

es after a five-year effort



Courtesy of M.L. Fischer

An undated image of the Logwood area, near Big Sur.

our magnificent coast.

Surveying and mapping was only the beginning. Then our organization compiled our information for Sam Farr and Barbara Boxer. Then came the diplomatic process of resolving concerns raised by local landowners. By the time this bill and Senator Boxer's 2.5 million acre bill were introduced, there was no serious opposition to adding wilderness along the Big Sur coast.

To raise public awareness of the wilderness campaign, many of us started leading hikes into the pro-

posed additions. We did this in blazing summer heat and driving winter rain. The people who attended were inspired to write letters of support.

Lately, we have been circulating petitions aimed primarily at Senator Feinstein to encourage her to support Senator Boxer's bill, which would create wilderness additions in many equally incredible parts of our state.

Finally, Representative Farr and Senator Boxer muscled this act through both houses on something called unanimous consent. In the

end there was no opposition in either house.

Our joyful celebration in Carmel Valley on Dec. 19 was marred only by the knowledge that Senator Boxer's statewide wilderness bill was still far from passing. The victory was sweet, but we still have work to do.

M.L. Fischer is a Santa Cruz County activist, writer and publisher and can be reached at his Web site at www.baymoon.com/~eclecticpress, which also holds more information about this act.