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PROTECTING THE WATER, WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR HERITAGE OF THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT.



Senators Baucus and Tester re-introduced the North Fork Watershed Protection Act. Click on the map above or [here](#) to see a full size version.

The legislation would withdraw minerals and oil and gas rights from future leasing. The area affected includes the Whitefish Range and portions of the Middle Fork Flathead River canyon.

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Baucus, Tester Re-introduce "North Fork Watershed Protection Act"

February 1, 2011

Dear [member_name_first]:

The effort to permanently protect the North Fork Flathead River from inappropriate mining and energy development is not yet over. *Fortunately, we continue to make progress towards that end.*

Specifically, Montana's senators Baucus and Tester today re-introduced the "North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2011". Our congressional delegation continues to move forward because of the strong local support to protect our water, wildlife, and great outdoor lifestyle.

You can do two things right now to help complete this piece of the puzzle:

1. Learn about the area to be protected by this legislation. Click [here](#) link to see the map of the area affected.
2. Please write Senators Baucus and Tester and **thank them** for their continued commitment to protect this vital watershed. Click [here](#) to thank Senator Baucus. Click [here](#) to thank Senator Tester. Also, click [here](#) to ask Congressman Rehberg to support this legislation.



Please consider a small donation to continue the work. Opt to make an automatic, small monthly donation to know that you are part of the ongoing effort to protect the North Fork Flathead River. Please click on the image above. ~Thank You!



*The Transboundary Flathead River (a.k.a. the North Fork Flathead): worth saving in all its glory!
(Photo Credit: Garth Lenz / iLCP)*



*Only people can protect this special place.
Join the over 10,000 "Friends of the Flathead" working for the North Fork Flathead River. Click [here](#) to sign up with "Friends of the Flathead".
(Photo Credit: Justin Black / iLCP)*

Whitefish Mayor Mike Jenson hails the Senators' fight to reintroduce this legislation. **"The City of Whitefish greatly appreciates Senator Baucus' and Senator Tester's efforts to re-introduce the North Fork Watershed Protection Act. This protection has been a long time coming and we greatly appreciate our Senators' efforts and perseverance,"** Jenson said. **"This bill also provides some very important protections for the City of Whitefish's watershed and continues our efforts and those of private landowners in our watershed to safeguard this vital resource."**

"I'm impressed with the diligence Senators Tester and Baucus put forth at protecting the North Fork watershed. It's such a pristine area with so many recreational ties for all of us and deserves our attention and protection for generations to come. The economic impact this has for the tourism industry in Montana is significant; people marvel at what we sometimes take for granted," said Cris Coughlin of Glacier Guides.

"This is great news for Montana and for one of America's greatest national parks. Senator Baucus and Senator Tester just about got this critical protection piece to the finish line last year and we hope for quick passage this year," said Tony Jewett, Vice President for Regional Operations for the National Parks Conservation Association. **"We commend them for their persistence, leadership and commitment to protecting this special place. It's both a part of our cultural heritage and an essential piece of the economic health of Glacier's gateway communities."**

"This legislations helps balance the protection of the North Fork Flathead River, Glacier Park and Flathead Lake between Canada and Montana. We commend senators Baucus and Tester for their commitment and diligence," said Dave Hadden, Director of [Headwaters Montana](#).

For the past 30 years, Baucus has been a steady and strong voice to protect the North Fork of the Flathead River, beginning with his successful 1975 proposal to designate the Flathead as a Wild and Scenic River. To date, Baucus and Tester have successfully negotiated the return of more than 200,000 acres held by energy companies near Montana's North Fork of the Flathead River. The Senators have [secured](#) the return of the primary interest in more than 80 percent of the total leased acreage. Baucus and Tester vowed to continue these efforts in addition to fighting for passage of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act.

introduced today.

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