

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 90

Introduced by Assembly Member Rendon

February 4, 2014

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 90, as introduced, 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;” 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
15 wilderness ... in order to assure that an increasing population,

1 accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization,
2 does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and
3 its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and
4 protection in their natural condition;” and

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

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

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

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

35 WHEREAS, California, inspired by the Wilderness Act of 1964,
36 has established its own exemplary state wilderness system, in
37 which state lands in a natural condition are preserved by law
38 similarly to our state’s substantial federal wilderness, allowing
39 Californians to take special pride and additional pleasure in
40 enjoying the benefits of wilderness; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

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