

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