



Northwest California's **MOUNTAINS & RIVERS**

Northwest California is without question one of the most beautiful and special places on earth. From the fog-shrouded redwood forests of Humboldt County to the sunny oak woodlands and grasslands of Mendocino, and from the soaring peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness to the turquoise waters of the Wild & Scenic Smith River, our region is home to some of the world's most spectacular landscapes.

Visitors from around the globe come to fish the mountain streams, run the river rapids, hike the backcountry trails and find solitude in primeval redwood groves - all of which benefit our local economy. Our mountains and rivers are also among the most biologically diverse areas on the planet, home to thousands of different plants and animals.

We now have a remarkable opportunity to restore our forests and protect Northwest California's last wild mountains and rivers. Please join us to ensure that the unique landscapes and natural treasures we cherish are passed on to future generations.

What Is It?

Mountains & Rivers is a proposal of draft legislation to be presented to our Congressman, Jared Huffman, to protect these special places, restore watersheds and fisheries, support economic development, enhance recreational opportunities, and protect communities from catastrophic fire.

Conserving special places

Many of our ancient forests, clear streams and rugged mountains lack permanent protection and are open to activities that could destroy their wild character. From the headwaters of the Eel River to the edges of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, to the largest stand of unprotected old growth forest in northern California, this proposal will permanently protect these and other special places.

Restoring lands and waters

Past forest management has left many forests and rivers in dire need of restoration. This proposal will aim to establish the South Fork Trinity River Restoration Area to restore the forests, habitat, and fisheries in this essential watershed. The proposal will also help restore fire-resilient forests in wilderness areas and clean up public lands that have been damaged by illegal trespass marijuana grows.

Supporting local economies

Public lands are the backbone of our region's economy. These lands help create desirable surrounding communities to live in, and also support jobs in recreation and tourism. This proposal will strengthen our local economy and provide jobs by creating new opportunities for recreation and tourism, and putting people to work restoring degraded lands.

Enhancing recreational opportunities

Part of why we love living here is because our region is rich with recreational opportunities. Whether you enjoy hiking in wilderness, fishing the Trinity River, or riding a four-wheeler, Northwest California has it all. This proposal would protect recreational opportunities and access, and secure new trail expansion and opportunities.

Protecting local communities

This proposal will require new fire management plans and strategies that will protect communities and create healthier, fire-resilient forests.

To Get Involved – Please visit the website, write a support letter, and join the mailing list.

info@mountainsandrivers.org – www.mountainsandrivers.org

Mountains & Rivers – FAQs

What is Mountains & Rivers?

Mountains & Rivers is draft potential legislative language to be presented to our Congressman, Jared Huffman, in hopes that he will introduce it in Congress. We are made up of a coalition of conservation organizations, business owners, land owners, biologists, Native Americans tribes, hunters, anglers and other community members working together to protect special places, restore watersheds and fisheries, support economic development, enhance recreational opportunities, and protect communities.

What would the proposed legislation do?

This proposal would protect new Wilderness areas and Wild & Scenic rivers; restore the South Fork Trinity River watershed; require new fire management planning to protect communities and establish fire-resilient forests; provide new recreational opportunities; and help clean up public lands impacted by illegal trespass marijuana grows.

How is this going to help the fish?

The proposal will protect the watersheds, headwaters, and rivers and streams that fish rely on, ensuring that fish have the clean, cold water they need to survive. The proposal will also restore water quality and aquatic habitat within the South Fork Trinity River watershed, which is vital fish habitat.

How will this impact fire management on public lands?

The proposal will require the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to work with local residents to create new fire management plans for all Wilderness areas in the region. These plans will help protect communities from the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and restore healthy, more fire-resilient forests.

How will this effect recreation?

This proposal will preserve and expand trail access and recreational opportunities, both within and outside Wilderness.

Does it address trespass marijuana grows?

The proposal will help clean up public lands and waters impacted by trespass marijuana grows on public lands by creating a local, state, and federal partnership to coordinate activities and provide resources and expertise.

Will the proposal benefit our local economies?

The proposal will strengthen local economies and provide jobs by creating new opportunities for recreation and tourism, and putting people to work restoring degraded lands.

Can I still hunt in Wilderness Areas?

Yes. Hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, rock climbing, and many other activities are all allowed in designated Wilderness Areas. Hunting is not permitted in National or State Parks.

What does Wild & Scenic River status mean?

Federal land management agencies (USFS, BLM, etc.) must develop management plans along protected river segments that flow through public lands. This also explicitly prohibits the federal government from licensing, permitting, or funding new hydroelectric dams or major diversions on protected stream segments.

Will the proposal close any roads?

No, all legally open roads will be unaffected.

Does this affect private property?

No, this proposal only includes public lands. Private property will not be affected, except to potentially increase the value of those lands adjacent to protected public lands.