

Resolution #6
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

OPPOSE H.R.1581 AND OTHER BILLS TO RELEASE BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS AND FOREST SERVICE ROADLESS AREAS FROM PROTECTION

Submitted by: Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, and Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Background: H.R. 1581, which would eliminate interim wilderness protection from Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and US Forest Service inventoried Roadless Areas, was introduced in the House of Representatives in early 2011 by Rep. Kevin McCarthy along with several Republican co-sponsors. This bill would release from protection almost 60 million acres of federal public lands, making them available for logging, grazing, mining, and road construction.

A companion bill was introduced in June 2011 in the Senate by three western senators. Such legislation would have a devastating effect on potential wilderness areas in the western United States. In Nevada alone, 1.8 million acres of BLM WSAs would lose protection from development.

This legislation is opposed by major national environmental organizations, hunters and fishermen, and those who recognize the importance of these lands to western tourism. Development of these would lands compromise efforts to protect wildlife corridors, which are recognized as extremely important in this time of climate change.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly opposes H.R. 1581 and its companion bill in the Senate, and opposes any attempts to eliminate interim wilderness protections from any BLM Wilderness Study Areas or USFS inventoried Roadless Areas.

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