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October 7, 2015

Representative Rob Bishop
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Wilderness Watch Opposes HR 2406, Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act

Dear Representatives Bishop and Grijalva:

Wilderness Watch opposes HR 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act due to its provisions that would damage all Wildernesses in the nation.

The wilderness-damaging provisions come primarily in three places:

1. Open up National Wilderness Preservation System to Damage. Sec. 603(f) would allow any agency actions even remotely connected to hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or wildlife conservation to occur within designated Wildernesses, including road-building, bulldozer use, dam construction, logging, chaining, etc. These actions could be taken by any federal, state, county, or local agency. This language will open up all Wildernesses across the nation to such damaging activities if somehow connected to hunting, fishing, shooting, or wildlife conservation. This section would seriously damage the protections of the 1964 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) and open up every Wilderness in the country to this kind of damage.

2. Commercial Filming in Wilderness. Sec. 1301 would for the very first time open up all units of the entire National Wilderness Preservation System to

commercial filming. Currently Wildernesses designated under the 1964 Wilderness Act are protected from commercial filming since commercial enterprise is banned under section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act. This section would also constitute a major weakening of the Wilderness Act.

3. Waive Environmental Review. Sec. 603(d)(3) would waive environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for any of the projects. This would not only waive the analysis of environmental impacts and the consideration of alternatives, but would deprive the public of any right to comment on the proposed actions.

Please remove these damaging provisions from HR 2406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Proescholdt".

Kevin Proescholdt
Conservation Director
kevinp@wildernesswatch.org