PLEASE WRITE TODAY
TO THESE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ON THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS BILL (S. 889)

Senators
(Address: Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.)

HENRY M. JACKSON (Washington)
CLINTON P. ANDERSON (New Mexico)
FRANK CHURCH (Idaho)

THOMAS H. KUCHEL (California)
GORDON ALLOTT (Colorado)

Representatives
(Address: House Office Building, Washington, D. C.)

WALTER S. BARING (all of Nevada)
HAROLD T. (Biz) JOHNSON (19 northwestern California counties including cities of Red Bluff and Redding)
MORRIS K. UDALL (southern Arizona; counties of Cochise, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma including city of Tucson)

JOHN P. SAYLOR (Pennsylvania counties of Armstrong, Cambria, Clarion, Indiana, Jefferson including city of Johnstown)
EDWIN REENECKE (southern California; cities include Burbank, Lancaster, North Hollywood, Palmdale, San Fernando, Sun Valley, Sunland-Tujunga, Van Nuys)

THESE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS

National Audubon Society
Izaak Walton League of America
Defenders of Wildlife
Sierra Club
The Wilderness Society
The Desert Protective Council
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
Colorado Open Space Coordinating Council
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Santa Barbara County Trails Council
Cuyama Citizens for Conservation
Santa Barbara Community for New Politics
Santa Barbara Women's Club
Roamer Hiking Club (Los Angeles)
Wanderbirds Hiking Club
National Committee for the Protection of Trail Country
Dear Fellow Conservationist:

Your help is urgently needed to gain favorable action by Congress on the recommendation of citizen conservationists for adding a unique and highly significant area to the San Rafael Wilderness Area.

THE PATTERN THAT IS SET IN THIS FIRST WILDERNESS PROPOSAL TO UNDERGO CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW COULD BE APPLIED TO LATER WILDERNESS PROPOSALS THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

A House-Senate Conference Committee should reach a decision on the important 2,000-acre House addition to the San Rafael area before Members of Congress go home in December. This will clear the bill (S.889) for the President's signature and permit designation of the first addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System under the 1964 Wilderness Law.

PLEASE WRITE OR WRITE TODAY TO SENATOR JACKSON, SENATOR KUCHEL, AND THE MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FROM YOUR STATE (see list). URGE ADOPTION OF THE HOUSE-APPROVED ADDITION TO THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS BILL.

Your letters and wires will help to show the important role of citizen conservationists in the wilderness review process and will be important in setting the pattern for many future wilderness proposals.

PLEASE ACT NOW!

Sincerely,

Robert Easton
Citizens Committee for the San Rafael Wilderness

STATEMENT OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS:

- The Wilderness Act provides, through its review and hearing requirements, for public participation in the development of proposals for additions to the Wilderness System.

- The Committee respects the professional competence of the Los Padres National Forest staff, and commends the Forest Service's willingness to expand the 75,000-acre San Rafael Primitive Area by 68,000 acres. Conservationists feel, however, that an additional 15,000 contiguous acres also qualify for Wilderness Area inclusion. This additional acreage (Areas E, F, and G in the Forest Service report) was recommended for wilderness status at the Santa Barbara hearing two years ago by the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, and many local groups and individuals.

- At the Senate hearing in April, Senator Kuchel requested precise boundaries for the area believed by conservationists to be the essential addition to the Forest Service-proposed area. Within two weeks a map delineating three units totalling 2,200 acres within Area F along the Sierra Madre ridge was submitted to Senator Kuchel. The case for the 2,200-acre addition was presented to the House Interior Committee on June 20. On October 16 the House passed S.889 amended to provide for the designation of a 145,000-acre San Rafael Wilderness which includes this proposed Area F addition.

- Senator Kuchel—a long-time wilderness advocate and a leading sponsor of the Wilderness Bill—asked specifically for "the delineated area which would be the equivalent of 2,000 to 3,000 acres" as recommended by citizen groups. In support of this the Senate Interior Committee report on S.889 "points out that such an (Area F) inclusion can be accomplished later if this proves desirable". Conservationists anticipated, therefore, that the Senate would favorably consider the House amendment. However, Senate-House conference committee sessions on S.889 have been postponed twice, apparently because of an all-out campaign by the Forest Service to block any agreement on the House's 2,000-acre addition.

- The Forest Service argues that the addition of this area would disrupt its fire suppression program. The most significant Forest Service document on its plans for the Sierra Madre Ridge area, however, states that a 500-foot-wide fuel break located to the north of the Sierra Madre ridge road would "materially aid" in fire protection. All of the proposed additions lie to the south of the ridge road. The few hundred acres of brush-to-grass "type conversion" the Forest Service would conduct within the House-approved 2,000-acre addition would only slightly supplement the chain of natural grassy potreros which already cover the Sierra Madre ridge and such a major fuel break to the north of the ridge road (see map). The extensive type conversion fuel break program apparently was developed as part of a multiple use plan for the development of the ridge, which included a ski resort, major campgrounds, and public vehicular use of the Buckhorn and Sierra Madre Ridge roads. These intensive development plans have been abandoned, but not the accompanying fire protection plan, which was designed to cope with the increased fire hazard from mass public use of the area.

- The three small proposed additions encompass much of the best scenery in the entire San Rafael area, as well as important archeological sites, rare transitional life zones, and undisturbed California condor habitat. They are minor extensions of the Forest Service's own proposed boundary. Because of their many intrinsic values, we believe their inclusion in the San Rafael Wilderness Area merits your vigorous support.

PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS IMMEDIATELY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.