



September 10, 2010

The Honorable Sam Farr
U.S. House of Representatives
100 W. Alisal St.
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Support for HR 4040, Big Sur Forest Service Management Unit Act

Dear Congressman Farr,

Thank you for introducing HR 4040, the Big Sur Forest Service Management Unit Act. Patagonia fully supports this bill and all of the positive changes it will make to improve the management of the Los Padres National Forest's Monterey Ranger District. Ventura, California is our company's birthplace and headquarters. The Los Padres National Forest is our backyard. Our strong commitment to protecting undomesticated lands and waters along with our geographic ties to this region, make this bill of special importance to us.

Converting the 325,000 acres of the Monterey Ranger District into the Big Sur Management Unit (BSMU) will provide the region with the autonomy and budget authority this spectacular public land deserves. Furthermore, Sec 104, which designates the BSMU as a Wildland Urban Interface Special Study Area and directs the United States Forest Service to develop and annually update a fire management plan specifically for the BSMU, will ensure this region's specific fire protection needs are met and further protect its wild public resources.

Additionally, designation of the Jeff Norman Botanical Area will provide a fitting memorial for one of Big Sur's favorite sons by acknowledging a rare maritime chaparral habitat overlooking one of the very few Forest Service public beaches on the Pacific coast. Lastly, designation of over 90 miles of the most biologically and culturally sensitive rivers and streams as federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, including portions of the Arroyo Seco, San Antonio and Carmel Rivers, Big Creek, Tassajara and San Carpoforo Creeks, will protect the Big Sur region's heritage of free-flowing rivers for future generations.

In closing, Patagonia supports all aspects of HR 4040, from those listed above, to the wilderness area adjustments and the Arroyo Seco-Indians National Recreation Trail.



patagonia
SANTA CRUZ

Please ask for an expedited hearing on your bill before the House Resources Committee. We appreciate your ongoing work to protect California's wild places and especially the breathtaking Central Coast region. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help ensure the passage of HR 4040.

Sincerely,

Megan Coale
Environmental Grants Coordinator
Patagonia Outlet Santa Cruz