



## ***The Facts on the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act***



### **PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S WILD HERITAGE**

S22, soon to be voted on by the House, would protect over 700,000 acres of California wilderness such as 115,000 acres of public land within Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, including Redwood Mountain Grove and Old Hockett Trail, 200,000 acres in Riverside County including additions to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa

Mountains National Monument, and more than 500,000 acres in Inyo, Mono, and northern Los Angeles counties including the Eastern Sierra and White Mountain ranges, and a 29,000 acre Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.

### **KEEPING OUR WATER CLEAN**

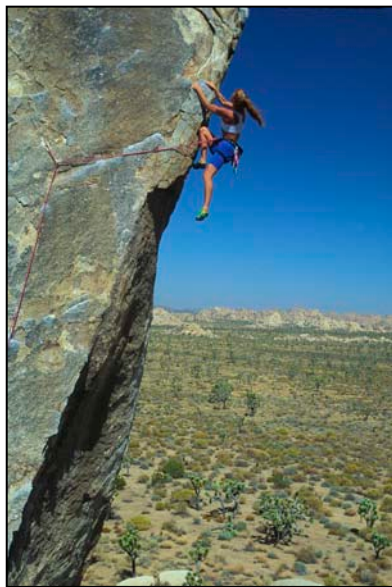
Other key provisions would benefit California water needs by authorizing the creation of the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project to help replenish rapidly depleting water resources in the Central Valley, new wastewater treatment facilities in the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, a North Bay Water Reuse Program and significant funding for restoration of the San Joaquin River.

It would also establish the 26-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System, that will help to protect the crown jewels of the Bureau of Land Management including more than 800 individual units: 15 National Monuments, 13 National Conservation Areas, the Headwaters Forest Reserve in northern California, 38 Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 183 Wilderness Areas, and more than 5,100 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails.



## BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 is a broadly supported, bipartisan bill that included measures introduced last Congress by a number of California legislators including Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Diane Feinstein (D-CA), Representatives Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-Santa Clarita), Mary Bono Mack (R-CA), Jim Costa (D-CA), George Radanovich (R-CA), Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Darrel Issa (R-CA), Mike Thompson (D-CA), Gary Miller (R-CA), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Lois Capps (D-CA), and David Dreier (R-CA).



## WILDERNESS BRINGS JOBS AND DOLLARS TO LOCAL ECONOMIES

The wilderness and other conservation designations in the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act will provide important economic benefits for rural economies across the United States. Passing this legislation will help local communities by providing new sources of revenue and support.

By providing jobs in recreation and tourism, increasing local property values, and providing attractive places for residents to live and work, wilderness designation provides significant benefits to local economies. On average, each 10,000 acres of wilderness designated provides six new jobs in local communities.<sup>1</sup> Nationwide, outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion to the American economy, while

supporting 6.5 million jobs.<sup>2</sup>

The good jobs, increased property values, and healthy landscapes are important reasons why numerous California businesses and local Chambers of Commerce support the wilderness and other conservation provisions within the omnibus lands act. In the words of the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, wilderness and other protective measures are “crucial for maintaining a healthy economy” in rural areas.

<sup>1</sup> Loomis, J.B. and Richardson, R. 2001. Economic values of the U.S. Wilderness system: Research evidence to date and questions for the future. *Int'l. Journal of Wilderness* 7(1): 31-34.

<sup>2</sup> Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2006. *The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy: A \$730 Billion Contribution to the U.S. Economy*. Available at <http://www.outdoorindustry.org/>.

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