



Ventana Wilderness Alliance

KEEP BIG SUR WILD !

*The Big Sur Forest Service
Management Unit Act –
HR 4040*



Tassajara Creek

The Big Sur Forest Service Management Unit Act, introduced by Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA), will improve the management of the Los Padres National Forest's Monterey Ranger District in numerous ways including greater autonomy and budget authority for its 325,000 acres, permanent protection for over 90 miles of pristine rivers and streams, enhanced fire management protection, and over 2000 additional acres of national wilderness.

Summary of HR 4040

This bill makes a series of structural changes to improve the management of LPNF's Monterey Ranger District. These changes include:

- **Big Sur Management Unit:** The 325,000 acres of the Monterey Ranger District will be converted into the Big Sur Management Unit (BSMU) to provide more effective management and greater budget authority that this spectacular region deserves.
- **Wildfire Management Plan:** The Forest Service will be directed to develop and annually update a wildfire management plan specifically tailored to the new BSMU.
- **Wilderness Area Adjustments:** Boundary adjustments will be made to wilderness designations enacted by Congress in 2002 that will help facilitate USFS management and add over 2,000 acres of protected wilderness.
- **Wild & Scenic Rivers:** Over 90 miles of the region's most biologically and culturally sensitive rivers and streams will be designated as federal Wild & Scenic Rivers, which will protect them for future generations. These include the Arroyo Seco, San Antonio and Carmel Rivers, as well as Big Creek and San Carpoforo Creek.
- **National Recreational Trail Designation:** Designation will ensure that a popular 11-mile segment of the Arroyo Seco-Indians Road can continue to be used by mountain bikers, hikers and equestrian riders.
- **Jeff Norman Botanical Area:** 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.

History

Rep. Sam Farr has a history of protecting Big Sur's wild places, including the Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002, which provided wilderness protection for 50,000 acres. For the

past few years the Ventana Wilderness Alliance has been working closely with many organizations, including Friends of the River, The Wilderness Society and Sierra Club, to raise awareness about protecting wild Big Sur and encourage Rep. Farr to continue his legacy by ensuring its wild lands and rivers are preserved and managed effectively.

Progress

Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) introduced HR 4040 in November 2009 and it is currently making its way through the legislative process. To help ensure passage this year, HR 4040 needs public support. Please contact us or visit www.ventanawild.org/HR4040 to submit a letter of support.



"The Rocks", between the Arroyo Seco and San Antonio Rivers

Contact

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