

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6129

To release the Bodie Wilderness Study Area in Mono County, California.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

Mr. McKEON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To release the Bodie Wilderness Study Area in Mono County,
California.

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 “Mono County Eco-
5 nomic Development Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. RELEASE OF BODIE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA,**
7 **MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.**

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

9 (1) The Bodie Wilderness Study Area, con-
10 sisting of 16,482 acres of land, is located in north-

1 eastern Mono County, California, approximately nine
2 miles east of Bridgeport, California.

3 (2) In 1990, the Bureau of Land Management
4 issued its California Statewide Wilderness Study Re-
5 port, containing its recommendations concerning the
6 Bodie Wilderness Study Area and others, as re-
7 quired by section 603 of the Federal Land Policy
8 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782).

9 (3) The Bureau of Land Management reviewed
10 the environmental impact statements covering the
11 Bodie Wilderness Study Area and in its 1990 report
12 recommended the Bodie Wilderness Study area as
13 nonsuitable for wilderness.

14 (4) The Bureau of Land Management reached
15 its decision of no wilderness for the Bodie Wilder-
16 ness Study Area because the area's potential for
17 mineral occurrences and motorized recreation needs
18 outweighs the area's wilderness values, and second-
19 arily because the area would be difficult to manage
20 as wilderness.

21 (5) The Bureau of Land Management based its
22 recommendation on the following findings contained
23 in the environmental impact statement:

1 (A) The area contains several hundred
2 mining claims, many of which may be grand-
3 fathered.

4 (B) Most of the area contains moderate to
5 high metallic mineral potential for gold, silver,
6 or mercury, or for geothermal resources.

7 (C) The area sustains and provides oppor-
8 tunities for motorized recreation.

9 (D) The highly irregular configuration of
10 the area as well as the existence of two cherry-
11 stemmed roads leading to private inholdings
12 and mining claims would inhibit complete and
13 effective management as wilderness.

14 (6) For the purposes of section 603 of the Fed-
15 eral Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43
16 U.S.C. 1782), the Bodie Wilderness Study Area has
17 been adequately studied for wilderness.

18 (7) Approximately 96 percent of the land in
19 Mono County, California, is owned or controlled by
20 the Federal Government.

21 (8) Unemployment in Mono County, California,
22 is approximately 10 percent.

23 (9) Releasing the Bodie Wilderness Study Area
24 and opening the wilderness study area for economic
25 development could create hundreds of good-paying

1 jobs and annual tax revenues in the hundreds of mil-
2 lions of dollars in an economically depressed area.

3 (b) RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.—The
4 Bodie Wilderness Study Area is no longer subject to the
5 requirements of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy
6 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)) or sec-
7 tion 2002 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act
8 of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 16 U.S.C. 7202).

9 (c) EFFECT OF RELEASE.—The lands within the
10 Bodie Wilderness Study Area, as released by subsection
11 (b), shall return to multiple use management as set forth
12 in the applicable resource management plan prepared
13 under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Man-
14 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) immediately, with-
15 out any further action by the Bureau of Land Manage-
16 ment.

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