



July 9, 2019

Senator Kamala Harris  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Jared Huffman  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support for the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (S. 1100 / H.R. 2250)**

Dear Senator Harris and Representative Huffman,

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our thanks and strong support for the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (S. 1100 / H.R. 2250).

The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act was crafted after years of input from business leaders, conservationists, anglers, mountain bikers, fire management professionals, and more, and we appreciate your efforts to consider the needs of a broad array of regional stakeholders in developing this legislation. Because of it, the bill benefits the region's public lands, local communities, and the millions of visitors who come to experience northwest California's storied outdoor recreation. This bill secures a vision of well-balanced, landscape-scale conservation, promotes restoration of impacted watersheds, and improves fire management.

This bill will conserve approximately 262,000 acres of public land as Wilderness, designate 379 miles of new Wild and Scenic rivers, and create a special restoration area of more than 700,000 acres. From the fog-shrouded redwood forests of Humboldt County to the sunny oak woodlands and grasslands of Mendocino, and the soaring peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness to the turquoise waters of the Wild

and Scenic Smith River, this region is home to spectacular landscapes and world-renowned recreational opportunities.

In addition to protecting conservation values in the area, the bill would expand opportunities for sustainable recreation. With the establishment of the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail, the bill would create a boon to northwest California by expanding mountain biking trails along the Elk Camp Ridge and in Del Norte County. It would permanently protect the South Fork Trinity River—a popular and valuable steelhead fishery—and study the feasibility of establishing the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail to highlight the botanical and biological diversity of the region. We greatly appreciate the bill's attention to ensuring the protection and sound management of Wilderness climbing opportunities, as well as the inclusion of Land of the Lost—the closest sport climbing to Arcata and Eureka—in a special management area.

In addition to the bill's new Wild & Scenic designations for whitewater resources on the East Fork North Fork Trinity and Canyon Creek, paddlers enthusiastically support the protection of more than 48,000 acres of public land within the proposed Wilderness areas surrounding already-designated Wild & Scenic watersheds on the Trinity, Eel, and Black Butte Rivers. Moreover, 25 whitewater river access points will be protected within proposed Wilderness and special restoration areas, and potential Wilderness areas will ensure boaters can continue to paddle along the banks of the lower portion of Redwood Creek surrounded by the tallest living trees in the world.

Adding lasting protections to our public land helps sustain the health of our environment and our outdoor recreation economy. In California, outdoor recreation generates \$92 billion in consumer spending and supports 691,000 jobs, \$30.4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act is an investment in our economic future.

We appreciate your leadership on behalf of Northwest California's wild places, and we look forward to working with you to move the bill across the finish line this Congress. Together, we can ensure the outdoor recreation economy and the wild places that sustain it continue to thrive in Northwest California for current and future generations.

