MORE SUPPORT FOR BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

On April 6, 2015 the California Senate adopted Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4, which had been passed by the Assembly on February 17. The joint resolution, which has been sent to President Obama, urges him to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain area as a national monument. National Monuments can be created either by an act of Congress, or, under the Antiquities Act of 1906, by the President acting on his own. President Obama has used his Antiquities Act authority to designate more national monuments than any president. Conservatives in Congress have generally opposed the creation of new national monuments and the President’s liberal use of the Act has been branded by some as an abuse of executive power. There are now 3 bills pending in Congress (i.e., H.R.330, H.R.900 and S. 228) to repeal the Antiquities Act and require an act of Congress for the creation of national monuments.

California Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4 received bipartisan support overall, but Butte County’s representatives in the Legislature voted against it. Hopefully this official support from the State of California together with that of environmentalists will induce the President to use his Antiquities Act authority to create Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, in spite of his stated preference for Congress to act. The 114th Congress is not likely to do so.

The full text of bills and the Legislative Analyst’s summary are available on the California Legislature Information website (Click Link Here).

CNPS positions on bills are available at CNPS Legislative Report (Click Link Here).
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