

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2277

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

JUNE 18, 1999

Mr. FARR of California (for himself, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. STARK, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BILBRAY, and Ms. ESHOO) 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 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROCKS**
4 **AND ISLANDS WILDERNESS AREA TO BE AD-**
5 **MINISTERED BY BUREAU OF LAND MANAGE-**
6 **MENT.**

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

1 (1) The California coastal rocks and islands are
2 a critical component of a unique ecosystem of Cali-
3 fornia.

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

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

12 (4) Designation of the California coastal rocks
13 and islands as wilderness would add a significant
14 natural component to the National Wilderness Pres-
15 ervation System.

16 (b) DESIGNATION AS WILDERNESS.—In furtherance
17 of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131
18 et seq.), all unreserved and unappropriated ocean islands
19 in the State of California (as more fully described in sub-
20 section (c)) that, as of the date of the enactment of this
21 Act, are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land
22 Management are hereby designated as wilderness and,
23 therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Pres-
24 ervation System, and shall be known as the California
25 Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness.

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

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

18 (e) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
19 the California Coastal Rocks and Islands Wilderness shall
20 be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accord-
21 ance with the Wilderness Act, except that, with respect
22 to such wilderness area, any reference in the Wilderness
23 Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be
24 deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment
25 of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agri-

1 culture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary
2 of the Interior.

3 (f) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—This section shall
4 take precedence over and supersede the temporary res-
5 ervation made by the Act of February 18, 1931 (Chapter
6 226; 46 Stat. 1172).

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