

Idaho needs the support of its entire congressional delegation to either kill or modify this bill to exclude the south half of Mount Jefferson from wilderness designation. There are many reasons to oppose this bill, *but it is imperative for the communities of Eastern Idaho that the designation of the entire Mount Jefferson area as wilderness be stopped.*

**Write or call your Senators and Congressman.
Make it clear that this bill must be stopped or changed.
It is not just a Montana bill; it is also an Idaho bill that costs us jobs and recreation opportunities.**

Senator Mike Crapo: (208) 522-9779
(send an e-mail at <http://crapo.senate.gov>)

Senator Jim Risch: (208) 523-5541
(send an e-mail at <http://risch.senate.gov>)

Congressman Mike Simpson: (208) 523-6701
(send an e-mail at www.house.gov/simpson)

Save Jobs and Recreation in Idaho

**Stop or Change Senator Jon Tester's
Montana "Forest Jobs and Recreation Act"**



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On July 20, 2009 Montana Senator Jon Tester introduced Senate Bill 1470, titled the Montana “Forest Jobs and Recreation Act”. This bill would designate 618,000 acres of new national forest wilderness and 59,000 acres of BLM wilderness, totaling 677,000 acres. *Mount Jefferson is one of the new wildernesses, all 4,465 acres of the original recommended wilderness* recently modified in the revised Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Idahoans have fought long and hard to keep Mount Jefferson, an iconic snowmobiling destination, open to winter recreation. The Forest Service saw the merits of our cause and dropped that portion of Mount Jefferson used by snowmobilers from their recommended wilderness. This was a hard-won victory for the Idaho communities where snowmobile access to Mount Jefferson originates. However, Senator Tester has ignored Mount Jefferson’s importance to Idaho and introduced a bill that makes the entire area wilderness.

Key Talking Points

1. The Forest Service’s decision retaining the north half of Mount Jefferson for recommended wilderness and leaving the south half open for snowmobiling should be allowed to stand. This revision represents a true compromise and achieves several goals:

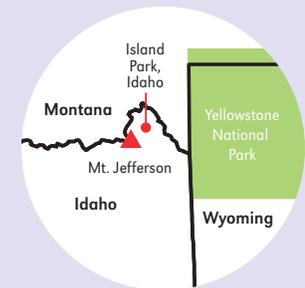
- The north half of the area recommended for wilderness abuts that portion of BLM lands also recommended for wilderness, as requested by pro-wilderness groups.
- The south half, accessible only from Idaho, is left open, and meets the needs of snowmobilers and recreation dependent economies in Island Park, West Yellowstone, and Eastern Idaho.
- This compromise has been in place and has worked satisfactorily for 5 years.

2. The south half of Mount Jefferson is extremely important to snowmobiling.

- It is widely known as “the crown jewel of western snowmobiling”.
- It is the only area in Island Park, famous for snowmobiling, where the rugged, challenging high mountain experience can be found.
- While famous for challenging snowmobiling, Mount Jefferson can also be easily accessed by intermediate riders who seek outstanding scenery.

3. Snowmobile access to Jefferson is crucial to Island Park’s economy.

- Mount Jefferson is the “draw” that brings snowmobilers to the area.
- Kevin Phillips, Island Park Polaris dealer and Chamber of Commerce President, says that 90% of his sled rentals want to go to Jefferson. Visitors who stay in the Island Park area to snowmobile spend an average of \$300/day per person when using their own sleds and \$400/day if they rent a sled.
- Mount Jefferson access is important for local real estate values.
- We appreciate that this information was included in your socioeconomic analysis.



4. Few, if any, significant adverse effects from snowmobiles have been identified after many years of use and intense study.

- There has been no documented impact on the wolverine or any other animal.
- Although a few backcountry skiers use the area, their needs can be satisfied by the north half that is closed to snowmobiling.

Save jobs and recreation in Idaho. Stop Senate Bill 1470.

Write or call your Senators and Congressman.