

# **Defending Montana's Public Lands**

## **Preventing Transfer of Public Lands**

Jon has fought relentlessly against attempts to transfer or sell off federal public lands.

- Jon urged Congressional leaders against selling off or transferring federal public lands as part of a budget deal.
- Jon and outdoors groups successfully pushed to kill a proposal to sell off 3.3 million acres of federal public lands, including 100,000 acres in Montana.
- Jon blasted a rule change that made it easier to sell off or transfer federal public lands.
- Jon slammed a proposal to sell off or transfer "excess" federal public lands.

## **Increasing Access to Public Lands**

Jon has consistently pushed legislation to increase public access to public lands for recreation. He's introduced:

- *The Outdoor Economy Act*, to create an Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee that would advise presidential administrations on ways to increase public access to public lands.
- *The Recreation-Not-Red-Tape Act*, designed to reduce barriers to outdoor recreation access and improve public lands management.
- *The Making Public Lands Public Act*, designed to increase funding to secure recreational public access to public lands.

## **North Fork/Rocky Mountain Front**

In 2014, Jon worked across the aisle with the Montana Congressional delegation to secure "historic" passage of a lands bill which included:

- *The North Fork Watershed Protection Act* was a "critical piece of legislation" that prohibited oil and gas development on 430,000 acres near Glacier National Park.
- *The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act* added 67,000 acres to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and designated 208,000 acres along the Rocky Mountain Front as a conservation management area.

***"Montana's public lands aren't just the heart of our outdoor way of life, they're the backbone of our economy. They generate more than \$7 billion in annual revenue and sustain more than 70,000 jobs. So keeping our public lands in public hands will not only preserve the Montana way of life for our kids and grandkids, it will ensure the Treasure State continues to thrive."***

## **Yellowstone Mining Ban**

Jon successfully pushed the Obama Administration to block private mining claims on Forest Service lands north of Yellowstone National Park near Emigrant and Jardine, and has since pushed to make that ban permanent.

- In 2017, Jon introduced legislation to permanently ban new mining claims on Forest Service land in Paradise Valley.
- Livingston Enterprise and Bozeman Daily Chronicle editorial boards praised Jon for his efforts to block mining at the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park.

## **Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act**

Jon introduced the *Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act* to expand the Bob Marshall, Mission Mountain, And Scapegoat Wilderness Areas by 79,000 acres, including 39,000 acres in the Monture Creek area and 7,784 to the Grizzly Basin area. The bill:

- Would develop a comprehensive trail plan to provide recreationists with access to the Lolo National Forest.
- Would designate two recreation management areas in the Lolo National Forest: a 2,200-acre winter area open to snowmobiling known as the Otatsy Recreation Management Area; and a 3,800-acre summer area open to mountain biking in the Spread Mountain Recreation Area.
- Would ban oil and gas exploration and most timber harvest in the Otatsy Recreation Area.
- Would streamline and expand timber harvests and promote active forest management in the Seeley Lake area.
- Is supported by a broad cross-section of Montanans & was “the result of a decade of collaboration between the timber industry, sportsmen organizations, ranchers and business owners.”

## **East Rosebud**

Jon’s *East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*, designed to protect 20 miles of public land from development, was passed by the Senate.

- From 2014 to 2017, Jon introduced or cosponsored three versions of the *East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* to protect 20 miles of public land along East Rosebud Creek from future development.

## **LWCF**

Jon has been a longtime champion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LWCF has helped fund a number of Montana conservation projects, including:

- The Whitefish Lake Watershed Project, a 15,534-acre easement.
- The Trumbull Creek Conservation Project.
- The Haskill Basin Conservation Project, a 3,000-acre parcel
- The Whitefish Trail Expansion.
- Alvord Lake, the purchase of 142 acres to assure public access to the parcel.

## **National Forest Trail Maintenance Funding**

Jon helped fight off Obama Administration trail maintenance cuts that would have reduced trail maintenance funding at Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest by \$267,000, at Custer Gallatin National Forest by \$300,000, and in Flathead and Kootenai National Forest by between 20 and 30 percent.

- Noting the trails were “pretty damn important” to Montana’s outdoor economy.
- In April 2016, the Forest Service announced that it would back off its proposal to cut trail maintenance funding in its Northern Region.

PAID FOR BY MONTANANS FOR TESTER

**JON  
TESTER**  
U.S. SENATE