

1 [Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act]

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3 **Resolution commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.**

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5 WHEREAS, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on  
6 September 3, 1964, bringing into being America’s National Wilderness Preservation System,  
7 that designated certain wild federal lands “for the use and enjoyment of the American people  
8 in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness”  
9 and made it the “policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and  
10 future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness...in order to assure that  
11 an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization,  
12 does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no  
13 lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition;” and

14 WHEREAS, Wilderness areas provide immense value to our Nation, as natural habitats  
15 for diverse species of wildlife, as destinations for family camping trips, as venues for hiking,  
16 hunting, horseback riding and fishing, as protectors of wild rivers, and as places to inspire  
17 awe, wonder and delight; and

18 WHEREAS, For people in urban areas, these undisturbed natural places are critical to  
19 filter the air we breathe, preserve the source watersheds of the water we drink and offer us a  
20 refuge for spiritual solace where we can leave behind the stresses of modern, mechanized  
21 living and find a welcome contrasting simplicity; and

22 WHEREAS, California, which has more federal wilderness areas and a larger  
23 percentage of its state’s area designated as wilderness than any other state, was inspired by  
24 the 1964 Wilderness Act to establish its own exemplary state wilderness system, which has  
25 preserved certain state lands in a wild condition similar to federal wilderness; and

1           WHEREAS, During this year of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we reflect  
2 on the profound influence of the great outdoors on our lives and on our national character and  
3 we recommit to preserving for the benefit of generations to come these places “affected  
4 primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable”;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, The iconic wilderness areas within California draw tourists from across the  
7 country and around the world, bolstering local businesses and supporting jobs; and

8           WHEREAS, The Bay Area contains two federal designated wildernesses within its  
9 borders—the Farallon Islands Wilderness and the Phillip Burton Wilderness in Point Reyes  
10 National Seashore; now, therefore, be it

11          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
12 hereby commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act and  
13 recognizes the significance of our National Wilderness Preservation System to America’s  
14 cultural, scientific, historical, cultural and spiritual heritage; and be it

15          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
16 Francisco invites the people of San Francisco to honor this anniversary by experiencing  
17 nature, whether close to home or in America’s wilderness areas throughout California and the  
18 United States.

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