



Congressman Dean Heller

Second District of Nevada

News Release

For Immediate Release:
Date: December 23, 2010

Contact: Stewart Bybee
(202) 225-6155

Heller Blasts Interior's Actions to Create De-Facto Wilderness

(Washington, DC) – Today the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued a secretarial order to designate areas with wilderness characteristics under its jurisdiction as “Wild Lands” and to manage them to protect their wilderness values. This action would allow the Administration to create de-facto wilderness without a congressional consent. U.S. Congressman Dean Heller (R-NV) made the following statement on the announcement.

“Once again, this Administration is proving that currying favor with extreme environmentalists is more important than responsible land management. This action is a blatant attempt by this Administration to circumvent Congress and create de-facto wilderness. If a portion of land is truly deserving of a wilderness designation, this Administration should not be afraid to engage Congress,” said Heller.

Earlier this year an internal U.S. Department of Interior document revealed that two areas within Nevada are under consideration for national monument designations. The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows any U.S. President to bypass Congress to establish new or expand existing National Monuments. Congressman Heller introduced H.R. 4675 to exempt Nevada from the Antiquities Act.

###