

# MONTANA WILDERNESS

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HEARINGS  
BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION  
TO  
REVIEW THE MONTANA WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

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MISSOULA, MONT., JULY 5, 1983  
ANACONDA, MONT., JULY 7, 1983  
GREAT FALLS, MONT., JULY 9, 1983



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Senator MELCHER. Thank you.  
Timothy Meloy?

**STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY J. MELOY, ELKHORN CITIZENS  
ORGANIZATION**

Mr. MELOY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the delegation. I'm an attorney in Helena, and I'm here as an interested citizen representing the Elkhorn Citizens Organization, which is a 200- or 300-member group, people dedicated to the best interests of the Elkhorn Mountain Range which lies on the southside doorstep of Helena, Mont.

I apologize for having no hard data to present on these issues, nor have I had any firsthand experience in the areas, however, I do feel obliged to make some recommendations to you. As most of us do not have the opportunity to obtain firsthand knowledge and experience, we rely on the expertise of others. I have found that my personal, professional approach to land use closely aligns with the proposals of alternative W. I am therefore here to encourage your support of that alternative W.

I understand the scholars tell us that Congress is empowered to enact what is called sufficiency legislation. I would concur that this would be an appropriate method, depending entirely of course upon how Congress reacts to the recommendations. As far as the release issue is concerned, it seems only fair and proper to make that all released lands be reevaluated at some point in time. I believe 10 to 15 years is long enough to wait for that reevaluation.

My special interest, as I indicated at the outset, is the Elkhorn Mountain Range. It has been a very integral part of mine and my family's life for over 30 years. I would point out that the Elkhorns are currently designated for wilderness study and remain in that designation as of this date, however, the Forest Service has recommended nonwilderness for the entire area. And as you probably noted, alternative W does not include the Elkhorns. I would hasten to point out that the Forest Service by date did find very high wildlife and wildlife habitat resource value. In fact, they recommended to Congress that the Elkhorns be managed with wildlife and wildlife habitat as a primary resource value.

I believe this is a very unique approach. We cautiously concur in this approach to alternative W, however, we want to emphatically encourage upon the committee and the Congress that if Congress does not accept the wildlife management concept of if the Forest Service does not implement it, then we maintain our preference for some wilderness designation for the area.

Thank you very much for coming and listening to us, and I sincerely wish you well in making appropriate decisions. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Meloy follows:]

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN THE MATTER OF the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Recommendations to Congress } Testimony of Timothy J. Meloy, on behalf of the Elkhorn Citizens Organization

Mr. Chairman:

For the record, my name is Timothy J. Meloy. I am an attorney residing in Helena, Montana, and am here representing myself and the Elkhorn Citizens Organization, of which I am a member.

While I have neither personally visited nor evaluated for suitability most of the six million acres of roadless areas in question, I have determined that the concerns and interests of those that have, as expressed through their proposed "Alternative W" most closely fit my personal and professional philosophy on public land use.

I would therefore offer to this subcommittee my support for Wilderness designation for those areas identified in that "Alternative W." I would further concur that, if such areas are so designated, the RARE II evaluation may be deemed sufficient. As for those areas to be released, it would seem only logical and fair that they always be subject to reconsideration or reevaluation, and that a 15 year period seems long enough to await such reevaluation.

As to my special interest in the Helena National Forest, I would direct your specific attention to the Elkhorn Mountains, a 77,000 acre range on the southeast doorstep of Helena. This range presents somewhat of an anomaly to the planning process in that it has been made and currently remains a Wilderness Study Area, has been recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service, and as a matter of fact is not presently included in "Alternative W." However,

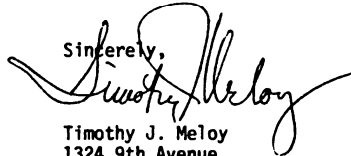
Timothy J. Meloy  
Testimony on the U.S. Forest Service RARE II Recommendations to Congress  
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I hasten to point out that the Forest Service did find such extremely high wildlife and recreational values that they did in fact recommend management with wildlife and wildlife habitat as the principal resource value.

In view of this recommendation, we cautiously concur that this approach if carried out may be a reasonable alternative if Congress does not find Wilderness suitability. And therein lies "Alternative W's" omission of the Elkhorns. However, we emphatically reserve our preference for and argument on behalf of Wilderness designation should the wildlife management not be approved by Congress or implemented by the Forest Service.

Thank you for devoting your personal time to conducting these hearings and considering the testimony. I wish you well in making the most appropriate decisions.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Meloy  
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