

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 21, 2011

TO: City Council

FROM: Paul Navazio, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Item Submitted by Councilmember (Swanson): Resolution in Support of Proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area

Recommendation

Review attached resolution and letter. Both will return to the City Council at the next meeting for adoption. *(The City Council has an internal policy that any resolution to support/oppose an action of another jurisdiction will appear two times on a Council agenda – the first time for review and the second time for Council action. Council may choose to waive its own policy if it wishes.)*

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact to the City for taking action on this resolution

City Council Goals

Sustainability

Background and Analysis

Councilmember Swanson received a request asking the City of Davis for support of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Conservation Area. Specifically, the resolution has the City Council asking Congress to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands as a National Conservation Area and to send a letter to the city's federal representatives regarding support of the National Conservation Area designation.

Attachments

1. Resolution
2. Sample Letter

RESOLUTION NO. 11-XXX, SERIES 2011

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DAVIS SUPPORTING PROPOSED BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

WHEREAS, Tuleyome and supportive business owners, anglers, elected officials, private landowners, and other community members seek to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands as a National Conservation Area and increase economic opportunities for surrounding communities and has approached the Council for a resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the City of Davis to preserve nearby public land outside the boundaries of the City for the protection of our region's mountain vistas, air quality, biological diversity, water quality, places for solitude, and vast recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, national conservation area designations have been shown to help communities diversify their economies and increase tourism, thereby generating substantial economic benefits for nearby communities through local employment and tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, National Conservation Area designation would protect some of the most biologically diverse public land in the nation, from the rolling oak woodlands around Lake Berryessa in the south, stretching 100 miles north to the 7,000 foot peak of Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest; and

WHEREAS, protected public lands will provide local residents and visitors with opportunities for many recreational activities including hiking, swimming, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, camping, orienteering, wildlife viewing, scientific research, and nature study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Davis asks Congress to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands as a National Conservation Area and authorizes the Mayor to send letters to California Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Congressman Mike Thompson.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Davis on this 21st day of June, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

Joseph F. Krovoza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk

June ---, 2011

Congressman Mike Thompson
Attn: Brad Onorato
1040 Main Street, Suite 101
Napa, CA 94559

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Attn: Gina Banks
1 Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104

Senator Barbara Boxer
Attn: Megan Miller
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111

Re: Support for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Proposal

Dear Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, and Congressman Thompson:

On behalf of the city of Davis, I am writing to express support of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region stretches from the lowlands of Putah Creek below Lake Berryessa, across remote stretches of Cache Creek, and up to the peaks of Goat Mountain and Snow Mountain. The region encompasses nearly 500,000 acres in the heart of California's inner coastal ranges. It contains diverse ecosystems, habitats, critical long-term movement corridors for many species, and a plant biodiversity high enough to make it a rich part of California's Floristic Province, a biological hotspot for the planet.

By designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain region a National Conservation Area, we are taking an unparalleled opportunity to affirm and sustain the value of one of America's treasures, ensuring that this important, irreplaceable area stays undeveloped and wild for generations to come.

Furthermore, communities near the National Conservation Area will benefit from tourist attention, which leads to increased local revenues and improves the local economy without the risks of reckless development and careless expansion of recreational lands. Davis is pleased to be the home base for many individuals and groups visiting the region and/or UC Davis.

Many residents of Davis recreate and explore the public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. Our youth are also reconnecting with nature in this region.

This region deserves to be recognized for its distinct wild and agricultural heritage. On behalf of the city of Davis, I urge you to support legislative efforts to establish the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Krovoza
Mayor