



# Northwest California's MOUNTAINS & RIVERS

## Huffman bill to protect & restore public lands



Hayfork Creek, photo Jason Smith

Northwest California is one of the most beautiful places on earth. Stretching from Humboldt County's fog-shrouded redwood forests to the sunny oak woodlands and grasslands of Mendocino, this breathtaking region reaches up to the soaring peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness and across the turquoise waters of the Wild & Scenic Smith River.

Visitors from around the globe come to Northwest California to fish mountain streams, run river rapids, hike backcountry trails and find solitude in primeval redwood groves - all of which drives consumer spending in local communities and enhances the region's outdoor recreation economy. These mountains and rivers are also among the most biologically diverse areas on the planet, home to thousands of different plants and animals.

Congressman Jared Huffman introduced the **Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act** to protect our wild lands and rivers and expand recreational opportunities while restoring watersheds and managing for fire.

### **Restore and Revitalize Forests and Watersheds**

The well-being of the entire region is tied to the health of its forests and watersheds. Rep. Huffman's bill would help revitalize damaged forests and watersheds and improve the region's overall water quality.

### **Conserve Ecologically-Significant Areas**

Many of Northwest California's ancient forests, clear streams, and rugged mountains lack permanent protection and are open to road construction, and other types of development, including logging, that could destroy their wild character.

Wilderness designation for our most pristine public lands and Wild & Scenic designations for local rivers and creeks would ensure that these places remain in their natural state for future generations. Protecting streams and watersheds safeguards habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead populations, and conserves vital sources of clean water for drinking, fishing, and recreation.

### **Enhance Recreational Opportunities & Support Local Economies**

Whether you enjoy hiking in wilderness, fishing, mountain biking, or riding a four-wheeler, Northwest California has it all. The legislation would boost access to trails and recreation, which strengthens local economies. Nearby protected public lands help create desirable communities with jobs and business opportunities in recreation, tourism, and local service industries.

For more information, visit [www.mountainsandrivers.org](http://www.mountainsandrivers.org), or email [info@mountainsandrivers.org](mailto:info@mountainsandrivers.org)



@mountainsandrivers



@mtnsrivers



@mtnsrivers

# Northwest California's MOUNTAINS & RIVERS

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How would the bill impact fire management?** The legislation would require the US Forest Service and the BLM to work with local residents to create a new coordinated fire management plan for all of the designated Wilderness Areas in the region. It would also help protect communities by creating a network of roadside shaded fuel breaks in the South Fork Trinity and Mad River Restoration Area, including thinning neglected plantations.

**Does the legislation address trespass marijuana grows?** The bill would help clean up public lands and waters impacted by trespass marijuana grows by creating a local, state, federal and tribal partnership to coordinate activities and provide resources and expertise.

**Can I still hunt in wilderness areas?** Yes, hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, rock climbing, and many other activities are allowed in wilderness areas.

**What does Wild & Scenic River status mean?** Federal land management agencies must develop management plans along protected river segments in public lands. The wild and scenic designation also prohibits the federal government from licensing, permitting, or funding new hydroelectric dams or major diversions on protected stream segments.

**How will it help fish?** The legislation would protect the watersheds, headwaters, rivers and streams that fish rely on, preserving the clean, cold water they need to survive. It also contains provisions to restore water quality and aquatic habitat within the South Fork Trinity River watershed, a vital fishery.

**Would the bill close any roads?** All legally open roads would remain open.

**Would the legislation create more public lands or affect private property?** No. This measure only relates to existing federal public lands. No private property would be affected.



South Fork Trinity River, photo Jeff Morris



Wild Steelhead, photo David Lass



Bear Mountain, photo Joe Gillespie

---

*The Northwest California Mountains & Rivers Campaign is a coalition of local businesses, landowners, biologists, conservation organizations, hunters, and anglers working to safeguard and restore important public lands, rivers and streams in Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte counties.*