

Proposed National Wilderness Preservation System Additions



Issue:

The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) is proposing a new round of wilderness areas within the southern California desert region.

Potential Impact:

Initial information indicates that as much as 600,000 acres of new wilderness areas will be proposed by CWC for Congressional action. Areas in the CWC proposal include Malpais Mesa additions, Slate Range, Great Falls Basin, Surprise Canyon, Golden Valley additions, Big Morongo, Cady Mountains, Avawatz Mountains, Kingston Range Additions, Castle Mountains, Soda Mountains, Deep Creek, Trilobite and Clipper additions, Milpitas Wash, Vinagre Wash, Palo Verde additions, Indian Pass additions.

Some of the proposed areas are existing Wilderness Study Areas where motorized recreation opportunity has been significantly reduced. Other areas are new or additions to existing designated wilderness areas. These have the potential of eliminating vast areas from recreation opportunity. All areas have a potential negative impact on renewable energy development options.

CA4WDC Position:

The California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) is strongly opposed to the proposed expansion of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the loss of recreation opportunities that would result.

CA4WDC supports preservation of lands that meet the intent and standards of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System.

CA4WDC supports efforts to resolve the status of existing Wilderness Study Areas by evaluating their value to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined wilderness experiences. Areas not providing the outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined wilderness experiences should be released from future consideration.

Contacts / Additional information:

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