

**PROTECT WILDERNESS FROM BIKES:
OPPOSE S. 2877 and H.R. 1349**

Adirondack Council • Adirondack Wild, Friends of the Forest Preserve • Aldo's Silver City Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Alliance for the Wild Rockies • Alpine Lakes Protection Society • Amargosa Conservancy • Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc. • Arizona Wilderness Coalition • Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico • Big Wild Adventures • Big Wild Advocates • Blue Goose Alliance • Blue Ridge Land Conservancy • Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine • Boise Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Bozeman Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Buckeye Forest Council • California Chaparral Institute • California Wilderness Coalition • Californians for Western Wilderness • Cascade Forest Conservancy • Cascade Volcanoes Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Coalition to Protect America's National Parks • Conservation Congress • Conservation Northwest • Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship • Cook Inletkeeper • El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club • Environmental Protection Information Center • Fairmont Minnesota Peace Group • Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs • Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics • Friends of Alaska Wildlife Refuges • Friends of Allegheny Wilderness • Friends of Bell Smith Springs • Friends of Big Ivy • Friends of Mount Adams • Friends of Nevada Wilderness • Friends of Sparta Mountain • Friends of Sylvania Wilderness • Friends of the Bitterroot • Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness • Friends of the Clearwater • Friends of the Wild Swan • Gallatin Wildlife Association • Georgia ForestWatch • Glen Canyon Institute • Grand Junction Area Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Great Plains Restoration Council • Greater Wasatch Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Harding Land Trust • Heartwood • Hells Canyon Preservation Council • High Country Conservation Advocates • High Sierra Hikers Association • Hunters for Predators • Idaho Environmental Council • Idaho Rivers United • Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division • Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Valley Chapter • Izaak Walton League of America, Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter • Izaak Walton League of America, W.J. McCabe Chapter • John Muir Project • Kentucky Heartwood • Kettle Range Conservation Group • Klamath Forest Alliance • Kootenai Environmental Alliance • Lands Council • La Plata Broads Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Massachusetts Forest Watch • Mazamas • Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy • Moab Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Montana Wilderness Association • Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness • Mountain Bikers for Wilderness • New Jersey Conservation Foundation • New Jersey Forest Watch • New Mexico Sportsmen • New Mexico Wilderness Alliance • New York-New Jersey Trail Conference • North Cascades Conservation Council • North Fork Preservation Association • Northeast Wilderness Trust • Northern San Juan Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Olympic Park Associates • Palouse Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Phoenix Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) • Quiet Use Coalition • RESTORE: The North Woods • Rewilding Institute • Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • River Runners for Wilderness • Roaring Fork Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Rocky Mountain Wild • San Juan Citizens Alliance • San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council • Save America's Forests • Save Our Canyons • Save Our Sky Blue Waters • Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association • Scholarly Brass Editions • Selkirk Conservation Alliance • Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen • Sequoia ForestKeeper • Shawnee Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society • Shawnee Forest Sentinels • Sierra Club • Sierra Club, Colorado Chapter • Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute • Sleeping Bear Naturally • Soda Mountain Wilderness Council • South Florida Wildlands Association • South Park Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment • Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance • Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation • Spring Family Trust for Trails • Steamboat Springs Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Swan View Coalition • Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning • Tennessee Heartwood • Teton Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • 3 Great Lakes Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Tucson Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Tule River Conservancy • Tuleyome • Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition • Walden Woods Project • Wasatch Mountain Club • Washington Wild • Western Watersheds Project • Western Wildlife Conservancy • White Mountain Conservation League • Wild Connections • WILD Foundation • Wild Utah Project • Wild Virginia • WildEarth Guardians • WildLands Defense • Wilderness Watch • Wilderness Workshop • WildWest Institute • Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness • Wyoming Back Country Horsemen of America • Wyoming Wilderness Association • Yellowstone to Uintas Connection

June 6, 2018

Dear Senator,

The **150** undersigned organizations from across the nation urge you to reject an unprecedented call to weaken the Wilderness Act to allow for the use of mountain bikes in designated Wilderness.

