105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3911

To designate all unreserved and unappropriated California coastal rocks and islands currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

———————————

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 1998

Mr. FARR of California (for himself, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. BILBRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

———————————

A BILL

To designate all unreserved and unappropriated California coastal rocks and islands currently administered by the Bureau of Land Management as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1   *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4   This Act may be cited as the "California Coastal

5 Rocks and Islands Wilderness Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROCKS AND ISLANDS WILDERNESS AREA TO BE ADMINISTERED BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The California coastal rocks and islands are a critical component of a unique ecosystem of California.

(2) The California coastal rocks and islands comprise a narrow flight lane in the Pacific Flyway, providing protected nest sites as well as feeding and perching areas for millions of seabirds.

(3) This unique ecosystem is also important for the continued survival of endangered or threatened sea mammals, such as stellar sea lions and elephant seals.

(4) Designation of the California coastal rocks and islands as wilderness would add a significant natural component to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(b) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), all unreserved and unappropriated ocean islands in the State of California (as more fully described in subsection (c)) that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land

1 Management are hereby designated as wilderness and,
2 therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Pres-
3 ervation System, and shall be known as the California
4 Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness.

5   (c) DESCRIPTION OF COVERED ISLANDS.—The ocean
6 islands covered by subsection (b) are those islands, reefs,
7 rocks, and islets lying within three miles off the Pacific
8 coast of the State of California from Oregon to the Mexi-
9 can border and above the mean high tides, except those
10 already reserved and appropriated for other uses as listed
11 in the exhibit titled "Lands Not Affected By Wilderness
12 Designation" dated February 26, 1997, and on file and
13 available for public review in the California office of the
14 Bureau of Land Management.

15   (d) MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY.—The California
16 Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness shall remain under
17 the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and
18 the islands, reefs, rocks, and islets designated as wilder-
19 ness under subsection (b) are managed, as of the date of
20 the enactment of this Act, under a memorandum of under-
21 standing by the California Department of Fish and Game.

22   (e) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
23 the California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness shall
24 be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accord-
25 ance with the Wilderness Act, except that, with respect

1 to such wilderness area, any reference in the Wilderness

2 Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be

3 deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment

4 of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agri-

5 culture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary

6 of the Interior.

7   (f) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—This section shall

8 take precedence over and supersede the temporary res-

9 ervation made by the Act of February 18, 1931 (Chapter

10 226; 46 Stat. 1172).

○