarevan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:40 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Regarding Daines' bill to release WSAs

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept these comments for your upcoming meeting regarding Daines' bill to release WSAs.

Our roadless areas—including Wilderness, WSAs, and large inventoried roadless areas—have the very best water quality, fisheries, hunting, and backcountry recreation. They have these qualities because they are roadless and “undeveloped.” They are the reason why Montana is the last great place. They are the reason we are so proud of our heritage and traditions of self-sufficiency, independence, and backwoods skills. These traditions and characteristics don't develop in the roaded, easily accessed urban interface. If these WSAs are released, you know what will happen: They will become roaded, they will be logged, and hunting and fishing and challenging recreation will be lost. It will hurt the outfitters and backcountry horsemen. It will pollute the waterways. Clean and plentiful water is our most valuable resource going into the future. Developing these lands by adding roads will produce more sediment and cause quicker runoff. It's not a wise or well thought out idea for our valley and all of us, let alone our grandchildren. Please think of these roadless lands as an investment for the future and something that has helped make us who we are today.

Sincerely,

Van P. Keele

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