

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 90**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Rendon**

February 4, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 90—Relative to the Wilderness Act of 1964.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 90, as amended, Rendon. Wilderness Act of 1964.

This measure would commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and proclaim the significance of continuing to protect national wilderness areas.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1964 the United States Congress passed the  
2 Wilderness Act of 1964 by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote,  
3 and this farsighted legislation was signed by President Lyndon  
4 Johnson on September 3, 1964; and

5 WHEREAS, The Wilderness Act of 1964 brought into being  
6 America’s National Wilderness Preservation System, federal lands  
7 to be “administered for the use and enjoyment of the American  
8 people in such manner as will leave federal lands unimpaired for  
9 future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the  
10 protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness  
11 ~~character;~~” *character*”; and

12 WHEREAS, The Wilderness Act of 1964 made it the “policy  
13 of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and  
14 future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of

1 wilderness ... in order to assure that an increasing population,  
2 accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization,  
3 does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and  
4 its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and  
5 protection in their natural ~~condition;~~ *condition*"; and

6 WHEREAS, Wilderness, "in contrast with those areas where  
7 man and his own works dominate the landscape," is recognized  
8 as "federal land retaining its primeval character and influence,  
9 which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the  
10 forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially  
11 unnoticeable, and has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a  
12 primitive and unconfined type of recreation"; and

13 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama said, in proclaiming  
14 September ~~2009~~ 2011 as National Wilderness Month, "The mystery  
15 and wonder of the wilderness is deeply rooted in our national  
16 character. For many of the first Americans— American Indians  
17 and Alaska Natives— the wilderness provided a source of  
18 sustenance and a foundation for their ways of life. Later, as  
19 explorers and the pioneers of a young country moved west, they  
20 found adventure and new beginnings in the landscapes of our  
21 ~~Nation. From~~ *Nation. ... From* our earliest days, America's identity  
22 has been tied to the powerful waterfalls, soaring ~~peaks~~ *peaks*, and  
23 vast plains of its land"; and

24 WHEREAS, President Obama also stated, "in the 21st century,  
25 the importance of maintaining our wilderness heritage has only  
26 grown. Protecting our wilderness areas and their riches— clean  
27 water, stretches of undisturbed land, thriving wildlife, and healthy  
28 ecosystems— is critical to the health of our environment and our  
29 communities. Today, wilderness areas serve as places for us to  
30 roam, hunt, fish, and find solitude. They are also strong engines  
31 of local economies, providing tourism and recreation revenue for  
32 communities"; and

33 WHEREAS, The Wilderness Act of 1964 marked a fundamental  
34 cultural shift from a need to conquer nature to the need to preserve  
35 it and is a modern philosophical expression of the human need to  
36 find spiritual solace in nature; and

37 WHEREAS, California, inspired by the Wilderness Act of 1964,  
38 has established its own exemplary state wilderness system, in  
39 which state lands in a natural condition are preserved by law  
40 similarly to our state's substantial federal wilderness, allowing

1 Californians to take special pride and additional pleasure in  
2 enjoying the benefits of wilderness; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the significance  
5 of our National Wilderness Preservation System to our nation's  
6 cultural, scientific, historical, and spiritual heritage and, during  
7 the 50th anniversary year of the Wilderness Act of 1964,  
8 encourages each Californian to embrace our nation's legacy of  
9 protecting and preserving our vast wilderness as a bequest for  
10 generations to come and also for the benefit of our wildlife, from  
11 the largest to the smallest creatures; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That all Californians are urged to value wilderness  
13 as a place where all can experience the spirit that shaped America,  
14 and to honor the uniquely American qualities of the Wilderness  
15 Act of 1964, a remarkable societal compact whereby the American  
16 people decided to forego, in certain special places, the prevailing  
17 trend toward development, thereby allowing nature, not human  
18 machinery and invention, to have the upper hand; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That, in this golden anniversary year of *the* Wilderness  
20 Act of 1964, the Legislature invites all Californians to visit and  
21 enjoy our wilderness areas, to learn about their vast history, and  
22 to aid in the continued protection of our precious national treasures;  
23 and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.