Support for the Continuation of Federally Managed State Lands

Sponsors: Geneva Zoltek
           Kyle Glose
           Thomas Marts
           Adam Sanders
           Matthew Campbell

Yes 7  No 6  Abs 0
Date: 14 April 2016

Signatories:  Kate Johnson
             Noah Marion

Vote Necessary: Majority

Intent: To express the opinion of the Associated Students of Montana State University in opposition to any attempt to transfer federal lands to state management and in support of keeping public lands accessible to all citizens.

Whereas, Montana’s public lands are an essential part of our natural heritage; and,

Whereas, public lands are part of our high quality of life with 71% of Montana citizens utilizing these beautiful areas; and,

Whereas, our public lands drive our economy producing an annual 6 billion dollar revenue statewide; and,

Whereas, our public lands secure $403 million in tax revenue annually; and,

Whereas, 70% of business owners say “the Montana outdoor lifestyle” was a factor in deciding to locate or expand their business in Montana; and,

Whereas, counties with significant public land added jobs at a rate almost four times faster than peers; and,

Whereas, protected natural amenities – such as pristine scenery and wildlife – help sustain property values and attract new business investment; and,

Whereas, as it stands natural ecosystems and lands are protected by federal management; and,

Whereas, there is a growing movement throughout the West to transfer federally owned lands back to the states in which they reside; and,

Whereas, all western states cannot fund management of these lands and would thus need to sell said public lands; and,
Whereas, ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods would be negatively impacted from private land ownership; and,

Whereas, Montana State University depends on public lands for attracting and retaining students; and,

Whereas, the Montana State University and the student body depends on public lands for educational opportunities, such as field work and experiential learning, and livelihood activities; and,


Therefore, let it be resolved that: the Associated Students of Montana State University support continued public ownership of our lands.

Let it be even further resolved that: the Associated Students of the Montana State University opposes efforts to transfer our federal public lands to state ownership.

Let it be even further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Steve Bullock, Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Representative Ryan Zinke, State House Representatives Kathleen Williams, Tom Woods, Zach Brown, Kerry White, Christopher Pope, Denise Hayman, Tom Burnett, Art Wittich, and Matthew Monforton, and State Senators Mike Phillips, Jedediah Hinkle, Jennifer Pomnichowski, Gordon Vance, and Scott Sales. A copy of this resolution shall also be sent to Dr. Waded Cruzado, Montana State University President, Tracy Ellig, Executive Director of University Communications, Kristin Blackler, Director of the MSU Office of Sustainability, Levi Birky, ASMSU President, Holly Capp, ASMSU Vice President, Bradley R. Jones, ASMSU Senate Speaker, Kate Johnson, MSU Wilderness Association Student Group, Noah Marion, MSU Wilderness Association Policy Liaison, and Erin Murdock, MSU Exponent.