

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

15 August 1968

John S. McLaughlin, Superintendent
Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers
California 93271

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

The Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club notes with great interest the appointment of a master plan study team for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. We would like to participate in as meaningful a manner as possible in the development of a master plan for these parks.

With this objective in mind, I would appreciate it if you could let me know the objectives which were assigned to the study team, including specific problems and topics which the team was asked to consider. I would also be interested in knowing the names of the study team members.

I trust that ample notice of the hearing date will be given, so that we may arrange to be represented.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore
Chairman, Conservation Committee

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

16 July 1968

Larry Rose
Cedar Grove Ranger Station
Kings Canyon National Park
California 93633

Dear Larry,

As anticipated, we recalled where the other pile of "bagged" trash is gathered together. This is at the trail junction on Woods Creek where the Muir Trail turns south to cross the creek, while the Woods Creek trail continues straight ahead (coming down hill). It is practically at the trail junction, easily found, and quite large. And badly in need of re-bagging.

Of course the others we mentioned were

- at a large campsite near the west end of Bench Lake, on the north shore trail.
- right on the trail, half way along the north shore trail at Bench Lake
- a single square five gallon tin filled with glass etc. sitting beside the trail quite some distance from the lake, perhaps one-fourth to one-half of the way to the Muir Trail junction.
- on the Muir Trail south of the same (Bench Lake) junction a very short distance, perhaps only 100-200 yards or so; this consists of a small pile of broken bottles, flattened tins, etc. which apparently were never in a larger container of any sort; the pile is too big to handle unless a container is available for the purpose.

It will be a simple enough matter for us to note the location of such collections more systematically and precisely in the future. It just never occurred to us that the information would be of any particular value.

We will look forward to seeing you again next time we are up.

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

3035 N. Farris Avenue
Fresno
California 93705

7 Dec 66

Frank Kowski, Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers
California 93271

Dear Mr. Kowski:

I am interested in obtaining a copy of the record of the recent Wilderness Hearings held in Fresno. Could you please let me know the cost of this?

C I have one of the information packets distributed in connection with the Wilderness Hearings. I found the information given regarding visitor use in the proposed Sierra Crest Wilderness to be quite helpful, but was disappointed to find that comparable information was not given for the proposed Hockett Wilderness. Also, in order to form valid opinions based upon such stastics, it would be necessary to know how those figures are related to the figures for the two parks as a whole. The information I would like is ---

O Annual Visitor Use (1965, or other available year)

Sequoia National Park	Kings Canyon National Park	Sierra Crest Wilderness	Hockett Wilderness
(Or combined, if it is easier)			
(to state it in that manner.)			

P Visitors _____ 40,000 _____

Visitor Days _____ 300,000 _____

Y I would assume that the totals given in the first two columns would include the figures given for the wilderness areas, unless you stated otherwise.

What I am interested in determining is the relationship of auto-oriented usage to foot/horseback-oriented usage. In other words, auto usage versus back country usage. Possibly you could provide me with this information in some other form, if that would be more convenient for you.

Also, could you tell me whether you make any allowance for the fact that you probably have quite accurate data for automobile usage, while you are dependent upon visitor cooperation in obtaining back country usage data. (I know from personal observation that it is commonplace for hikers to ignore the trail registers.)

In the course of discussing the proposed Mineral King development, I find that most people assume that Disney will get what he wants regardless of any undesirable effects this may have upon the park. Since the outcome is a foregone conclusion, they see no point in discussing the matter further. I would greatly appreciate it if you

would let me know what the status of this development is. Have the decisions which affect the park already been made? Does any meaningful opportunity remain for private citizens to express opinions?

In particular, I notice that the Park Service is quoted in the newspaper as saying that a permit for access road construction is not dependent upon the outcome of the wilderness proposals, and could be granted at any time. Is this imminent? And, if so, what type of road standards will be authorized? Does any opportunity remain for citizens to express themselves on this? If so, where should letters be sent?

As for the proposed wilderness zoning within the park along the ridge crest boundaries adjacent to Mineral King, does the closure of the Wilderness Hearing record mean that there is no further opportunity for private citizens to express themselves on this? If this is not the case, could you please let me know where people should send letters?

Where should letters which pertain to the proposed use of Forest Service land within the Mineral King Game Refuge be sent, Or is this actually a closed matter on which further comment would be pointless?

I apologize for the inconvenience this letter will cause you, but at the same time would like to express my gratitude for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P.S. While hiking on the South Fork of the Kaweah River last Sunday I observed very fresh cattle droppings and tracks upstream from Clough Cave. Does this cow(s) belong there at this time of year?