

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION
Climate Change Policy

Date approved and adopted: Feb. 21, 2009

Preamble:

In reliance upon the attached "Climate Change Report", prepared at the direction of the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) State Council by its Working Group on Climate Change, MWA hereby recognizes that anthropogenic global warming has and will continue to alter adversely Montana's designated and yet to be designated wilderness areas. This represents a serious environmental degradation process that must be met by a systematic, worldwide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. While MWA recognizes that its primary mission is to gain wilderness designation for Montana's remaining roadless areas, we realize that securing wilderness designation is not always sufficient in itself. Roadless areas must be protected prior to designation to preserve their wild character, and once designation is secured, designated Wilderness areas require continuing stewardship to alleviate the degradation that has and will come from the effects of global warming and other human-caused impacts. In recognition of MWA's mission and acknowledging its limited resources and special area of expertise, MWA hereby adopts the following policy statement:

Policy

I. As consistent with MWA's expertise, resources and mission, MWA will support initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions when its State Council and Staff, after consulting on specific initiatives, determine that proposed legislative, regulatory, judicial and/or other efforts to reduce GHG emissions, will result in ecological benefit(s) to Montana wilderness areas.

II. MWA will adopt an internal program to educate and encourage its Membership and Staff, with respect to the importance of reducing GHGs in their daily lives and activities. This program will be delineated by an appointed MWA working group. The working group will establish a program that will: (1) inform MWA members about the effects that a warming planet will have on Montana's wildlands; (2) seek to reduce energy consumption during travel to and from all MWA events; and (3) seek to reduce MWA in-house energy consumption, in consultation with Staff, to the extent it is economically feasible.