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113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 730

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PETRI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BARBER, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CHU, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LANCE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. KING of New York) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Whereas September 3, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which gave to the people of the United States the National Wilderness Preservation System, an enduring resource of natural heritage;

Whereas great writers of the United States, including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Willa Cather,

George Perkins Marsh, Mary Hunter Austin, David James Duncan, and John Muir, poets such as William Cullen Bryant, and painters such as Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Frederic Remington, Georgia O'Keefe, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Moran, helped define the distinct cultural value of wild nature and concept of wilderness in the United States;

Whereas national leaders, such as President Theodore Roosevelt, who reveled in outdoor pursuits, have sought to ensure the wisest use of natural resources, so as to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people as possible;

Whereas luminaries in the conservation movement, such as scientist Aldo Leopold, writer Howard Zahniser, teacher Sigurd Olson, biologists Olaus, Adolph, and Margaret ''Mardy'' Murie, and conservationists David Brower and Marjory Stoneman Douglas, envisioned and ardently advocated for a national system of protected wilderness areas and believed that the people of the United States could and should protect and preserve wilderness so that wilderness lasts well into the future;

Whereas Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, a Democrat from Minnesota, and Representative John Saylor, a Republican from Pennsylvania, introduced versions of the Wilderness Act in each House of Congress and worked tirelessly for 8 years to secure its passage with bipartisan votes of 78 to 12 in the Senate and 373 to 1 in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law in the Rose Garden on September 3, 1964;

Whereas, over the 50 years since the enactment of the Wilderness Act, various Presidents from both parties, leaders of Congress, and experts in the land management agencies within the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture have expanded and improved the system of wilderness protection created by the Wilderness Act;

Whereas the Wilderness Act instituted an unambiguous national policy to recognize the natural heritage of the United States as a valuable resource and protect wilderness for the good of future generations;

Whereas wilderness provides billions of dollars of ecosystem services in the form of safe drinking water, clean air, and recreational opportunities;

Whereas 44 States have protected wilderness areas; and

Whereas President Gerald R. Ford stated that the National Wilderness Preservation System ''serves a basic need of all Americans, even those who may never visit a wilderness area—the preservation of a vital element in our heritage'' and that ''wilderness preservation ensures that a central facet of our Nation can still be realized, not just remembered'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(2) recognizes and commends the extraordinary work of the individuals and organizations involved in building and maintaining the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) is grateful for wilderness, a tremendous asset the United States continues to preserve as a gift to future generations.

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