

## 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)

THOMAS H. KUCHEL (California)

CLINTON P. ANDERSON (New Mexico)

GORDON ALLOTT (Colorado)

FRANK CHURCH (Idaho)

### Representatives

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

WALTER S. BARING (all of Nevada)

JOHN P. SAYLOR (Pennsylvania counties of Armstrong, Cambria, Clarion, Indiana, Jefferson including city of Johnstown)

HAROLD T. (BIZ) JOHNSON (19 northwestern California counties including cities of Red Bluff and Redding)

EDWIN REINECKE (southern California; cities include Burbank, Lancaster, North Hollywood, Palmdale, San Fernando, Sun Valley, Sunland-Tujunga, Van Nuys)

MORRIS K. UDALL (southern Arizona; counties of Cochise, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma including city of Tucson)

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

National Audubon Society

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Izaak Walton League of America

Santa Barbara County Trails Council

Defenders of Wildlife

Cuyama Citizens for Conservation

Sierra Club

Santa Barbara Community for New Politics

The Wilderness Society

Santa Barbara Womens Club

The Desert Protective Council

Roamer Hiking Club (Los Angeles)

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Wanderbirds Hiking Club

Colorado Open Space Coordinating Council

National Committee for the Protection of  
Trail Country

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE SAN RAFAEL WILDERNESS

Robert Easton, Chairman  
2222 Las Canoas Road  
Santa Barbara, California 93105

FIRST CLASS MAIL

An  
**IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE**

for the  
**Conservationists  
of America**

from the  
**Citizens  
Committee**  
for the  
**San Rafael  
Wilderness**





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 WIRE 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.

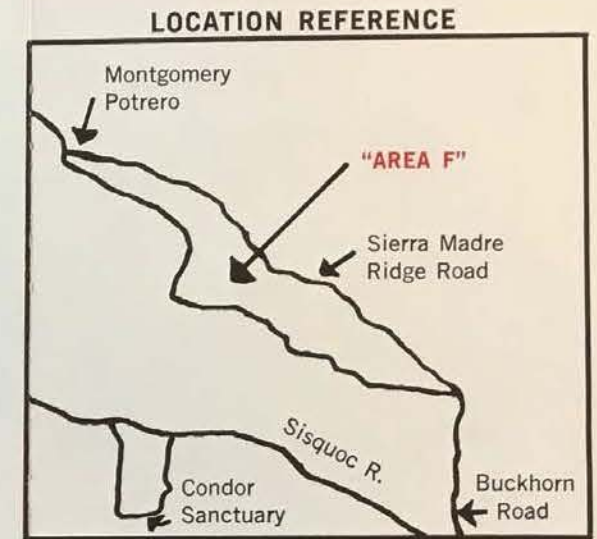
Your letters and wires will help to show the important role of citizen conservationists in the wilderness review process and will be important in setting the pattern for many future wilderness proposals.

PLEASE ACT NOW!

Sincerely,

  
Robert Easton, Chairman  
Citizens Committee for the  
San Rafael Wilderness

## RED AREAS INDICATE EXTENT OF FUEL BREAK-TYPE AREAS NOW IN EXISTENCE ON SIERRA MADRE RIDGE (POTREROS AND TYPE CONVERSION)



### 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 presuppression 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.