

## **SAVE THE DATE – ATTEND THE SESSION!**

### **PLEASE ATTEND THE SECOND LISTENING SESSION ON SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL**

**This one is closer to home for many of you!!!**

**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in Silverton from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Silverton Town Hall**

Congressman Scott Tipton has announced that his staff will host a second "Listening Session" for the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Proposal on November 10th at the Silverton Town Hall (1360 Greene Street). Significant efforts are being made by anti-wilderness interests to attend the meeting - **we need to fill the room!**

While some of these areas seem far away, some of them are quite close to home for many of you and its time to show our support for them! Ice Lakes Basin would be permanently protected by this proposal as would the stunning Waterfall Canyon in the Sheep Mountain Area. This is our stomping ground and we have to stand up for it!

This meeting will be conducted as an open house. You will be able to chat with a staff person one-on-one and tell them why you support the bill. **Be as specific as you can.** More information is listed below and see our website for a map and further details.

Please email [amber@sanjuancitizens.org](mailto:amber@sanjuancitizens.org) and let us know if you are able to go. We are keeping track of numbers so we have an idea of how many folks can make it.

**Carpool info will be sent next week, so keep your eye out for that!**

**If you haven't already, Please ALSO send a message to Congressman Tipton** to express your support for the areas in the proposal: **Sheep Mountain Special Management Area, additions to the existing Lizard Head and Mt. Sneffels Wilderness Areas, McKenna Peak Wilderness and Naturita Canyon Mineral Withdrawal.** Please help us flood his office with support for this important land conservation legislation which is broadly supported by local communities.

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton, R-CO  
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Email: [SanJuanFeedback@mail.house.gov](mailto:SanJuanFeedback@mail.house.gov)

With your help and through collaboration with Sheep Mountain Alliance, The Wilderness Society and Ridgway Ouray Community Council, the SJ Citizens Alliance has been working hard for the last three years to ensure that this proposal is broadly supported by all stakeholders and users of these areas. The proposal has gone through a very thorough vetting process, and enjoys the enthusiastic support of San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan

counties, municipalities, and numerous stakeholders including ranchers, outfitters, and thousands of local residents. Compromises have been made and broad-based support has been garnered to send this well vetted proposal to Congress.

**Let Congressman Tipton know this issue is important to you!** Please contact him today with your support for the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Proposal.

### **Points to Emphasize:**

- The San Juan Mountains Wilderness proposal is supported by San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan counties as well as the municipalities of Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Ophir, Mountain Village, and Norwood.
- The Proposal is supported by ranchers, hunters and anglers, recreation interests, private landowners, and many more.
- With a regional economy dependent on tourism and outdoor recreation, protecting viewsheds and natural areas will add to the economic health of the area through job creation and visitor services.
- This proposal will help protect the drinking water supplies for Ouray, Ridgway, Silverton, Telluride, Ophir and Norwood.
- The San Juan Mountains proposal was carefully crafted over three years to avoid conflicts with existing users of these lands.
- The proposal is a balanced approach to public land use.
- No roads are closed in the proposal and areas with any mining activity were avoided.
- Most areas within the proposal are already being managed by the Forest Service as wilderness. This proposal will ensure lasting protection for these areas.

### **What's at stake**

The proposal would designate new wilderness:

- 3,170 acres added to the existing Lizard Head Wilderness Area in San Miguel County
- 21,606 acres added to the existing Mt. Sneffels Wilderness Area in San Miguel and Ouray counties
- 8,614 acres of the McKenna Peak Wilderness Study Area in San Miguel County, located in the Disappointment Valley, designated as wilderness

It would also extend new protections to important wild lands:

- 21,697 acres in San Juan and San Miguel County including Ice Lakes Basin outside of Silverton and the high alpine peaks near Ophir designated as the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area. Existing uses including heliskiing will be allowed to continue, but no new roads or other development will be permitted. The area will automatically become wilderness should the heliski company cease to operate in the area.

- 6,595 acres withdrawn from eligibility for mineral leasing in Naturita Canyon, near Norwood in San Miguel County

For further information contact Amber Kelley at 565-7191 ext. 2 or  
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