

It would establish a superb wilderness of some 36,137 acres. The proposed San Gabriel Wilderness Area is located in the San Gabriel Mountains in eastern Los Angeles County, Calif., about 5 miles north-east of Metropolitan Los Angeles.

This fine wilderness example lies within 50 miles of approximately 6 million people. As you know, Mr. Chairman, I have long advocated the creation of recreational areas in close proximity to areas of population concentration. The southern California area presents a prime opportunity and need in this regard. People are more likely to use recreation facilities when they are within easy driving distance from their homes and offices.

While it is essential that we preserve our superb natural areas that are remotely located, it is also essential that we retain these superlative examples of untrammelled nature existing close to metropolitan areas. As our population grows, nationally, and certainly in California, the demands on our recreational facilities will increase.

Therefore, as I have often said, we must set aside the needed areas now, not only to satisfy the present demand, but to deal with our responsibilities for providing for the future's requirements.

It is encouraging that my San Gabriel Wilderness proposal has the support of all concerned Federal and State administrative and resources agencies, as well as receiving the enthusiastic support of responsible national and local conservation groups.

I am happy to add that the total proposed wilderness area is within the Angeles National Forest, and therefore no private land will be acquired by virtue of this designation.

I have no doubt that this committee will see the merit and wisdom of this proposal, recommended as it is by the administration, and supported as I say by public and private people interested in sound conservation.

I ask consent that some comments I made in the Senate last fall when I introduced the bill be incorporated at this point, Mr. Chairman, in the record.

Senator CHURCH. Without objection, the comments will be incorporated.

(The document referred to follows:)

[From the Congressional Record, Washington, Oct. 12, 1967]

SAN GABRIEL WILDERNESS AREA

Mr. KUCHEL. Mr. President, on February 8 of this year, I had the pleasure of introducing a bill, S. 889, which would establish the San Rafael Wilderness Area in the Los Padres National Forest in California. The San Rafael bill is the historic first proposed addition to the Wilderness Preservation System established by the 1964 Wilderness Act. S. 889 passed the Senate on May 2, 1967, and is currently pending in the House, where I understand passage is imminent.

I now introduce for appropriate reference a bill to establish the San Gabriel Wilderness Area in the Angeles National Forest of California. The proposed San Gabriel Wilderness is located in the San Gabriel mountain range in eastern Los Angeles County, approximately 35 miles northeast of the city of Los Angeles. This fine wilderness example lies within 50 miles of approximately 6 million people.

The proposed San Gabriel Wilderness comprises some 36,137 acres, including 34,807 acres currently designated as the Devil Canyon-Bear Canyon Primitive Area. The additional 2,490 acres proposed to be added to the primitive area acreage is contiguous to the primitive area and is also totally within the Angeles National Forest. Thus, no private land nor other public land would have to be acquired in order to establish the San Gabriel Wilderness Area.