

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: July 1, 2008
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 2923
AUTHOR: N. Evans

BILL SUMMARY: State Lands: Wilderness Areas

The California Wilderness Act designates specified state-owned lands as wilderness areas to preserve the natural conditions of the land. This bill would require the Secretary of the Resources Agency and the State Lands Commission (Commission) to review potential wilderness areas for all state-owned lands, including 12 specific high priority sites, as of January 1, 2009 and submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2009 with recommendations on the suitability of each area to be designated for preservation as state wilderness.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Commission indicates the costs associated with this bill would be approximately \$5,000 and could be reimbursed through the School Lands Trust Fund.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) indicates the costs associated with this bill would be \$7,500 General Fund, which would be minor and absorbable.

The Department of Fish and Game (Fish and Game) reports the cost would be \$97,000 Fish and Game Preservation Fund from January 1, 2009 through December 1, 2009. This includes \$87,000 for an Environmental Scientist and \$10,000 for operating expenses, which include management plans, data analysis, and preparing reports to the Legislature. Finance does not endorse this estimate. Any request for additional resources will be considered in the budget development. For purposes of this analysis, Finance estimates that these costs would be minor and absorbable.

Finance notes that school lands being designated as "wilderness lands" could devalue the property prior to its sale, generating less revenue to the School Lands Trust Fund. However, this scenario would also provide a lower cost to the purchasing state agency. Consequently, there would be no net fiscal impact to the state.

COMMENTS

This bill would have a minor fiscal impact and concerns a policy matter on which we are neutral.

This bill is intended to ensure that the thousands of acres of state-owned land be evaluated for the potential designation as state wilderness areas.

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Analyst/Principal (0635) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	
3560/Lands Comm	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0347
3790/Parks & Rec	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0001
3600/Dept FishGam	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0200
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0200	Fish and Game Preservation Fund								
0347	School Land Bank Fund								