



Wyoming Wilderness Association

THE BIG ROCK CREEK WILD PUSH!

NOW is the time to urge our members of Congress to introduce legislation for the Rock Creek addition to the Cloud Peak Wilderness

**PLEASE GET YOUR LETTER FOR ROCK CREEK
TO THE WYOMING DELEGATION IN SEPTEMBER!**

Your help is needed to preserve Rock Creek proposed wilderness, which the Bighorn National Forest recommended in its 2005 forest plan. Rock Creek can only become Wilderness through Congressional designation. **Wyoming's delegation must be persuaded to act by hearing from a broad constituency of Wyoming and beyond!**

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR LETTER TO THE DELEGATION!

The Wyoming Wilderness Association is taking a group of local and articulate people to Washington, D.C. September 26, 2010 to advocate for Rock Creek. Your letters and emails of support will litter their offices!

ROCK CREEK BACKGROUND

Rock Creek is located in northeastern Wyoming on the eastern slope of the Big Horn Mountains. This spectacular 34,000 acre area will make a wonderful addition to the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area, as it is uniquely suited for wilderness designation.



Rock Creek recommended wilderness. WWA 2009.

- Rock Creek contains stunning canyons, wide open parks, jagged rock spires, pristine streams and creeks, old-growth aspen groves and dense conifer forests
- This area encompasses a complete mountain ecosystem; from the high alpine lakes of the Cloud Peak Wilderness to the rocky low-elevation forests and canyons at the border of the National Forest.
- Rock Creek has never been open for motorized use or logging. Building forest service roads for logging would cost taxpayers millions of dollars when other areas of the Bighorns may be more accessible, economical, and ecologically suitable for timber harvest.
- Travel in the Rock Creek area has always been by foot or horseback.
- Wilderness designation would not affect current and future grazing leases held by local ranchers. The Wilderness Act specifically allows grazing on wilderness lands.
- The Forest Service is a multiple-use agency with a history of development. If this area is NOT designated as wilderness, then it is likely to eventually be opened for other uses, if not in the next forest planning process as early as 2015, then in the future.



THE WYOMING DELEGATION

Senator Mike Enzi is in a key position to take up the issue of wilderness designation for Rock Creek. As a Sheridan High School graduate and a longtime resident of Gillette, Rock Creek is part of his home turf. Senator Enzi's D.C. public lands staffer, Chris Tomassi, and the NE WY Field Rep, DeAnna Kay toured Rock Creek in 2009 (*photo left*).

Representative Cynthia Lummis was especially interested in the proposal and took significant time in 2009 to tour the area (*photo below*).

Senator John Barrasso has expressed sincere interest in the area and holds a key position on the Natural Resources Committee.

The Wyoming Delegation wants to know there is local support for Rock Creek. Over 800 individuals and 280 businesses have endorsed the cause. **They need to hear from YOU, YOUR organizations and YOUR businesses NOW! PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE NEEDED!**



The Wyoming Wilderness Association urges you to **please write a personal letter to our Congressional delegation** explaining the need for full and lasting wilderness protection of Rock Creek. If you've written or signed a letter, please do it again! Tell them about your experiences in the wild of Wyoming; share your stories. Help Representative Lummis, Senators Barrasso and Enzi realize how valuable this area is to you, to the community, and to the nation. WWA has been faxing 20-30 letters a week to the D.C. offices for the last 6 months. They are hearing from folks from all over, but only with ongoing, expressed support from the public will Rock Creek be permanently preserved for the future.

If you need help or are too busy to tell your own story, please visit our website: www.wildwyo.org and click on **the Rock Creek link** to find a sample letter you can personalize (like the one on the back of this alert). Be sure to send a copy of your letter to the **Wyoming Wilderness Association**

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Date

YOUR NAME
Mailing Address
City, State Zip
Phone & Email

Dear Senator Enzi, Senator Barrasso and Representative Lummis:

Thank you for your dedication and hard work in investing in our state and communities. I'm writing today to express my support for designating the Rock Creek area of the Big Horns as an addition to the Cloud Peak Wilderness.

Introduce yourself—give background of where you live, how long you've been in Wyoming, and what you do/did for an occupation.

Rock Creek has much to offer, according to the Forest Service, it is "one of the most primitive areas on the Bighorn National Forest outside of wilderness." It contains outstanding wildlife habitat and amazing backcountry recreation opportunities—hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and camping. And an ecosystem that flows from the Cloud Peak Wilderness to the South and North Fork Canyons of Rock Creek—there is no place like this in Wyoming.

Add any personal experience you might have in Rock Creek or on the Big Horns or on public lands.

Protecting Rock Creek will help provide healthy elk populations, sustainable hunting opportunities, and economic income for our communities. It's a win-win—providing a draw for tourism, enhancing our quality of life and demonstrating that Wyoming has solutions to balance the heavy emphasis on energy development. Having protected landscapes adds to the recreation use in our communities, diversifying our economy by attracting new businesses and workers to the area, and providing sustainable recreation and tourism-based income to our existing businesses. Protecting Rock Creek will ensure that future generations can enjoy this place tomorrow as we do today.

Rock Creek has been almost Wilderness for too long. It is TIME to make it Wilderness. I urge your leadership to introduce and pass the Rock Creek Wilderness Act! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sign your name

CC: rockcreek@wildwyo.org The Wyoming Wilderness Association

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TO THE WYOMING DELEGATION IN SEPTEMBER!**

The Wyoming Wilderness Association is taking a great group to Washington, D.C. September 26, 2010 to ask for the Rock Creek Wilderness bill. Help flood the halls with your letters and emails of support! Left: Firebox Park, Rock Creek recommended wilderness. Sara Domek photo, August 2010.

