

RESOLUTION NO. 03-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING S. 2535, "CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE ACT OF 2002"; H.R. 4947, "SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS ACT"; H.R. 4948 "NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS ACT"; AND H.R. 4949 "NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS ACT OF 2002"

WHEREAS, 14 million acres (21,875 square miles) in California (approximately 14 percent of its total land base) is already designated "wilderness;" prohibiting off-highway and four-wheel drive vehicles, snowmobiles, bicycles, grazing, logging, mining, oil drilling, often horse-back riding, and other forms of public recreation and commercial development; precluding the use of mechanized equipment in trail maintenance; and forcing the displacement of motorized and mechanized recreation into ever-dwindling, accessible, public lands; and

WHEREAS, the "California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002" has been introduced in the U.S. Senate, proposing to designate as "wilderness" another 2.5 million acres (3,906 square miles) of California land in 77 different areas across the state, and to designate as "wild and scenic" additional portions of 22 rivers (including rivers through urban areas); adding these to the prohibition of many forms of public recreation, construction, and commercial development; and

WHEREAS, companion legislation has been subsequently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, diverse recreation groups, California special districts, city and county governments, and access and resource management interests up and down the State of California have said this is bad legislation; that it will negatively affect recreation access; prohibit wildfire management; and negatively impact water resource management; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest, California, believes that **PROTECTION** of lands and **ACCESS** are not mutually exclusive but are, in fact necessary for the health and vitality of our public lands and waterways.

THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest, California, resolves to join the Desert Mountain Division of the League of California Cities, and other cities, counties, special districts, recreation groups, and access and resource management interests in opposing S. 2535, "California Wild Heritage Act of 2002"; H.R. 4947, "Southern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act"; H.R. 4948 "Northern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act"; and H.R. 4949 "Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2002." The City Council further directs that copies of this Resolution be distributed broadly to U.S. and California legislators, the League of California Cities, and other interested parties.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of February 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Carter, Council Members Clark, Holloway, Martin, and Morgan

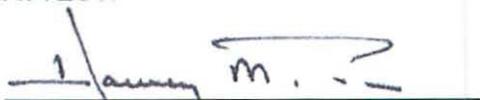
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None


Ronald H. Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:


Harvey M. Rose
City Clerk