

## **Facts about California's National Forests**

- California's eighteen national forests make up 20.7 million acres, or 20% of California's total land. Of these 20.7 million acres, 4.4 are in Inventoried Roadless Areas -- 21% of California's national forests.\*
- Only one percent of California's old growth remains today.
- National forests supply fifty percent of the water in California and form the watershed of most major aqueducts and more than 2,400 reservoirs throughout the state.\*
- National forests in California account for 25 percent of national forest recreation nationwide and about half of the public wildland recreation in the state.\*
- In California, national forests contain thirty percent of the family campgrounds, thirty percent of the 14.4 million acres of designated Wilderness, and 22 of the 33 major downhill ski areas. They include more than 2,400 lakes and reservoirs, 13,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams, 1,200 miles of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, and 10,500 miles of maintained trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road vehicle use.\*
- Each year, 18.3 million Californians participate in outdoor recreation, and estimate spending \$1.7 billion on outdoor gear and apparel. † A 1986 study calculated the total spending by California wildland recreationists to be \$4.9 billion. A conservative estimate of the annual average recreation value of California public lands is \$1.5 billion per year. \*
- National forests are home to major California landmarks including Mt. Shasta, Lake Tahoe, Mt. Whitney, and parts of the Big Sur coast.

\*USDA Forest Service

† Outdoor Recreation Industry letter, 12/17/03

\* California Board of Forestry, California Fire Plan