As you may know, Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) recently introduced S. 2877, a bill to weaken the Wilderness Act to allow mountain bikes in Wilderness. The bill was introduced at the behest of

a recently formed mountain biking organization, the Sustainable Trails Coalition. The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to oppose this effort to undermine the Wilderness Act.

A House bill, H.R. 1349, would also open the entire National Wilderness Preservation System to mountain bikes and other wheeled machines. It has passed out of committee. Our organizations also strongly oppose the House bill.

S. 2877 supporters erroneously claim that mountain bikes were allowed in Wilderness until 1984, but then banned administratively by the U.S. Forest Service. This claim is simply not true.

The 1964 Wilderness Act (36 U.S.C. 1131-1136) banned all types of mechanized transport, including bicycles, in designated Wilderness. Section 4(c) of that act states, “[T]here shall be...no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, **no other form of mechanical transport**, and no structure or installation within any such area.” (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the Congress stated the purpose of the Wilderness Act was, in part, to protect these areas from “expanding settlement and **growing mechanization...**” (emphasis added) (Wilderness Act, Section 2[a].)

For over a half century, the Wilderness Act has protected wilderness areas from mechanization and mechanical transport, even if no motors were involved with such activities. This has meant, as Congress intended, that Wildernesses have been kept free from bicycles and other types of mechanization and mechanical transport. The undersigned believe that this protection has served our Nation well, and that the “benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness” would be forever lost by allowing mechanized transport in these areas.

Please oppose S. 2877, H.R. 1349, and any other attempt to undermine the Wilderness Act and wilderness protections.

Sincerely,

Wilderness Watch
Missoula, MT

Adirondack Council
Elizabethtown, NY

Adirondack Wild, Friends of the Forest Preserve
Niskayuna, NY

Aldo’s Silver City Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Silver City, NM

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Helena, MT

Alpine Lakes Protection Society
Seattle, WA

Amargosa Conservancy
Shoshone, CA

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Cambridge, MA

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Tucson, AZ

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Big Wild Adventures
Emigrant, MT

Big Wild Advocates
Emigrant, MT

Blue Goose Alliance
Albuquerque, NM

Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
Roanoke, VA

Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine
Asheville, NC/Charlottesville, VA

Boise Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Boise, ID

Bozeman Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Bozeman, MT

Buckeye Forest Council
Athens, OH

California Chaparral Institute
Escondido, CA

California Wilderness Coalition
Oakland, CA

Californians for Western Wilderness
San Francisco, CA

Cascade Forest Conservancy
Vancouver, WA

Cascade Volcanoes Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Milwaukie, OR

Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Washington, DC

Conservation Congress
Livingston, MT

Conservation Northwest
Bellingham, WA

Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Oakton, VA

Cook Inletkeeper
Homer, AK

El Sendero Backcountry Ski and Snowshoe Club
Wenatchee, WA

Environmental Protection Information Center
Arcata, CA

Fairmont Minnesota Peace Group
Fairmont, MN

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
Oak Grove, OR

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
Eugene, OR

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Homer, AK

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
Warren, PA

Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Stonefort, IL

Friends of Big Ivy
Barnardsville, NC

Friends of Mount Adams
White Salmon, WA

Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Reno, NV

Friends of Sparta Mountain
Sparta, NJ

Friends of Sylvania Wilderness
Monona, WI

Friends of the Bitterroot
Hamilton, MT

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Minneapolis, MN

Friends of the Clearwater
Moscow, ID

Friends of the Wild Swan
Bigfork, MT

Gallatin Wildlife Association
Bozeman, MT

Georgia ForestWatch
Dahlonega, GA

Glen Canyon Institute
Salt Lake City, UT

Grand Junction Area Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness,
Grand Junction, CO

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Durango, CO

Great Plains Restoration Council
Fort Worth, TX

Greater Wasatch Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Salt Lake City, UT

Harding Land Trust
Harding, NJ

Heartwood
Bloomington, IN

Hells Canyon Preservation Council
La Grande, OR

High Country Conservation Advocates
Crested Butte, CO

High Sierra Hikers Association
Lafayette, CA

Hunters for Predators
Bend, OR

Idaho Environmental Council
Idaho Falls, ID

Idaho Rivers United
Boise, ID

Izaak Walton League of America, MN Division
St. Paul, MN

Izaak Walton League of America, MN Valley
Chapter
Bloomington, MN

Izaak Walton League of America, Wes Libbey
Northern Lakes Chapter
Grand Rapids, MN

