[Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act]

Resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

WHEREAS, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964, bringing into being America's National Wilderness Preservation System, that designated certain wild federal lands "for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness" and made it the "policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness...in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition;" and

WHEREAS, Wilderness areas provide immense value to our Nation, as natural habitats for diverse species of wildlife, as destinations for family camping trips, as venues for hiking, hunting, horseback riding and fishing, as protectors of wild rivers, and as places to inspire awe, wonder and delight; and

WHEREAS, For people in urban areas, these undisturbed natural places are critical to filter the air we breathe, preserve the source watersheds of the water we drink and offer us a refuge for spiritual solace where we can leave behind the stresses of modern, mechanized living and find a welcome contrasting simplicity; and

WHEREAS, California, which has more federal wilderness areas and a larger percentage of its state's area designated as wilderness than any other state, was inspired by the 1964 Wilderness Act to establish its own exemplary state wilderness system, which has preserved certain state lands in a wild condition similar to federal wilderness; and
WHEREAS, During this year of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we reflect on the profound influence of the great outdoors on our lives and on our national character and we recommit to preserving for the benefit of generations to come these places “affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable”; and

WHEREAS, The iconic wilderness areas within California draw tourists from across the country and around the world, bolstering local businesses and supporting jobs; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Area contains two federal designated wildernesses within its borders—the Farallon Islands Wilderness and the Phillip Burton Wilderness in Point Reyes National Seashore; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby commemorates the 50th anniversary of the landmark federal Wilderness Act and recognizes the significance of our National Wilderness Preservation System to America’s cultural, scientific, historical, cultural and spiritual heritage; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco invites the people of San Francisco to honor this anniversary by experiencing nature, whether close to home or in America’s wilderness areas throughout California and the United States.
Resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

April 29, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/29/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board