



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

January 24, 2020

STAFF REPORT: Federal Legislative Update

STAFF: Marivel Barajas, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Federal Legislation Affecting California

Summary

This report provides summary excerpts and status of bills that impact the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program. Information contained in this report is accurate as of December 3, 2019.

2019 - 2020 116th US CONGRESS FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

S. 1109 (Harris): San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act

Summary: This bill would establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in California. This is a companion bill to H.R. 2215 (Chu).

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would establish a 22-member Advisory Council to include two members that would represent the interests of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle

San Gabriel National

Status: 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S. 1110 (Harris): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

Summary: This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in Northern California. This is a companion bill to H.R. 2250 (Huffman).

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail in Del Norte County for off-highway vehicle or mountain bike usage. The bill would additionally require the Secretary of the Interior to annually assess the effects of off-highway vehicle and mountain bicycle use on the trail, land in close proximity to the trail, as well as plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Status: 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

S. 1111 (Harris): Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

Summary: This bill would designate specified parcels of land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness areas. This is a companion bill to H.R. 2199 (Carbajal).

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would require that not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) shall study the feasibility of opening a new trail, for vehicles measuring 50 inches or less, connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system, in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

Status: 4/10/2019 Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

H.R. 316 (LaMalfa): Guides and Outfitters Act

Summary: This bill would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to allow the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue special recreation permits and fees for off-highway vehicle use on certain federal recreational lands, as defined. This bill is the successor to H.R. 289 of the 2017-2018 Session.

Status: 2/07/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry

H.R. 403 (Panetta): Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act

Summary: This bill would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties to promote environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle recreation and to support other recreational uses. This bill would direct the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to designate 21,000 acres of land adjacent to Clear Creek as wilderness and would name this area, "Joaquin Rocks Wilderness". The bill would also reopen the 63,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area for public outdoor recreation, including off-road vehicles and hiking. This bill requires BLM to develop a plan including educating visitors about the hazards of asbestos. This bill is a reintroduction of H.R. 1913 from the 2017-2018 Session.

Status: 2/05/2019 Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

H.R. 2199 (Carbajal): Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

Summary: This bill would designate specified parcels of land in the Los Padres National Forest and the Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness areas. This is a companion bill to S. 1111 (Harris).

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would require that not later than six years after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) shall study the feasibility of opening a new trail, for vehicles measuring 50 inches or less, connecting Forest Service Highway 95 to the existing off-highway vehicle trail system, in the Ballinger Canyon off-highway vehicle area.

Status: House Natural Resources Committee – Passed (Ayes:20 Noes:13)

H.R. 2215 (Chu): San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act

Summary: This bill would establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in California. This is a companion bill to S. 1109 (Harris).

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would establish a 22-member Advisory Council to include two members that would represent the interests of outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle recreation, within the San Gabriel National Recreation Area.

Status: House Natural Resources Committee – Passed (Ayes:20 Noes:13)

H.R. 2250 (Huffman): Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

Summary: This bill contains provisions concerning the restoration, economic development, conservation of, and recreational access to, certain public lands in Northern California. This is a companion bill to S. 1110 (Harris).

The bill's key off-highway vehicle provisions:

The bill would designate the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail in Del Norte County for off-highway vehicle or mountain bike usage. The bill would additionally require the Secretary of the Interior to annually assess the effects of off-highway vehicle and mountain bicycle use on the trail, land in close proximity to the trail, as well as plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.

Status: House Natural Resources Committee – Passed (Ayes:22 Noes:11)

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

None