

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly Member Dodd
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Wood)
(Principal coauthors: Senators McGuire and Wolk)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bonilla)

January 8, 2015

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 4, as introduced, Dodd. Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

This measure would urge the President of the United States and the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior to designate the area known as the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Berryessa Snow Mountain region stretches
2 nearly 100 miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa to the flanks
3 of Snow Mountain; and
4 WHEREAS, The Berryessa Snow Mountain region encompasses
5 more than 350,000 acres across the Counties of Napa, Mendocino,
6 Lake, Solano, and Yolo and is rich in wildlife, including bald and
7 golden eagles, black bears, mountain lions, tule elk, river otters,
8 and the rare Pacific fisher; and
9 WHEREAS, Berryessa Snow Mountain is a biodiversity hotspot
10 and includes numerous trails, open spaces, lakes, and rivers that

1 help create a fishing, camping, boating, birding, horseback-riding,
2 bicycling, and off-highway vehicle paradise; and

3 WHEREAS, Permanently protecting the Berryessa Snow
4 Mountain region will ensure continued recreational opportunities
5 while safeguarding the region's beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and
6 water, which includes important sources of drinking water and
7 irrigation for nearby communities; and

8 WHEREAS, The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is within
9 easy driving distance for millions of citizens residing and visiting
10 the bay area and the Sacramento metropolitan area; and

11 WHEREAS, Protected public lands are major contributors to
12 our nation's \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy; and

13 WHEREAS, More than one-half of California residents
14 participate in outdoor recreation each year, supporting more than
15 700,000 jobs, generating more than \$6 billion in state economic
16 activity; and

17 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that local economies
18 surrounding permanently protected areas such as national
19 monuments expand after establishing a monument, increasing
20 per-capita personal incomes; and

21 WHEREAS, More than 100 businesses in areas surrounding the
22 Berryessa Snow Mountain region support a national monument
23 designation, as do nationally recognized recreation and sportsmen's
24 groups such as the International Bicycling Association, Back
25 Country Horsemen, and the Equine Land Conservation Resource;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, President Obama recently designated 346,000 acres
28 of public land in southern California as the San Gabriel National
29 Monument, and expanded the California Coastal National
30 Monument to include the Point Arena Stornetta Public Lands;
31 now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
33 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of California urge President
34 Obama and the Secretary of the United States Department of
35 Interior, Sally Jewell, to protect and preserve the unique and
36 precious qualities of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region for
37 current and future generations by creating a Berryessa Snow
38 Mountain National Monument; and be it further

39 *Resolved,* That in designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain
40 region as a National Monument, the Secretary consult an area

1 advisory council consisting of, but not limited to, one representative
2 from each of the Napa, Lake, Yolo, Mendocino, and Solano County
3 Boards of Supervisors, a representative of the California Resources
4 Agency, and a representative of Native American Tribes; and be
5 it further

6 *Resolved*, That in designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain
7 region as a National Monument, the Secretary take into
8 consideration existing land uses, including grazing, on the federal
9 lands within the region; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain
11 National Monument does not require nonfederal property owners
12 to allow public access to private property, nor does modify any
13 provision of federal, state, or local law with respect to use of
14 nonfederal land; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That any acquisition of nonfederal land within the
16 National Monument occur only through exchange, donation or
17 purchase from a willing seller; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States and to the Secretary of the United States Department of
21 Interior.