

December 6, 2017

Oppose H.R. 1349, “Wheels Over Wilderness”

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we urge you to OPPOSE H.R. 1349, the “Wheels Over Wilderness” bill, when it is considered in House Committee on Natural Resources.

Since 1964, the Wilderness Act has prohibited mountain bikes from America’s National Wilderness Preservation System, and the Act already permits the use of wheelchairs in wilderness. H.R. 1349 would fundamentally change this bedrock environmental law by opening America’s 110 million acres of wilderness areas to mountain bikes. This change would undermine the Wilderness Act, threaten wilderness areas nationwide, and significantly affect the management and public enjoyment of America’s wilderness to the detriment of the American people.

We support mountain biking on America’s public lands. Across the country, wilderness advocates and mountain bicyclists have successfully worked together to develop proposals that preserve access to important mountain bike trails and protect wilderness. We need more mountain bicycling opportunities and we need more wilderness and, working together, we can achieve both. Unfortunately, these collaborative efforts are threatened by H.R. 1349.

H.R. 1349 would undermine protection of America’s National Wilderness Preservation System, rewrite a bedrock environmental law, jeopardize America’s 110 million acres of wilderness and imperil collaborative work across the country. For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Hiking Society
American Long Distance Hiking Association – West
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Appalantic Wilderness Advocacy
Arkansas Backcountry Horsemen
Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico, Lower Rio Grande Chapter
Back Country Horsemen of America
Back Country Horsemen of Arizona
Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead
Back Country Horsemen of Georgia
Back Country Horsemen of Iowa
Back Country Horsemen of Michigan, Pigeon River & Beyond
Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia
Back Country Horsemen of Missoula
Back Country Horsemen of Missouri
Back Country Horsemen of Montana
Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico, Socorro Chapter
Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia
Back Country Horsemen of Northwest Georgia
Back Country Horsemen of Southeast Ocala Forest
Back Country Horsemen of Utah
Back Country Horsemen of Virginia
Baden-Powell Service Association of Southeast Louisiana
Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
Border Route Trail Association
Boundary Waters Trust
California Native Plant Society
California Wilderness Coalition
California Wilderness Project
Californians for Western Wilderness
Cascade Forest Conservancy
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Clearview Summit Healthcare Consulting, LLC
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Native Plant Society
Conejos Clean Water
Concerned Citizens of Watchung
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Northwest
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Defenders of Wildlife
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Duluth-Superior Active Outdoors Meetup Group
EcoFlight
Forest Issues Group
Friends of Watchung Reservation
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
Friends of the Border Route Trail Meetup Group
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Friends of the Inyo
Grand Canyon Trust
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Grand Junction Area Chapter
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, San Juan Broadband
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
High Country Conservation Advocates
Hike-Inn Tours
Hoosier Back Country Horsemen
Hut2Hut
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Kentucky Back Country Horsemen

Kettle Range Conservation Group
League of Conservation Voters
Los Padres ForestWatch
Methow Valley Citizens Council
Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition
Minnesota Rovers Outdoor Club
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
New Mexico Sportsmen
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Nez Perce Trail Foundation
Northcoast Environmental Center
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Olympic Park Associates
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Ozark Highlands Trail Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Pacific Northwest Trail Association
Partnership for the National Trails System
Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen of Washington
Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Sierra Club
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sierra Forest Legacy
SnowHawk LLC
Snowlands Network
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The California Chaparral Institute
The Lands Council
The Wilderness Society
Tuleyome
Twin Cities Hiking Meetup Group
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Warrior Expeditions
Washington Trails Association
Washington Wild
Western Colorado Congress
Western Slope Conservation Center
Wilderness Workshop
Women for Wild Lands