

Berkeley City Council
District 5

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 11, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Laurie Capitelli
Subject: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the Creation of the National Wilderness Preservation System

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the creation of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Recognition of the anniversary of the Wilderness Act and the creation of the National Wilderness Preservation System is consistent with the City's sustainability goal: "Preserve natural habitats and minimize air and water pollution."

BACKGROUND:

On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act. This historic bill established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and set aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people. Over the past 50 years, and as a result of America's support for wilderness, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system. The 1964 Wilderness Act defines "Wilderness" as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain.

The NWPS was established for the use and enjoyment of the American people and provides many direct and in-direct benefits, such as those relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities. The 757 wilderness areas within the NWPS are managed by all four federal land managing agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

In 2014, our nation will celebrate "50 Years of Wilderness." The anniversary website, <http://www.wilderness.net>, has been created to document this historical commemoration honoring America's "True American Legacy of Wilderness." A national team, called [Wilderness50](http://www.wilderness50th.org/about.php?useraction=about) at <http://www.wilderness50th.org/about.php?useraction=about>

[wilderness50](http://www.wilderness50.org), has been created to plan educational events, projects, programs, and products to raise awareness of wilderness during the 50th anniversary year. This website provides a map and listing of all local, regional, and national 50th anniversary [events](http://www.wilderness50th.org/events.php) at <http://www.wilderness50th.org/events.php> that are occurring nation-wide, including the [National Wilderness Conference](http://www.wilderness50th.org/conference.php?useraction=conf-about) at <http://www.wilderness50th.org/conference.php?useraction=conf-about>. It also provides access to resources for individuals or community groups interested in hosting a 50th anniversary event.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Laurie Capitelli, District 5 981-7150

ATTACHMENT

1. Resolution Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, an historic bill establishing the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and setting aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the 1964 Wilderness Act defines "Wilderness" as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain; and

WHEREAS, the NWPS provides many direct and in-direct benefits, such as those relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, and as a result of America's support for wilderness, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system, establishing 757 wilderness areas within the NWPS that are managed by all four federal land managing agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, website [Wilderness50](http://www.wilderness50.org) at <http://www.wilderness50th.org/about.php?useraction=about-wilderness50>, has been created to document this historical commemoration honoring America's "True American Legacy of Wilderness."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley does hereby commemorate our nation's "50 Years of Wilderness" celebration honoring the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Preservation Act and encourages Berkeley citizens to visit the anniversary organization website [Wilderness50](http://www.wilderness50.org) at <http://www.wilderness50th.org/about.php?useraction=about-anniversary> to learn more about educational events, projects, programs, and products to raise awareness of wilderness during this 50th anniversary year.

