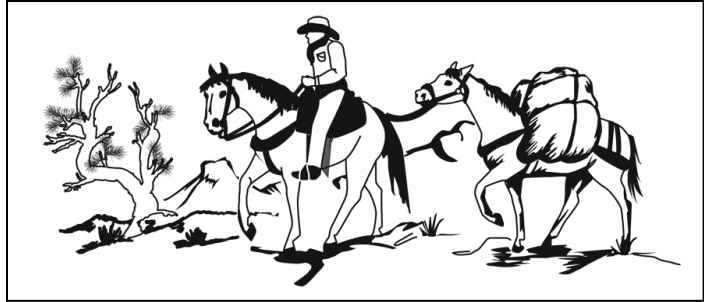


Back Country Horsemen of America



PO Box 1367

Graham WA 98338-1367

360-832-2461 FAX 360-832-1564 Toll Free 1-888-893-5161

www.backcountryhorse.com

March 3, 2014

The Honorable Scott Tipton
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tipton:

I write to express the strong endorsement of Back Country Horsemen of America for H.R. 1839, the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act of 2013. I understand there is widespread support for this bill from a broad range of trail user groups and conservation organizations and from local governments and scores of regional businesses. As such, I commend your efforts to develop a widely supported public lands protection bill.

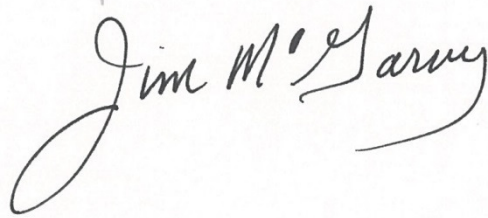
Your legislation will provide permanent and needed protection for the ecologically important and culturally significant wild lands of the Hermosa Creek Watershed, including over 37,000 acres that would be forever protected as Wilderness for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. I appreciate that your bill recognizes the high-value trail network that exists in the Hermosa Creek watershed that is stated as being enjoyed by hikers, horseback riders and others.

I understand that Hermosa Creek is among the state's largest yet unprotected backcountry areas and provides important habitat for robust populations of deer and elk. Hermosa Creek also is the focus of one of the state's most important reintroduction programs for native cutthroat trout. These and other species are important to our membership, which includes backcountry enthusiasts who hunt, fish, partake in wildlife photography or simply enjoy abundant and watchable wildlife.

It is important that the many benefits and resources associated with the Hermosa Creek watershed be available for future generations, and that our children and grandchildren will

inherit this unique and wild landscape to enjoy and experience. Thank you for the introduction of H.R. 1839. Back Country Horsemen of America look forward to working with you to ensure this landscape is permanently protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McGarvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jim McGarvey
Chairman
Back Country Horsemen of America
www.backcountryhorse.com
1-888-893-5161
C: 706-669-1015