P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

7 February 1975

John F. Underwood
Timber Management Officer
Sierra National Forest
Federal Building - 1130 "O" Street
Fresno
California 93721

Dear John,

Re. Annual Timber Operators Meeting (your file 2400, 23 Jan 75).

Thank you for inquiring as to my opinion concerning the need for this meeting, format, etc.

I have found these meetings to be indispensable. This is primarily because information not otherwise readily available has been given out at the meetings. This has included announcements of sales beyond the five-year program, and numerous sales which, although within the five-year program, nevertheless do not appear on the five-year map. I have also gained some insight into certain changes in management emphasis.

I do feel that the meetings should be broadened in scope in order to make them of more value to the participants, and also in order to make better use of your investment in time and energy.

A topic which I would like to see discussed in some depth is that of "intensive management." Everybody is talking about it, both pro and con. But I find that it means different things to different people, and there is considerable need for clarification as to what it means to you and what it means to the industry. (You might also be interested to learn what I think it should mean.) What I find happening is that many people are becoming convinced that "intensive management" of timber simply means stripping off all forest lands until we are left with nothing but even-aged, single-use, pulpwood tree farms. Unfortunately, some statements and actions of industry and the agency are reinforcing this suspicion, and people are understandably concluding that they must oppose "intensive management."

I would like to suggest that you address this as a major topic for the upcoming meeting.

Re. a panel discussion, I generally have a poor opinion of this type of format. People in the audience frequently know more than the panelists, the panelists tend to make speeches instead of having a give-and-take, and part of the speechmaking is that they try to create a particular impression instead of saying what they really think. I could go on, but let's just say I don't like panels. I feel that a free exchange among all people present, with unlimited questions and answers, including ample time for private discussions outside of the formal meeting, is a much more productive way of exchanging and imparting information and ideas.

You have probably noted that there is very little attendance at your meetings, aside from industry and agency people. Probably the biggest single reason for this is the fact that the meetings have been held when most people have to be at work. I would suggest that you give serious consideration to an evening meeting.

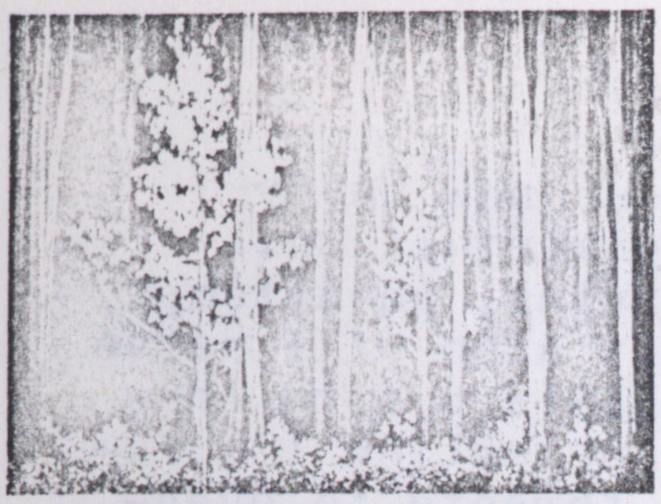
I would be opposed to a luncheon meeting primarily because I feel you should try an evening meeting. I have misgivings about a dinner meeting because I think it would tend to intimidate people who otherwise might come; this is partly because of cost, but more importantly because it would tend to have the appearance of being an "in-group" function.

Re. date, please do not pick a Wednesday night or any time during Easter week (March 22-30).

As far as location, Kingsburg is unquestionable the place of choice. (Fresno would run a close second.)

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore



by Ansel Adams in *This is the American Earth*

SIERRA CLUB

Mills Tower, San Francisco 94104
P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg, CA 93631

11 April 1975

TO: "NCRCC Roster - March 1975", including addenda of 5 April 1975.

FROM: George Whitmore, NCRCC Vice-Chairman (Federal Lands Division).

RE: Agenda of joint SC/NC RCC meeting, 19-20 April 1975.

Attached is background material on two of the agenda items. These are:

1. Fire policy proposal.
   The enclosed background material explains part of the rationale behind the policy proposal.

2. National Forest "timber" management. (Accidentally listed on the CLC agenda. It belongs on the agenda of the joint RCC meeting as a major discussion and action item.)

   The enclosure (printed on the reverse of this cover letter) provides some insight into problems of National Forest resource allocation and management. This is directly related to wilderness legislation, National Forest land use planning, and to Sierra Club priorities, all of which appear on the agenda. We would like to discuss these items in conjunction with each other, as they are inextricably related. The total subject area should be considered to be a major discussion item, presumably culminating in one or more resolutions.

Regarding the feral horse and burro agenda item (on which background material has already been mailed), a possible resolution might be:

> "We are concerned with the environmental degradation presently taking place due to the unchecked growth of feral horse and burro populations. We support in principle the concept of humane reduction of these feral animals where they are having a significant adverse effect on the indigenous flora and fauna."

