

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

9 March 1973

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Koch
6334 West 80th Street
Los Angeles
California 90045

Dear Dick & Jean Koch:

✓
Enclosed are 29 of your 30 slides. I have taken the liberty of having one of them (the map, Slide No. 1) duplicated, and it is not yet back. I am sorry to have taken so long in getting these back to you, and hope it has not prevented someone else from seeing them. I will send the remaining slide when it returns from the processor.

Also enclosed is my check for \$10.00 as a contribution to help defray cost of the brochures.

mailed
5 April 73
✓
The program for the Fresno County Bar Association went fairly well. A Fresno Bee reporter was there, and he did a sports editorial on it as a follow-up. I will try to send you a copy of it when I return the other slide. You will note that he clearly brought out the fact that we are not opposed to all ski developments, and he mentioned the two you told me about--thanks for your help on that, it really paid off.

If you can figure out how to prod the local Sierra Clubbers here in the San Joaquin Valley into action on the Mineral King issue I surely would appreciate it. It seems to me that their involvement is essential, because otherwise there is no hope of influencing Bob Mathias--and with him against us the battle is immensely more difficult than it otherwise would be. Perhaps some communication from you to the local chapter chairmen and conservation chairmen pointing out the crucial role they have to ~~play~~ play in this issue would help. I have already developed a hoarse throat, and a new voice might be more effective at this point. ~~Also~~ Also, I cannot really say too much to the Kern-Kaweah Chapter without it looking like I am intruding into their domain. Your voice, coming from farther ~~wa~~ away, might be accepted more objectively by them. Another way you could try to involve local people would be via the Sierra Nevada Task Force; you could contact Joe Fontaine for specifics on this.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

Sotero Muniz, Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
Federal Building -- 1130 "O" Street
Fresno, California 93721

P.O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

14 April 1973

Dear Sotero:

In reviewing my files recently, I noticed an item which I should have brought to your attention previously. In a letter from former Sierra N.F. Supervisor Zane G. Smith to the Regional Forester, dated March 16, 1970, Zane spelled out policy regarding establishment of Frontier Units in general, and of the North Fork and Cassidy-Junction Bluff Frontier Units in particular. The file references were 2320 Wilderness and Primitive Areas and 2130 Ranger District Plans.

In that letter Zane stated, "This management direction responds to a need the public has expressed for areas where they can experience a feeling of solitude and adventure short of classified wilderness. We have an opportunity to meet these needs in many scenic undeveloped areas within the Crest and General Forest Zones...Where we have like situations in other parts of the Forest, we plan to manage these areas under similar management direction..."

There seems to be a clear implication here that Zane had anticipated designation of additional areas within the Sierra N.F. for "similar management direction." Also, from various discussions I had with him I recall that he had been thinking of administratively designating a number of areas which would be intended to remain roadless. In fact, at one time he showed me a map on which a considerable number of such areas had been roughly outlined.

The purpose of this letter is to ask what ever became of that idea. Is it still under consideration, or was it eventually rejected?

In that vein, I might point out that neither "scenic" nor "undeveloped" qualities are necessary to achieve a "feeling of solitude and adventure." There are many areas within the Sierra N.F. which do not fit the classic stereotype of "scenic", and which are not "undeveloped", but which could offer opportunities for a "feeling of solitude and adventure" provided the Forest Service would manage them with that objective in mind. To clarify this, perhaps I should explain that there are many types of "development" which do not involve access by motor vehicle; and if motor vehicles are excluded, the opportunities for "solitude and adventure" are enormously increased.

Thoughtful management would increase those opportunities even further.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

25 July 1974

John A. Leasure, Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
P. O. Box 391
Porterville
California 93257

Dear John,

I noted with great interest Ron Taylor's recent article in the Fresno Bee (July 18) regarding the status of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mineral King development. From the article it is not clear whether a draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released, but it sounded as if this has already happened or is about to happen. I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the draft as soon as it is available.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore