

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

"The community was told not to worry as the Heritage Act would not restrict other property owners' rights and would bring in federal funds... Almost immediately, Yuma citizens started to see restrictions—from the type of building allowed to the color of paint... Even areas outside the boundaries were affected." *Harold Maxwell, "Lessons Learned from Heritage Act," Tucson Citizen, Letters to the Editor, April 12, 2007*

"National Heritage Areas are a threat to property rights and local government. If you own a business or residence in the designated area, you will be dealing with another layer of government that you have no control over. You cannot vote them out or their program out. They have plans for you whether you like it or not..."
Beth Machens, Board of Aldermen, City of West Alton, Missouri

"As a hunter, I want to be able to get on land to hunt, but I'm an American first who respects the property rights of landowners. This isn't a government issue. We shouldn't advocate for the federal government to take away the rights of others in the name of appeasing special interest groups."
Thomas K. Remington, Managing Editor, U.S. Hunting Today

"National Heritage Areas push us toward less government accountability. Committees composed of unelected and unaccountable individuals—some of whom have a financial stake in local land use decisions—are given substantial influence over these very decisions through National Heritage Area designation. If you think power corrupts elected officials, just wait and see what it does to unelected ones." *David A. Ridenour, Vice President, The National Center for Public Policy Research*

WEBSITES

<https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL33462.html>
<https://www.heritage.org/budget-and-spending/report/national-heritage-areas-costly-economic-development-schemes-threaten/>

TAKE ACTION & LEARN MORE

It's important to let your elected officials know that you are opposed to this NHA. Montana's Congressional Delegation is particularly important since they play a role in whether the NHA legislation is introduced in Congress.

Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510
202- 224-2651
[www.daines.senate.gov/
connect/email-steve](http://www.daines.senate.gov/connect/email-steve)

Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510
[www.testersenate.gov/?
p=email_senator](http://www.testersenate.gov/?p=email_senator)

Rep. Greg Gianforte
1222 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515
(202) 225-3211
<https://gianforte.house.gov/>

Cascade County
Commissioners:
Joe Briggs
Jim Larson
Jane Weber
325 2nd Ave North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Chouteau County
Commissioners:
Bob Pasha
Clay Riehl
Dare Schuster
1308 Franklin St.
Fort Benton, MT 59442

The National Park Service wants to see widespread support for an NHA. Let them know that there is not widespread support and that you oppose the NHA.

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STOP THE NHA

Join Us on Facebook

@ Montanans Opposing Big Sky Country

National Heritage Area

Phone: 406-788-3204

Help Stop Montana Land Designation Proposed By

Big Sky Country National Heritage Area

"Property is surely a right of mankind as real as liberty...The moment the idea is admitted into society, that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence."

John Adams, Founding Father

WHAT IS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?

According to the National Park Service, "National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape....NPS partners with, provides technical assistance, and distributes matching federal funds from Congress to NHA entities. NPS does not assume ownership of land inside heritage areas or impose land use controls." That doesn't sound menacing, does it?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM THEN?

We have researched the 55 existing National Heritage Areas and provide detailed concerns in this brochure under WHY WE OPPOSE THE NHA. To sum them up, they include property rights concerns, lack of transparency, no public accountability, more government bureaucracy, solution looking for a problem, continuous drain on taxpayers and fix our National Parks first.



WHY WE OPPOSE THE NHA

PROPERTY RIGHTS CONCERNS

Despite language in an NHA designation supposedly designed to protect private property rights, local government officials are pressured to pass zoning laws and regulations not otherwise needed in order to support the NHA management plan. This impairs the right of private property owners to use and enjoy their properties as they see fit.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Private land is included within the NHA boundaries without the owner's consent. No notification is given to landowners of NHA management actions.

NO PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

A private, non-elected organization will manage the NHA. This organization is not accountable to the public for their management actions.

MORE BUREAUCRACY

Control of the NHA by a non-governmental organization and National Park Service oversight adds another layer of government bureaucracy.

SOLUTION LOOKING FOR A PROBLEM

Local, state and federal regulations and programs and private nonprofits already exist to promote the economy and preserve the history and heritage of Central Montana. NHA designation duplicates those efforts.

CONTINUOUS DRAIN ON TAXPAYERS

None of the National Heritage Areas in existence have become self-sufficient and are chronically dependent upon additional federal funding at taxpayer expense.

FIX OUR NATIONAL PARKS FIRST

National Heritage Areas funnel resources away from the National Park Service's main mission of taking care of already existing national parks. NPS money is better spend toward backlogs of over \$131 million and \$585 million in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks respectively.

BIG SKY COUNTRY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA BACKGROUND

Originally called Upper Missouri River NHA. At one time, the proposed boundaries went to Gates of the Mountains in Lewis and Clark County and included portions of Fergus and Phillips County. The latter two counties were dropped when county residents, realizing the pitfalls of the NHA, spoke up against it. We must do the same for Cascade and Chouteau Counties.

CASCADE COUNTY: 2711 square miles/more than 1.7 million acres. ALL WITHIN THE NHA

CHOUTEAU COUNTY: Portage, Floweree and Missouri River corridor all the way to Loma.