Izaak Walton League of America, W.J. McCabe
Chapter
Duluth, MN

John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
Big Bear City, CA

Kentucky Heartwood
Berea, KY

Kettle Range Conservation Group
Republic, WA

Klamath Forest Alliance
Orleans, CA

Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Lands Council
Spokane, WA

La Plata Broads Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Durango, CO

Massachusetts Forest Watch
Northampton, MA

Mazamas
Portland, OR

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
St. Paul, MN

Moab Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Moab, UT

Montana Wilderness Association
Helena, MT

Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness
Bozeman, MT

Mountain Bikers for Wilderness
Bend, OR

New Jersey Conservation Foundation
Far Hills, NJ

New Jersey Forest Watch
Sparta, NJ

New Mexico Sportsmen
Albuquerque, NM

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Albuquerque, NM

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Mahwah, NJ

North Cascades Conservation Council
Seattle, WA

North Fork Preservation Association
Polebridge, MT

Northeast Wilderness Trust
Montpelier, VT

Northern San Juan Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Ridgway, CO

Olympic Park Associates
Seattle, WA

Palouse Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Moscow, ID

Phoenix Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Phoenix, AZ

Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness
Olympia, WA

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
(PEER)
Washington, DC

Quiet Use Coalition
Salida, CO

RESTORE: The North Woods
Hallowell, ME

Rewilding Institute
Albuquerque, NM

Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Albuquerque, NM

River Runners for Wilderness
Flagstaff, AZ

Roaring Fork Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness
Aspen, CO

Rocky Mountain Wild
Denver, CO

San Juan Citizens Alliance
Durango, CO

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Alamosa, CO

Save America's Forests
Washington, DC

Save Our Canyons
Salt Lake City, UT

Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Duluth, MN

Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association
Stanley, ID

Scholarly Brass Editions
Chicago, IL

Selkirk Conservation Alliance
Priest River, ID

Selway-Pintler Wilderness Back Country Horsemen
Hamilton, MT

Sequoia ForestKeeper
Kernville, CA

Shawnee Chapter, Illinois Audubon Society
Carbondale, IL

Shawnee Forest Sentinels
Anna, IL

Sierra Club
Oakland, CA

Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute
Ashland, WI

Sleeping Bear Naturally
Glen Arbor, MI

Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Ashland, OR

South Florida Wildlands Association
Fort Lauderdale, FL

South Park Broadband, Great Old Broads for
Wilderness
Greenwood Village, CO

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards
Asheville, NC

Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing Our Environment
Vienna, IL

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Salt Lake City, UT

Speak Up for Wildlife Foundation
Penticton, BC, Canada

Spring Family Trust for Trails
Seattle, WA

Steamboat Springs Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Steamboat Springs, CO

Swan View Coalition
Kalispell, MT

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Oak Ridge, TN

Tennessee Heartwood
Chattanooga, TN

Teton Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Alta, WY

3 Great Lakes Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Cedarville, MI

Tucson Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Tucson, AZ

Tule River Conservancy
Porterville, CA

Tuleyome
Woodland, CA

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
Houghton, MI

Walden Woods Project
Lincoln, MA

Wasatch Mountain Club
Salt Lake City, UT

Washington Wild
Seattle, WA

Western Watersheds Project
Hailey, ID

Western Wildlife Conservancy
Salt Lake City, UT

White Mountain Conservation League
Pinetop, AZ

Wild Connections
Colorado Springs, CO

WILD Foundation
Boulder, CO

Wild Utah Project
Salt Lake City, UT

Wild Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

WildEarth Guardians
Santa Fe, NM

WildLands Defense
Hailey, ID

Wilderness Workshop
Carbondale, CO

WildWest Institute
Missoula, MT

Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Philomath, OR

Wyoming Back Country Horsemen of America
Buffalo, WY

Wyoming Wilderness Association
Sheridan, WY

Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
Paris, ID