

Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act H.R. 6156/S. 3069

*Sponsored by Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon and Sen. Barbara Boxer
Introduced on May 22, 2008*

Each year, thousands of people flock to the Eastern Sierra to hike, fish, climb, horseback ride, and enjoy the remarkable beauty of the region's wild lands. Recreation on these public lands is the foundation of the area's economy. Residents of rapidly growing northern Los Angeles County go to nearby open space in the San Gabriel Mountains to spend time in a natural setting close to home.

Our elected officials are acting now to preserve pristine, beautiful places in the Eastern Sierra and the San Gabriel Mountains as wilderness, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy. This proposal preserves over 470,000 acres of spectacular, unroaded lands as wilderness, adds 52 miles to the national wild and scenic river system and creates a winter recreation area outside Bridgeport in Mono County.

For additional information, visit www.easternsierrawild.org.

Wilderness Areas

Hoover & Emigrant Wilderness Additions



Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 77,233

Adjacent to Yosemite National Park, the Hoover and Emigrant Additions are a classic High Sierra landscape of majestic peaks, glacial valleys, alpine lakes and pine forests, including 12 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail and the headwaters of the West Walker River, bighorn sheep habitat and popular hiking and fishing destinations.

Granite Mountain



Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Approximate Acreage: 35,564

Granite Mountain is home to sage grouse, deer migration corridors, abundant raptor nesting sites and wild horses. Its Great Basin sagebrush steppe habitat is underrepresented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Owens River Headwaters



Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 15,247

The Eastern Sierra's most important river system, this addition to the Ansel Adams Wilderness includes the San Joaquin Ridge, Glass Creek Meadow and the region's largest old-growth red fir forest.



White Mountains

Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management

Approximate Acreage: 223,516

America’s largest and highest desert mountain range, the Whites contain the largest expanse of alpine tundra in western North America and the highest peak in the Great Basin.



John Muir Wilderness Additions

Location: Mono and Inyo Counties, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management

Approximate Acreage: 80,112

The John Muir Wilderness Additions protect the dramatic eastern scarp of the Sierra and trout-bearing streams which flow down into the Owens Valley, while maintaining access to popular car camping, hunting and fishing sites.



Magic Mountain

Location: Los Angeles County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 13,709

Magic Mountain’s chaparral covered hillsides and oak-studded canyons provide a scenic vista and recreational opportunities for the rapidly urbanizing Santa Clarita Valley, and habitat for the California condor.



Pleasant View Ridge

Location: Los Angeles County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 28,424

Pleasant View Ridge features 8,200-foot Mt. Williamson, rugged backcountry, the headwaters of Little Rock Creek, a section of the Pacific Crest Trail and numerous recreational opportunities.

Wild & Scenic Rivers



Amargosa River

Location: Inyo and San Bernardino Counties, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Approximate Mileage: 26

The only river flowing into Death Valley, the Amargosa is a fertile oasis in a harsh desert setting. The Amargosa River supports a wide array of wildlife and offers outstanding recreational opportunities.



Owens River Headwaters

Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Mileage: 19

The Owens Headwaters support one of America’s finest and most popular trout fisheries. Wild and scenic protection of Glass Creek, Deadman Creek and Big Springs enhances the area’s fishing economy.



Piru Creek

Location: Los Angeles County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Mileage: 7

One of the few year-round free flowing streams on National Forest lands in Southern California, Piru Creek supports a catch-and-release trout fishery below Pyramid Dam and is a popular recreation destination.

Wilderness Study Area Release

Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Approximate Acreage: 51,000

The bill releases the following Wilderness Study Areas: Masonic Mountain, Mormon Meadow, Walford Springs and Granite Mountain.

Other Designations



Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest

Location: White Mountains, Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 29,000

The bill gives permanent protection to the ancient bristlecone pines, the oldest living trees on earth, while allowing for the continued scientific research conducted in the area, prohibiting the construction of additional roads and enforcing existing special management.

Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area

Location: Southwest of Bridgeport, Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 7,680

This designation creates a snowmobile recreation area in Leavitt Bowl, adjacent to the Hoover West Wilderness Additions.

John Muir Wilderness Boundary Correction

Location: Laurel Canyon, Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Mileage: .5

This designation corrects a 30-year mapping error and adjusts the wilderness boundary to allow continued motorized access to Laurel Lakes.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Snowmobile Designation

Location: Mono County, CA

Land Management Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Approximate Acreage: 3,200

The bill would make available for snowmobiling an additional 3,200 acres of land in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.