



## Colorado Mountain Club

State Office  
710 10<sup>th</sup> St. 200  
Golden, CO 80401  
303.996.2746  
303.279.9690 FAX

---

### **San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act Introduced! Please Thank Congressman Salazar Today**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Congressman Salazar introduced legislation to permanently protect over 60,000 acres of pristine lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties.

We've been working with the Congressman and his staff for over two years on the bill, and this isn't the first time we've called on you to help make it happen. However, it's important to let the Congressman know that we are grateful for this key milestone in the bill's trip through the lawmaking process.

***Please take a moment to thank Congressman Salazar for all of his work on this legislation!***

Over the last two years, the proposal has gone through a very thorough vetting process, and enjoys the enthusiastic support of San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, local towns, and numerous stakeholders such as ranchers, outfitters, and thousands of local residents. This overwhelming support has resulted in a non-controversial bill that should easily move through the congressional process.

#### **The Legislation Would:**

##### Designate Wilderness –

- 3,170 acres will be added to the existing Lizard Head Wilderness Area in San Miguel County
- 21606 acres will be added to the existing Mt. Sneffels Wilderness Area in San Miguel and Ouray County.
- 8,614 acres of the McKenna Peak Wilderness Study Area in San Miguel County, located in the Disappointment Valley, will be designated as wilderness (representing the first designation in the lower Dolores River watershed).

##### Designate Additional Protections –

- 21,697 acres in San Juan and San Miguel County including Ice Lakes basin outside of Silverton and the high alpine peaks near Ophir will be designated as the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area. Existing uses including heliisking will be allowed to continue, but no new roads or other development will be permitted. The area will automatically become wilderness should the heliiski company cease to operate in the area.
- 6,595 acres will be withdrawn from eligibility for mineral leasing in Naturita Canyon, near Norwood in San Miguel County.

To see current maps of areas in the legislation and to read the legislation, go to:

<http://www.house.gov/salazar/sjmw.shtml>

**Email, call, or write – here's how:**

Email: [John.Whitney@mail.house.gov](mailto:John.Whitney@mail.house.gov)

Pone: 970-259-1012

Mail: Honorable John T. Salazar  
813 Main Ave, Ste 300  
Durango, CO 81301

**When Thanking the Congressman, keep this in mind:**

- Thank Rep. Salazar for the time and energy he and his staff has spent addressing concerns and making the legislation become a reality.
- Use personal stories where you can, and let Rep. Salazar know how enthusiastic you are about the legislation being enacted into law soon.

For more information, contact:

Anya Byers, Colorado Mountain Club: 303-996-2754 – [anyabyers@cmc.org](mailto:anyabyers@cmc.org)

Hilary White, Sheep Mountain Alliance: 970-729-2321 - [hilary@sheepmountainalliance.org](mailto:hilary@sheepmountainalliance.org)

Amber Kelley, San Juan Citizens Alliance: 970-565-7191 or [amber@sanjuancitizens.org](mailto:amber@sanjuancitizens.org)

Jeff Widen, Wilderness Support Center: 970-247-8788 or [jeff\\_widen@twc.org](mailto:jeff_widen@twc.org)