Sincerely,



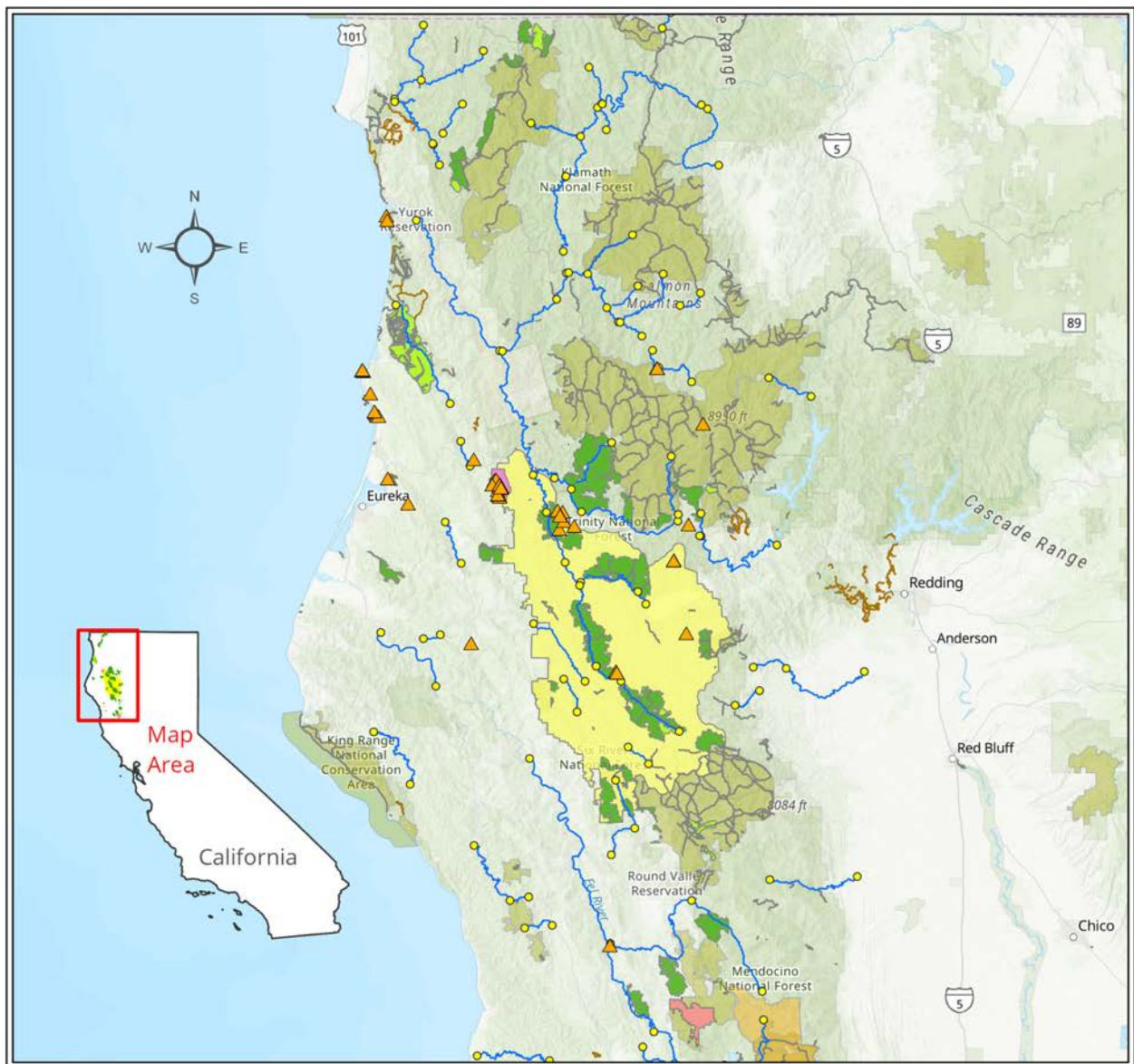
Kirsten Blackburn  
Advocacy Manager  
The Conservation Alliance



Louis Geltman  
Policy Director  
Outdoor Alliance



Patricia Rojas-Ungar  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Outdoor Industry Association



**Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act**

**Proposed Designations**

- Conservation Management Area
- Exclusion Area
- Potential Wilderness Area
- Proposed Wilderness Area
- Special Management Area
- Special Restoration Area

**Designated Areas**

- Wilderness Area
- National Monument

**Recreation Resources**

- Rock Climbing
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Trail



## **Our Organizations**

### **Outdoor Alliance**

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

### **The Conservation Alliance**

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands and climbing areas. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than \$21 million, helped to protect more than 51 million acres of wildlands; protect 3,107 miles of rivers; stop or remove 34 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 14 climbing areas. For complete information on The Conservation Alliance, see [www.conservationalliance.com](http://www.conservationalliance.com).

### **Outdoor Industry Association**

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for the outdoor industry and is the title sponsor of Outdoor Retailer, the largest outdoor products tradeshow in North America. OIA serves over 1,300 manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers through a focus on international trade and public lands and recreation policy, sustainable business innovation and outdoor participation.