



Senate Approves Legislation to Protect California Lands
-- Yosemite, Golden Gate, and Redwoods included --
July 26, 2005

Washington, DC – The U.S. Senate today approved legislation sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) that would add land to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Redwood National Park as well as authorize additional funding for schools located in Yosemite Park.

“I am pleased that the Senate has advanced this long-standing effort to protect some of California’s extraordinary natural resources and help schoolchildren living in Yosemite Park,” Senator Feinstein said. **“This will help preserve what is left of our vanishing wildlands and forests for all time and ease some challenges faced by students in Yosemite. I hope that the House will pass this legislation soon.”**

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) portion of the bill will add 4,500 acres of pristine natural land to GGNRA in San Mateo County including a 4,076 acre parcel known as the Rancho Corral de Tierra. The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) previously purchased the mountainous property that surrounds the coastal towns of Moss Beach and Montara. The Trust has agreed to transfer the land to the Federal Government for approximately half of the purchase cost.

“The sweeping views of the San Mateo Coast, several miles of public trails, rich farmland, and an incredible array of wildlife and vegetation will now be protected through this expansion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area,” Senator Feinstein said. **“I would like to thank Congressman Tom Lantos, who has sponsored companion legislation in the House, for his work on this bill.”**

Another portion of the legislation will add 25,500 acres of land known as the Mill Creek property to Redwood National Park in Del Norte County. In addition to the Mill Creek property, this bill will bring about 900 acres of land within the park boundary. There is no Federal cost for the land acquisition or development resulting from this legislation.

“California’s redwood trees are not just a State treasure, they are also a National gem. This historic effort to add the Mill Creek property to the Redwood National Park will enable us to conserve the redwood forest, provide watershed protection, and protect wildlife habitats preserving the forest for generations to come,” Senator Feinstein said. **“I applaud Congressman Mike Thompson for his effort to protect California’s splendid resources and I am grateful for his sponsorship of this legislation in the House.”**

This bill will also authorize the National Park Service to provide supplemental funding for three small schools in the Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary and Mariposa Unified School

Districts, which are located in Yosemite National Park. In recent years, these schools have faced significant hardship and have had to cut down on educational services and faculty just to stay open.

“Keeping these schools open is important because otherwise some Yosemite students would face a commute of more than 90 miles roundtrip each day just to go to school,” Senator Feinstein said. **“Children who live in Yosemite National Park should not suffer because they live in remote areas and lack access to larger public schools. I commend Congressman George Radanovich for his commitment to this issue and for sponsoring it in the House.”**

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