

Resolution #19  
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

**SUPPORT H.R. 980, THE NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT (NREPA)**

Submitted by: Wilderness Watch

**Background:** The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is a visionary science-based land protection bill that would designate nearly 23 million acres of Wilderness in the states of Washington (500,000 acres), Oregon (750,000 acres), Idaho (9.5 million acres), Montana (7 million acres), and Wyoming (5 million acres). Additionally, NREPA designates 1,800 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers, and it established biological corridors and habitat recovery areas linking all of the major core areas in the Northern Rockies. NREPA was introduced in the House of Representatives on 2/11/2009 by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, and had 91 co-sponsors as of 8/26/09. The bill was heard in the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests And Public Lands on 5/5/09.

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) was drafted by local wildlife biologists, conservation biologists, economists, scientists, business owners, and individuals, to protect the biological integrity of the Northern Rockies, the only place in the lower 48 where live nearly all the native plant and animal species present at the time of the Lewis & Clark expedition. In addition to protecting wilderness and wild rivers, NREPA creates more than 2,300 jobs through forest restoration work such as reclaiming old logging roads and rehabilitating damaged watersheds, and saves taxpayers dollars by ending below-cost taxpayer-subsidized public lands logging, to the tune of \$245 million over ten years. The wilderness NREPA designates would protect grizzly bears, bull trout and other threatened and endangered species.

NREPA represents the best opportunity to protect some of our wildest unprotected public lands. Former President Jimmy Carter, world-renowned scientists, and more than 700 organizations and businesses nationwide have endorsed this bill.

**Resolution:** The FWOC supports the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

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