11-12-2015

SB27-15/16: Regarding the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project (BCSP)

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project (BCSP)
November 12th, 2015
SB27-15/16
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Sponsored by:

Whereas, over the past 10 years, a diverse group of stakeholders have come together to create the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project (BCSP), a collaborative group focused on restoration, recreation, and responsible timber harvest;

Whereas, this group, entitled the Southwest Crown Collaborative (SWCC), represents a broad range of stakeholders that includes The Montana Wilderness Association, Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters, Seeley Lake Drifters Snowmobile Club, Pyramid Mountain Lumber, The Wilderness Society, Ecosystem Management Research Institute, The Montana Wildlife Federation, and Montana Trout Unlimited;

Whereas, the BCSP would improve the pace and scale of forest restoration by comprehensively assessing the landscape, scheduling restoration projects, and increasing funds available for restoration projects;

Whereas, the BCSP would make additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System by re-designating 83,000 acres of National Forest land as part of the Bob Marshall, Mission Mountain, and Scapegoat Wilderness areas;

Whereas, BCSP management practices that are already being employed have thus far created $52 million dollars of investment and have created or maintained 160 jobs annually in the Ovando and Seeley Lake areas;

Whereas, the BCSP would bring 12 million federal dollars back to the state of Montana;

Whereas, the Montana Congressional delegation would help to ensure that the BCSP’s protections and management practices are not subject to the whims of future administrations;

Whereas, the BCSP would establish a world-class trails system in Seeley Lake and Ovando areas;

Whereas, the BCSP would increase recreation opportunity by adding the Otatsy Recreation Management area, which designates 1,859 acres for motorized winter activity;
Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) endorses the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project’s current proposal;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to The Office of Representative, Ryan Zinke; The Office of Senator, Jon Tester; the Office of Senator, Steve Daines; Lolo National Forest Supervisor’s Office; and Regional Forester.

Passed by Committee: _____________________________, 2015

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2015

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Aaron Folsom                 Betsy Story
Chair, Student Political Action  Chair of the Senate