

Wilderness is a Win-Win for South Dakota

In the early 1970s when flood waters devastated portions of the Black Hills, Rapid City supported programs to preserve the natural floodplain to enable future generations to safely enjoy the beauty and recreational potential of these urban lands forever. To be certain our children and grandchildren will also enjoy unspoiled natural areas on western South Dakota's frontier, action is needed now.

That's why I applaud Senator Johnson for his wisdom and vision for permanent protection for parts of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. This proposal is good for business, as it will bring more visitors to explore and appreciate this remote and unspoiled area. Wilderness designation also allows our ranchers to continue to graze cattle on these lands. And it will preserve an important parcel -- perhaps one of the last parcels -- of the Great Plains prairie.

Thanks, Senator Johnson, for working to preserve our pioneer heritage.

Photo by: Dick Kettlewell



Don Barnett
Mayor, Rapid City
1971-1975