

The Strawberry Anglers Association

"Protecting America's Premier Cutthroat Trout Fishery"

Dear Senator Hatch,

The approximately 1,000 members of the Strawberry Anglers Association (SAA) seek to maintain and improve the world class cutthroat trout fishery found at Strawberry Reservoir.

We are deeply concerned that the Roadless and Wilderness Area Release Act of 2011 (HR 1581 and S 1087) could have the unwanted effect of harming Strawberry Reservoir and its fishery. If this legislation becomes law, key spawning streams such as Chicken Creek, Co-op Creek, and Chipman Creek will no longer enjoy permanent protection under the Roadless Rule. Instead, these areas will become available for the construction of supposedly temporary roads. Such roads create significant erosion, dust, and sediment issues that alter the stream composition. For instance, sediment in the water smothers cutthroat trout eggs, thereby minimizing and possibly eliminating natural reproduction. With whirling disease affecting hatcheries such as the Kamas hatchery, natural cutthroat trout reproduction is imperative to maintain Strawberry Reservoir as a premier fishing destination.

Fishing in general and Strawberry Reservoir in particular generate significant economic activity in the state of Utah. For example, the Utah sells 400,000 fishing licenses while fishing and hunting generate a \$2.3 billion boost to the state's economy. One third of Utah residents, from young to old, enjoy fishing the state's waters. Strawberry Reservoir is the premier blue ribbon fishery in Utah. It also serves as a model for blue ribbon fisheries in Utah and elsewhere.

The Strawberry Anglers Association and its membership ask that you consider the negative impact that this legislation could impose on the now beautiful Strawberry Valley and its recreational opportunities enjoyed by many of your constituents. To preserve this irreplaceable resource, we ask you to vote against S 1087.

To learn more about us and Strawberry Reservoir, please visit our website at www.strawberryanglers.com. We will post this letter and your response on this website.

Sincerely,

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