

News Release

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JAMES A. MCCLURE

United States Senate, R-Idaho

460 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Contact: Tod Owen Neuenschwander
(202) 224-1010 224-2753

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area becomes law -- signed by The President
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WASHINGTON D.C. U.S. Senator Jim McClure said that President Ford has signed the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area bill. The President put his signature on the legislation this morning.

McClure said, "The legislation signed today has everything we wanted -- It preserves Helld Canyon, while allowing for some tradional uses of the land." McClure continued, "We have protected Idaho's precious upstream water rights, and we have guaranteed that this unique piece of America will not be developed and spoiled."

The law sets aside 670,000-acres along the Snake River. Some of the land will be designated wilderness, other sections of land will be used for limited grazing. A comprehensive management plan will be developed during the next five years. Senator McClure said, "Just as we have had tremendous citizen input in drafting this law, I am confident the public will also participate in the formation of a management plan."

The Hells Canyon legislation had been shuffled back and forth between the House and Senate just before the holiday recess. Slight language changes were made and it was finally approved by Congress and sent to the President in mid December.

McClure State Offices

Boise 343-1421
Coeur d'Alene 664-3086

Idaho Falls 523-5541
Lewiston 743-3579

Pocatello 232-7540
Twin Falls 734-6780