

California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service recognizes the significant concern about youth detachment from the outdoors, lack of physical exercise and the increased health risks associated with childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service recognizes that unstructured play in the great outdoors can be a wonderful experience for people of all ages, and especially for our youth; and

WHEREAS, participating in outdoor activities is not only enjoyable, but also develops an appreciation of California's unique environment; and

WHEREAS, the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism, a volunteer consortium of public and private organizations of which we are a member, has created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights provides that youth between the ages of four and fourteen should have the opportunity to:

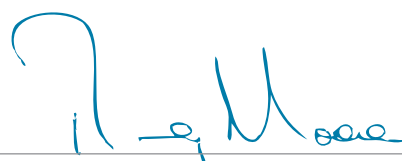
1. Play in a safe place
2. Explore nature
3. Learn to swim
4. Go fishing
5. Follow a trail
6. Camp under the stars
7. Ride a bike
8. Go boating
9. Connect with the past
10. Plant a seed

WHEREAS, numerous studies document that children who participate in these outdoor recreation activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills and self image, and lead more fulfilled lives; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service is committed to these goals;

Now, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service supports and endorses the *California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights* as a guideline for national forests, parks, parents, guardians, communities, health professionals, private enterprises and other entities, to encourage children to experience each of the activities listed by the completion of their 14th year.

Proclaimed this 27th of September 2013



Randy Moore
Regional Forester

