

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2010

The Honorable Tom Tidwell, Chief
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Tidwell:

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to the United States Forest Service wilderness program, and are writing to call your attention to a pressing issue regarding the management of areas the agency has recommended for wilderness designation.


As you know, currently pending before Congress are over three million acres of forest lands which the Forest Service has recommended as wilderness. As Congress deliberates on whether to enact these proposals, it is essential that the Forest Service refrain from taking actions that may undermine Congress from acting on the agency's recommendations.

We are concerned that the agency's management of some of these areas may be adversely impacting their wilderness character, while making wilderness designation more difficult. In particular, we are concerned about the agency's continued authorization of activities that are disallowed in wilderness areas, including the use of motorized vehicles.

The agency is currently undertaking an important nationwide effort to designate routes of travel for motorized vehicles. The scope of this effort underscores the need to apply consistent guidance in managing agency-recommended wilderness lands.

We ask that you take immediate steps to preserve the Congressional prerogative to designate wilderness by issuing national guidance on the management of agency-recommended wilderness. This guidance should prohibit the authorization of activities, such as use of motorized vehicles, that adversely affect the wilderness qualities of the recommended areas to a significant degree.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



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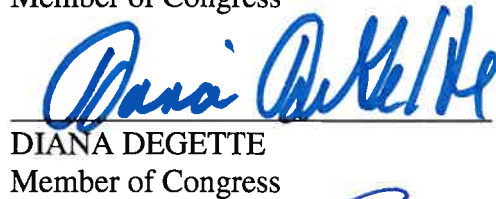

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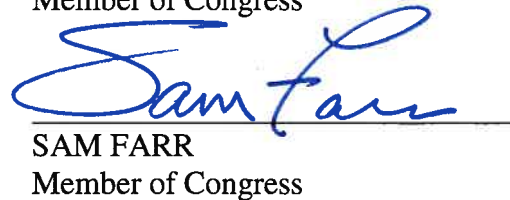

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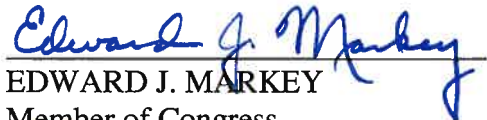
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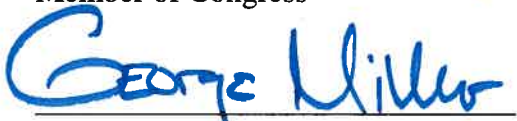
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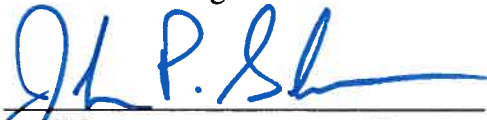
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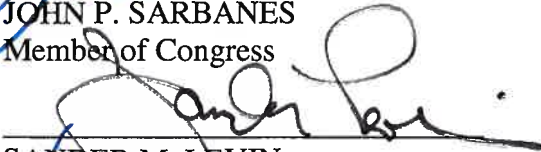
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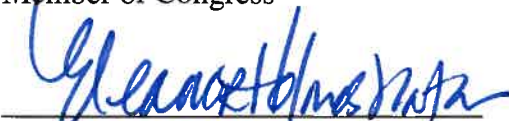
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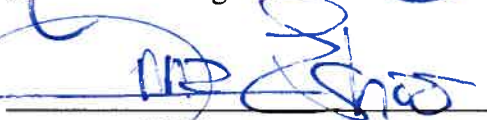
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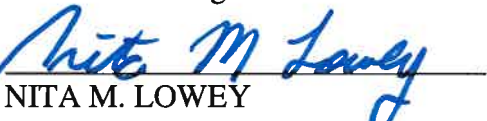
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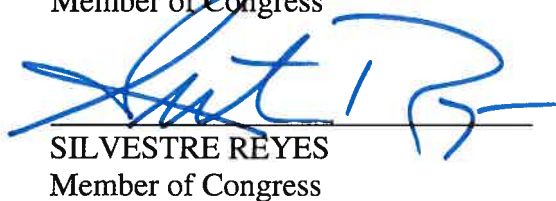
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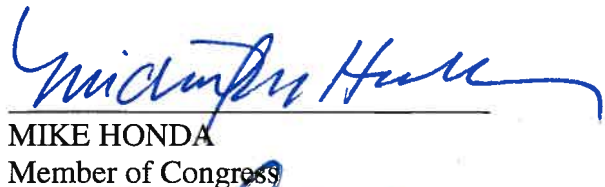
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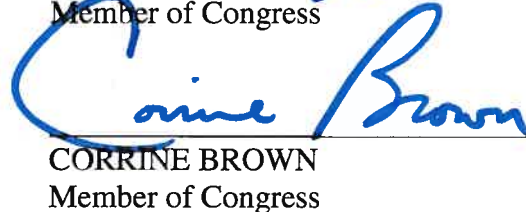
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