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Sierra Club California Praises Introduction of Federal Bill to Better Manage Berryessa Snow Mountain Area

SACRAMENTO—Three members of the U.S. House of Representatives today introduced legislation that will help better manage a spectacular area contained within four California counties.

Representatives Mike Thompson (CA-1), John Garamendi (CA-10) and Lynn Woolsey (CA-6) introduced HR 5545, which will establish the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. The area covers 319,000 acres and stretches 100 miles north from Putah Creek and Lake Berryessa in Napa and Yolo Counties to the Snow Mountain Wilderness in Mendocino County.

All of the lands within the proposed area are currently federally owned and maintained by a range of federal agencies. Designation as a National Conservation Area would help better organize and coordinate how the lands are managed.

“We are very pleased that these three members of Congress have introduced this bill. It is a critical step to make permanent protection of this special region a reality,” said Alan Pryor, an active Sierra Club volunteer in Yolo County. “Their foresight will ensure this natural jewel will be enjoyed by Americans for generations to come.”

The area is a destination for people who bass fish, fly fish, hike, raft, ride horseback and enjoy undisturbed natural areas dense with native plants and wildlife.

“It’s a hidden jewel,” said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California. “It’s no wonder so many different people and organizations have joined together to help elevate attention to this special place.”

Sierra Club has been one of dozens of groups that have been involved in supporting creation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area.

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club’s 13 chapters and more than 170,000 members and activists in California.