

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2015

Wyoming's Boards of County Commissioners
Wyoming County Commissioners Association
P.O. Box 86
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Commissioners and interested stakeholders,

We are writing to acknowledge the important role local governments and stakeholders play in providing Congress with insight on important federal land management issues. The Wyoming congressional delegation is aware of the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative ("WPLI") and believes that a locally led effort such as WPLI provides a reasonable approach for legislative success. We are hopeful local governments and all public lands stakeholders will actively engage in this process.

Congress has sole authority to declare lands as wilderness. The creation of temporary Wilderness Study Areas ("WSAs") was always intended to assist Congress in making decisions about wilderness designations. Unfortunately, final congressional decisions on the status of WSAs in Wyoming have proven elusive, and Wyoming's forty-five WSAs have existed in limbo for decades.

The Wyoming congressional delegation believes that a ground-up approach gives Wyoming's citizens the best chance to decide how to treat these lands. We look forward to the creation of locally driven, Wyoming-specific recommendations.

Sincerely,


Mike Enzi
U.S. Senator


John Barrasso, M.D.
U.S. Senator


Cynthia Lummis
U.S. Representative