



Vote YES on Pro-environmental Amendments

July 16, 2003

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 700,000 members of the Sierra Club, I urge you to give careful consideration to a series of amendments to the FY2004 Department of Interior Appropriations Bill aimed at protecting our National Forests, National Parks and other public lands across America. Passage of these amendments will be crucial to ensuring that our unique natural heritage is preserved for future generations.

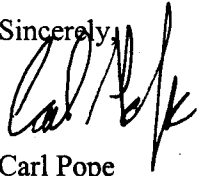
Please vote "Yes" on the following important amendments:

- 1) Stop the Giveaway of America's Public Lands:** The Department of Interior (DOI) has revived a law repealed by Congress 26 years ago to allow special interests and local jurisdictions to claim thousands of miles of rights-of-way, including cow paths and stream bottoms, across unroaded federal lands. Such action will promote private development of our public lands and disqualify once wild places from future wilderness protection. National treasures at risk include Colorado's Dinosaur National Park, California's Mojave National Preserve, Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
- 2) Protect Roadless National Forest Areas:** This amendment would preserve the roadless rule -- protecting 58 million acres of our wildest National Forest lands and safeguarding water quality, recreation, and wildlife habitat by stopping Forest Service plans to rewrite and undermine this widely-supported rule.
- 3) Protect Yellowstone from Pollution:** The Holt-Rahall-Shays-T.Johnson amendment protects human health and wildlife by reducing air pollution and engine noise through replacing snowmobiles with snowcoaches according to the National Park Service's previous plan.
- 4) Protect Wild Buffalo in Yellowstone National Park:** the amendment would prohibit the National Park Service and Forest Service from senselessly slaughtering Yellowstone buffalo and helps to ensure that agencies pursue non-lethal means of managing the herds.
- 5) Protect Wildlife Refuges:** The Blumenauer-Thompson-Shays amendment prohibits the granting of new leases for growing crops on the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge that are water intensive, use particularly toxic pesticides, and provide no benefit to wildlife.
- 6) Fund Environmental Reviews:** The Hoeffel amendment provides essential funding to help ensure that the renewal of grazing permits follows adequate environmental analysis as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, preventing damage to streams, grasslands, and forests.
- 7) Protect the 1976 National Forest Management Act:** This amendment maintains public participation, scientific input, and wildlife protection in the management of our national forests by stopping proposed radical revisions to 1982 regulations adopted under President Reagan.

8) End the Fee Demonstration Program: This amendment would put an end to the extension of the Recreation Fee Demo Program. The recreational fee program raises serious questions of free public access, social equity, forest economics, and industry subsidies. The American people already own these lands, and should have free and open access to them as long as such access does not damage the resource.

In addition to supporting these amendments, I also urge you to oppose any attempts to weaken compliance with environmental laws through budget cuts or anti-environmental riders. The funding provided for the FY2004 Interior Appropriations bill is key to ensuring that America's public lands and wildlife are safeguarded for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Pope', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Carl Pope