

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) offered an amendment to the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution funding bill to prevent the Forest Service from implementing the 2005 Travel Management Rule this fiscal year. The Forest Service has used the rule to shut down access to federal lands, which has generated a great deal of concern among local elected officials and recreation enthusiasts in Northern California and elsewhere in California. The amendment would impose a seven-month moratorium on designating routes under the travel management rule, creating a “time out” to allow for the development of a more balanced approach that addresses the concerns of local communities. Herger has been a strong advocate of a more measured and responsible travel management plan, and has repeatedly called on the Forest Service to look at the individual circumstances with regard to public access of federal lands. The House is expected to vote on Herger’s amendment later tonight. If passed, the funding bill must be approved by the Senate and signed by the President before the prohibition on further implementation would go into effect. He delivered remarks on the House floor in support of the amendment. You can watch the video [here](#) . The full text of his remarks appear below:

“I would like to offer an amendment, number 177 in the Congressional Record.

“Mr. Chairman I am offering this amendment after much frustration and a lack of responsiveness from the Forest Service to local elected officials and the recreation community in Northern California and across the nation. For a couple years now, I and the Northern Californians I represent have tried many times to work with the Forest Service as it has been implementing the 2005 Travel Management Rule. We have been completely ignored as the Forest Service presses ahead with route designations that in some cases will eliminate more than 90 percent of previous access.

“Local county boards are now at the point of considering litigation against the Forest Service to keep these federal lands open to recreation. It is disgraceful that they would have to spend valuable public funding to defend access to our national forests – not only against well-funded environmental activists trying to turn every acre of federal land into some kind of sanctuary – but against the very agency that is supposed to serve the public.

“For these reasons, I believe it is necessary to impose a seven-month timeout on designating these routes. Chairman Simpson, ultimately we want a workable solution, and I hope to work with you and Chairman Hastings to ensure a more balanced implementation of the travel

management rule. I hope that my colleagues can support this amendment. I yield back my time.”