

Quotes in the Media Supporting Utah Roadless Protections

“Of the 4 million acres currently designated roadless in Utah, 80 percent is listed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as critical habitat for elk. And, of the 4 million acres, 96 percent is listed as critical mule deer habitat. Nearly all of the acreage is considered critical and substantial habitat for moose.

Nearly all of the streams and lakes supporting self-sustaining populations of native Bonneville cutthroat, Colorado cutthroat and Arctic grayling are located in roadless areas.”

-- *Deseret Morning News*, December 14, 2006

"It's unfortunate that the needs of hunters and anglers seem to have been ignored in the creation of this petition," said Geer, now a policy initiative manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Hopefully, the governor will see the merits of keeping roadless land roadless and considerably edit his petition to include the interests of sportsmen.”

According to Geer, 80 percent of the state's roadless forest acreage contains critical elk habitat and 96 percent is critical habitat for mule deer. And he notes that nearly all the streams and lakes supporting self-sustaining populations of Bonneville and Colorado cutthroat trout in Utah are in roadless or wilderness areas.”

-- *Salt Lake Tribune*, December 10, 2006

"My livelihood depends greatly on clean water and great places to fish," says Schmidt, citing estimates that anglers contribute \$750 million annually to the Utah economy. "Allowing development or road construction into these last, best places would be very bad for the sport-fishing economy of our state." (**Steve Schmidt, owner of Western Rivers Fly Fishing in Salt Lake City**)

-- *Salt Lake Tribune*, December 10, 2006

“Huntsman's petition, not yet sent to Washington, provides absolutely no roadless designations. It would, instead, create advisory boards of local and state officials, who favor grazing, mining, motorized recreation and oil and gas development, to micromanage Forest Service decisions.

The governor is abdicating his responsibility to analyze the state's 8 million acres of forests and offer a reasonable plan that protects the most sensitive ones and restricts development in others. His destructive plan to open up all previous inventories of roadless forest lands to development is a sellout of Utah's fragile national forests.”

-- *Salt Lake Tribune EDITORIAL*, December 4, 2006

“As a hunter and a fisherman, I truly value the legacy left to me, and others like me, by Utah's previous stewards... Like our forefathers, I'd like nothing more than to see my children and grandchildren stalking elk in unspoiled country or casting to rising trout in a cold, clear mountain stream.

Thanks to the wise-use policies of the past, we enjoy an ideal balance today in Utah...Gov. Huntsman's petition would upset that balance and trade our long-term, above-ground resources, that, if properly nurtured, will last forever, for short-term economic gain, increasing our state's exposure to boom-and-bust industry. In the process, some of our last, best places would be trashed beyond recognition.” **(Brock Richardson, Conservation Officer of the Stonefly Society, the Utah Chapter of Trout Unlimited)**

-- *Salt Lake Tribune*, November 18, 2006

“Huntsman's statement that "all previous inventories of roadless or unroaded lands in the national forests be obsolete, moot and of no further legal effect" is an unjustifiable sellout of Utah's often fragile forests, which provide solitude, vital wildlife habitat and watershed, as well as opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation, the lifeblood of Utah's vast tourism industry... Huntsman's abdication of his responsibility to protect national forests and other sensitive Utah landscapes is the anthesis of more farsighted actions taken by the states of Colorado and California, which wisely opted to keep most or all of their inventoried roadless areas protected from development.”

-- *Salt Lake Tribune EDITORIAL*, October 23, 2006