

LEPO

Legislative Environmental
Policy Office

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES DIVISION

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS:

EFFORTS OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

OVERVIEW

Senate Joint Resolution No. 30 requests the EQC learn about different stakeholder working groups related to wilderness study areas. The resolution also notes that “Montanans have a long history of working together to find common ground on contentious issues related to natural resource management and planning.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Documents from different sources provide some background on collaborative efforts of stakeholder groups to address concerns related to National Forest lands in Montana, which includes certain wilderness study areas managed by the Forest Service.

The Montana Forest Collaboration Network is an “an independent organization of volunteers providing information and services to individuals and groups across the state of Montana that support the management and protection of natural resources. The mission of the organization is to assist collaboration in forest and grassland restoration, conservation, and resource utilization for the benefit of all.”

“MONTANANS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUES RELATED TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING.” –SJR30

Sponsors include the Montana Wood Products Association, federal land management agencies, the Wilderness Society, the Society of American Foresters, and the Wilderness Association, among others. The [2019 Annual Report](#) includes an overview of stakeholder efforts.



The Wilderness Society provided two related documents. The group compiled a [summary](#) of current collaboration efforts in the state (which are explained more in depth in the Collaboration Network report). The other document, [Collaboration at a Crossroads](#), includes case studies of collaboration in the state.

PANELISTS

EQC staff consulted with Julia Altemus of the Montana Wood Products Association, Noah Marion of the Montana Wilderness Association, and others regarding panelists for the January EQC meeting. They suggested the following panelists who agreed to address the Council and answer questions. All are involved with at least one of the stakeholder collaboration efforts identified in the background documents.

Name	Affiliation	Background
Brian Kahn	Artemis Common Ground	Facilitator/attorney
Tony Colter	Sun Mountain Lumber	Logging industry
Barb Cestero	The Wilderness Society	Conservationist
Russ Ehnes	Independent	Motorized recreation activist
Ben Horan	MTB Missoula	Mountain bike activist

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