



**MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION**

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Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) applauds your efforts to make common sense updates to the management of the federally managed lands in our state. MFBF fully supports your legislative efforts to release the Hoodoo Mountain, Wales Creek, and Middle Fork Judith Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) from WSA status. Montana Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general agriculture organization, representing farmers and ranchers from across the state, many of whom make their living stewarding the land on private and public property. Your legislation will have a positive impact on rural communities in Powell, Judith Basin, and Fergus Counties and sets the stage to make even greater impacts statewide.

MFBF members support revoking Wilderness Study Area status on any and all WSAs that have been designated as such for five years or more and have failed to meet wilderness status qualifications. Given that the Hoodoo Mountain, Wales Creek and Middle Fork Judith WSAs have been designated for more than forty years, have failed to achieve wilderness status, and have even been recommended for release by their managing agencies, your bill takes appropriate action that is long overdue.

As you know, when lands are in a Wilderness Study Area status, they are often managed as wilderness, excluding some of the multiple uses federal lands were intended to serve. Our members believe that multiple use and proper management of public lands is in the public interest so returning these lands to a multiple use status is desired and beneficial.

Again, thank you for sponsoring this important legislation. We look forward to continuing the work of updating management of federal lands in common sense ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Johnson
President

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