

A New Year's Gift for Public Land

The public land advocate, Senator Dick Durbin (IL-D), is seeking other Senators to sign on to a letter to the Interior Department (DOI) which could have a huge impact on public wildlands in the West.

The letter encourages DOI to resume designating areas that BLM has identified as "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" (LWCs) as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Designating LWCs as WSAs is probably the single biggest act the Department of Interior could make **to enhance wild land protection in the West**, move us toward the goal of 30x30, and mitigate the climate and extinction crises through land management. *The BLM appears receptive to this effort!* We need to do what we can to demonstrate political support to convince them to act.

Would you encourage Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper to join the Durbin letter regarding Wilderness Study Areas? Contact:

Senator Bennet at 303-455-7600 or <https://www.bennet.senate.gov/public/>

Senator Hickenlooper at 303-244-1628 or <https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/>

The deadline for the Senators to sign Durbin's letter is January 5.

We know this is a busy pre-holiday season, but we hope you can take a moment to help make this a great New Year for public lands!