

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
CA 93631

7 August 1984

Janice Eckdahl

Dear Janice,

I am enclosing several items, some or all of which you may have already received from other sources:

1. Copy of your announcement on Yosemite as it appeared in the August 2 National News Report.
2. Copy of article which appeared in the Mid-July 1974 issue of Not Man Apart, as a result of Joe Boland's contacting their office.
3. Copy of NPS announcement re imminent meetings on a Development Concept Plan for Giant Forest-Lodgepole.

I was on the verge of responding to your drafts ~~of~~ regarding the Yosemite situation, which you sent me last month, when Hal Thomas said he was on his way to discuss the items with you. So I gave him my comments over the phone, trusting that they would reach you in that way. I hope this worked out satisfactorily.

Your draft of the proposed NNR article was what I felt to be an ideal length (ie, most likely to be accepted by the editor). I was quite interested to see that what they published was significantly longer. Congratulations on your success in getting this published. They are selective in what they use, and you obviously convinced them that your article was of national interest.

We hope to see you at the Giant Forest-Lodgepole DCP meeting(s). Even if you don't actively involve yourself in this, it would provide you with a good dry run which would give you good experience in dealing with the forthcoming Yosemite meeting(s).

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
CA 93631

Barbara Chasteen

12 August 1974

Dear Barbara,

To paraphrase a famous conservationist, "Where are you now that we need you?"

These are momentous times. We are rapidly approaching what could be an historic crossroads in national park management. Clusen is very concerned. Fontaine is very concerned. Jake Miller is reported to have asked the Board of Directors for \$5,000 to "fight MCA", whatever that may mean. We have local people who are chomping at the bit to come to grips with issues in park management. Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP has just completed three days of public meetings on a DCP which poses the same issues as those at stake in Yosemite--dollars versus people. (To be more precise, dollars and commerce versus people and parks.) Clusen thinks that people and parks have a chance of winning out, and there are some favorable signs from high levels in the NPS. But Clusen also thinks we will blow it if we don't manage to start applying the right kind of pressure at the right times and places.

In the meantime, there is a loud silence from Sebastopol. And there are various puzzling actions and statements emanating from other levels of the Club hierarchy.

It is as though the Club hierarchy is oblivious to the fact that there are 900 Tehipite Chapter members on the local scene, and another 144,000 members throughout the rest of the country. Some of these people are eager to get to work on the problem, as I mentioned. But they are beginning to feel left out and unneeded; if this continues, the results could be disastrous for the parks.

As you know, ego is a very strong motivating force with many of our members. Properly directed, it can be used to accomplish great things. Ignored, it can and does result in a terrible waste of manpower and loss of conservation battles. Are we going to harness this ego and put these people to work, or are we going to let it be dissipated in destructive frustration?

There comes a moment in the lives of men... The tide is with us, and we have an opportunity to effect a momentous change in direction of park management. Meanwhile the Club officers are either silent or, worse, doing their own thing and making the eager membership feel unneeded. We are on the verge of losing a golden opportunity, and all because of a lack of leadership and/or mismanagement.

"Where are you now that we need you?"

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

30 August 1974

TO: Janice Eckdahl, Joe Boland, Larry Moss, Hal Thomas, Barbara Ghasteen.

FROM: George Whitmore *gw*

RE: Yosemite; meeting with Jay Stein on September 4.

Enclosed is a copy of the statement presented by Don Hummel, on behalf of Yosemite Park and Curry Company, at the March hearing before the House Subcommittee on National Parks. The Subcommittee was taking testimony on the administration's bill to establish a Yosemite wilderness.

I realize that some of you have probably already seen this. I am bringing it to your attention at this time because I feel it has great relevance to problems which have since come to our attention concerning the Curry Co/MCA/Universal Studios.

As you will note, Don Hummel made a number of specific remarks which were objectionable. More importantly, the overall tone of his remarks was definitely anti-wilderness. This became even more clear in his responses to questions which were put to him by one or two of the committee members. In total, I found Hummel's statements to be extremely offensive, with a deep hostility to wilderness being his basic theme.

Also, remarks made by John Crofut (Curry Company's Director of Marketing and Public Relations) at a meeting in Yosemite last April reflected a basic hostility toward the Wilderness Act. Apparently part of his job involves encouraging more people to use the back country, as Curry feels that the back country is presently underutilized (ie. not generating as much revenue as it could under "proper management"). Since more people could be packed in if it were not for the constraints of the Wilderness Act, Mr. Crofut felt that Wilderness classification was undesirable.

My purpose in bringing this to your attention is in the hope that you will query Jay Stein about it. I really feel that Curry/MCA/Universal is working behind the scenes to kill the Yosemite Wilderness proposal. I am requesting you to sound out Jay Stein in an attempt to learn more about the role they are playing. We need to get some insight into this if we are to be effective in promoting the wilderness viewpoint.

I would appreciate your letting me know your impressions of the meeting, particularly if as it relates to the above. Thanks.