

Seth Wescott, Farmington, ME

http://www.usolympicteam.com/26_38187.htm

USA Ski Team, Snowboard Cross (SBX)

2006 Winter Olympics, Gold Medal

2005 SBX World champion

Seven-time X-Games SBX medalist

Four-time U.S. National champion in SBX (2000-2003)

"I was only six the first time I rode a skateboard, but I'll never forget the feeling of exhilaration it gave me. It led me to snowboarding through which I've further explored that sense of boundless freedom, testing my own limits against the laws of nature. It gives me a sense of unsurpassed independence and at the same time a feeling of being connected to something far greater than myself. That's the same feeling I get in our last unspoiled wild forests, and it's why we need to protect them. We all need some wildness in our lives."

Mike Richter, Guildford, CT resident, originally from Abington, PA

http://www.usolympicteam.com/26_12454.htm

USA Ice Hockey Team

1988, 1998 and 2002 Winter Olympics

Silver Medal, 2002 Winter Olympics

World cup MVP, 1996

Stanley Cup, 1994

"The repeal of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule has senselessly jeopardized the future of America's last wild forests. The petition filed today amounts to the American people saying no; no to greed, special interests, and the profit of the few at the expense of our common good. Americans continue to overwhelmingly support protecting national forest lands. The only question is-do our leaders?"

Chris Klug, Aspen, CO

http://www.usolympicteam.com/26_736.htm and www.chrisklug.com

USA Ski Team, Snowboarding, parallel giant slalom (PGS)

2002 Winter Olympics, Bronze Medal

Six-time U.S. National PGS champion

"Having traveled the world snowboarding, I always tell people that some of the best powder and most beautiful forests are right where I live in Aspen, Colorado. I've spent countless hours carving lines down slopes and getting to know some of the most pristine forests our great country has to offer.

"Winning races both here and abroad as well as a bronze medal in the 2002 Olympics has taught me a lot, but so has facing a degenerative liver disease that nearly cost me my life. When your life literally and figuratively takes you to the highest peaks and deepest valleys, you learn to not take things for granted.

“Unfortunately, last year the government took the forests I’ve come to know and love for granted when it repealed protections for millions of acres of public land across the country. That’s why I’ve joined my fellow athletes and Americans in asking the government to not be shortsighted, and reinstate the Roadless Rule to protect our pristine forests for future generations.”

Abigail Larson, Bozeman, MT

http://www.usolympicteam.com/26_43879.htm

USA Olympic Ski Team, Cross-country

2006 Winter Olympics

2005 U.S. National Champion

"Montana's roadless National Forests provide a perfect training ground for cross country skiing and other outdoor sports. We should protect our wild forests so future generations of athletes have the same opportunity to prepare for the Olympics as I have," said Abigail Larson, member of the 2006 U.S. Olympic Cross Country Ski Team and Bozeman resident.

Rebecca Giddens, Kernville, CA

http://www.usolympicteam.com/26_1113.htm

USA Canoe and Kayak Team, 2000 & 2004 Summer Olympics

Silver Medal, Women’s K1 Slalom Kayak, 2004 Summer Olympics

World Champion and 5-time National Champion

“California’s roadless areas play a critical in protecting our waterways, including the Kern River where I trained for the 2004 Summer Olympics,” said Rebecca Giddens, Olympic kayaker and 2004 silver medalist. “As owners of the Kern River Brewing Company my husband and I are further indebted to roadless forests for providing clean water to ensure our customers can enjoy the purest ingredients in every pint.”

Jon Root, Venice, CA

USA Volleyball Team

1988 Summer Olympics, Gold Medal

1986 World Champion

"California is home to some of America's top world-class athletes and most spectacular national forests. This petition shows that athletes across disciplines have come together as one team to protect our last wild forests. I hope Governor Schwarzenegger sees fit to join our team and take action to ensure our roadless forests remain wild."

Jeremy Linn, Virginia resident, Pennsylvania native

<http://tshf.net/honorees/linn.html>

USA Swimming Team, 1996 Summer Olympics

Gold Medal, 400m Medley Relay
Silver Medal, 100m Breaststroke

“Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest only has 25,000 acres of roadless areas left”, said Jeremy Linn, 2-time Olympic medalist and native of Harrisburg. “We should protect our last wild forests for future generation of Pennsylvanians.”

“Virginia has more national forest roadless acres than any other state east of the Mississippi, said Jeremy Linn, 2-time Olympic medalist and northern Virginia resident. “The petition filed today seeks to keep Virginia in first place for national forest conservation in the eastern U.S.”

Greg Hexum, Duluth, MN
Atlas Snow-Shoe Racing Team
U.S. Snow-Shoe Association All-American
Two-time defending North Central Region Snowshoe Champion

"As an athlete I've competed in races throughout the country but my favorite place to run and snowshoe is right here in Minnesota's Superior National Forest. "I've signed the petition to protect our wild forests because thousands of acres are at risk and I want to preserve the pristine recreational opportunities the great north woods provides. We must act now if we hope to have our state's greatest resource around in the future."

Brandi Chastain, California
USA Women’s Soccer Team
World Cup Champion 1991 and 1999
Gold Medal, 1996 and 2004 Summer Olympics
Silver Medal 2000 Summer Olympics

"By signing this petition I'm joining my fellow citizens in taking a stand against opening America's roadless national forests to development," said Brandi Chastain, member of the USA women's soccer team and 3-time Olympic medalist. "This unprecedented effort by the American people shows we have once again banded together as a team determined to reach our goal of protecting our last wild forests."

Bill Koch, Vermont
USA Skiing Team, Cross-country
1976 Winter Olympics
Silver Medal, 30km
First American to win a medal in cross-country skiing

“Growing up in Vermont, I spent most of my time out in the forest, skiing, climbing trees, and making trails. Usually alone, but never lonely, a deep reverence for the natural world grew inside me and became as much a part of me as the blood flowing in my veins. Then I realized

that all around me, and around the world, people were irreversibly destroying nature, the Earth, and life itself. Why can't we restrain ourselves? We must fight, not only to protect what little remains, but also to begin restoring what we have lost. We need wild forests. Many other species need wild forests. All are at our mercy.

Most Americans want to see our natural legacy protected and passed on to future generations. So how does President Bush get away with repealing the protection from the last roadless forests and pillaging the last wildlands? He must be stopped.”