

2007

**Resolution #5 2007 Submitted by Last Chance Back Country
Horsemen MT
Subject : Wilderness Designation for Rocky Mountain Front**

WHEREAS, The Back Country Horsemen of Montana is incorporated under the laws of the State of Montana as a nonprofit educational corporation and is affiliated with the Back Country Horsemen of America, whose major mission and purpose in part is to perpetuate the common sense and enjoyment of horse use in Montana's roadless back country and wilderness and to assist the government agencies in the management and maintenance of our public lands, held in trust for the people and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The Rocky Mountain Front has historically been used and managed as wilderness and the United States Forest Service gave this area high wilderness rating in the RARE I & II evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, Since the early 1900's the People of Montana have been committed to restoring the big game animals of the Rocky Mountain Front – the Elk, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Mule Deer and Grizzly Bear. In 1913 the Montana Legislative Assembly created the Sun River Game Preserve, now a portion of the Bob Marshall Wilderness system. The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks has acquired three wildlife management areas adjacent to the Front for winter game range. In addition Nature Conservancy, and the Boone & Crockett Club also manage adjacent areas for winter range; and

WHEREAS, The Rocky Mountain Front is the headwaters of the numerous rivers and creeks pouring out of the mountains: Milk, Marias, Two Medicine, Teton, Sun, Dearborn & Blackfoot Rivers, all important to municipal water supplies, agriculture, fisheries and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Recent legislation in the Congress of the United States has protected the Rocky Mountain Front from oil and gas explorations for the present; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Back Country Horsemen of Montana request and urge our congressional delegation, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to protect the federal lands of the Rocky Mountain Front by having it included in the National Wilderness Preservation System; and be it further

RESOLVED, To request the Chairmen of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana to forward this resolution to our Congressional delegation, the Governor of Montana, The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Head of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chairman, Blackfoot Tribal Council.