I sincerely hope that you will be able to review this material and to do some thinking about it prior to the RCC meeting. See you there!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg, CA 93631

17 April 1975

Reid Jackson, Deputy Supervisor
Tahoe National Forest
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Reid Jackson: Your file: 8200

Re. Northern California Planning Area Guide Working Group.

This is in response to your letter of March 26, and your phone call of the preceding day.

Thank you for inviting us to participate in the development and review of the Guide for Northern California.

Phil Farrell has been selected to represent us on the Working Group. He is planning on participating in the meeting in Redding on April 30 through May 2, and expects that he will be able to continue to participate in the subsequent meetings. We are very pleased that Phil has agreed to represent us, and I am sure you will find that he will make a valuable contribution to the planning effort.

It is my understanding that John Moore has already conveyed this information to you, and has asked that you send the background material to Phil. If any problems develop I trust that you will contact me. In the meantime, I am assuming that the matter is in good hands, and that Phil Farrell will keep me informed of the progress of the planning effort.

Thanks again for inviting us to participate.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore, Vice-Chairman
(Federal Lands Division)

cc. Phil Farrell (415) 841-5092
Box 1229, Berkeley, CA 94701
John Moore
Luis Ireland
Don Morrill

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

18 August 1975

John McGuire, Chief
Forest Service
Department of Agrigulture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Sir:

Re. Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.

It is my understanding that you will shortly be releasing, or perhaps already have released, a draft document outlining proposed management options for the national forests.

Would you please send me a copy of this document, as well as the draft environmental impact statement which presumably accompanies it.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

George W. Whitmore

(I presume the above documents contain information regarding public hearings which you will be holding on the subject. If not, then would you please send me information on the hearings also.)

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

7 September 1975

Phil Farrell

Dear Phil,

I have been very interested in your remarks relating to the importance of the timber industry to the economy of the NCPAG Northern California Planning Area (USFS). Said remarks being based upon statements you have heard made by a USFS staff person who is involved with the NCPAG efforts, and being to the effect that the timber industry is nowhere near as important to the overall economy as has been generally assumed.

Would it be possible for you to get this information into such a form that we might start making use of it immediately? I am concerned that if we simply let events follow their natural course it will be one or two years before the information becomes available, and it seems quite likely that it will be suppressed by the USFS and will actually never appear in the material which is ultimately released to the public.

Of course the information could be of crucial importance to various wilderness/land use efforts right now, and certainly many areas will be lost during the time it would take for the information to become public if we simply sit back and wait. Is there some way you can get this information in a useable form fairly soon?

Thanks for seeing what you can do about this.

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

by Ansel Adams in *This is the American Earth*

cc. Kent Gill, Ted Snyder, Phil Berry, Dick Fiddler,
Bob Rutemoeller, Doug Scott, Brock Evans,
Gordon Robinson, Jim Moorman, Mary Ann Eriksen

SIERRA CLUB Mills Tower, San Francisco 94104
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

7 September 1975

Michael McCloskey
Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Mike,

At a joint meeting of the NCRCC's National Forests Committee and its Forest Practices Task Force, held on August 16, there was considerable discussion of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (alias FARRRPA, RPA, Humphrey-Rarick, etc.).

A resolution was passed unanimously to the effect that

> "We request that the Executive Director devote sufficient resources to the Sierra Club's response to FARRRPA that a preliminary analysis can be inserted in the NNR at an early date, and that follow-up notices and news items be placed in every issue until the comment period is concluded (October 15)."

The main thrust of our discussion was that we feel it is imperative that the Sierra Club make a major effort to get membership involvement in the response to the FARRRPA Draft Assessment and Program. We feel very strongly that it is not sufficient just for Mills Tower to submit a written response, but that there must also be a major effort to get individuals to submit written comments.

As you know, the Forest Service always states in advance that public involvement processes such as this are not voting processes. But they have repeatedly demonstrated a willingness and readiness to change the ground rules after the fact, and consider the process to have been an election in those cases where the figures come out in their favor. Thus we feel that it is essential that the Sierra Club play the numbers game in order to avoid losing this "election."

We believe that our members are almost totally unaware of the FARRRPA process and its potential consequences. They do not realize that it has the potential for accelerating the present trend and establishing a long-term commitment for the destruction of natural forest ecosystems.

We thus urge in the strongest terms that the Club disseminate as quickly and as broadly as possible a summary of the salient and most critical points, with special reference to the absolute necessity for massive public response.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

George W. Whitmore
NCRCC Vice-Chairman
(Federal Lands Division)

Harold E. Thomas

Harold E. Thomas
Chairman, NCRCC Forest
Practices Task Force

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

15 October 1975

John McGuire, Chief
U.S. Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Sir:

Please include this letter in the public record of comments on your Draft Renewable Resource Program.

None of the Programs propose an acceptable combination of Resource Goals.

Even within each Resource frequently none of the Goals is acceptable.

Therefore I will simply describe what I feel would be desirable management direction for our Renewable resources.

RECREATION:
There should be more emphasis than at present for dispersed recreation. Goal "C" has much to recommend it.

WILDERNESS:
None of the goals is acceptable. Goal "C" is apparently supposed to represent maximum wilderness, but even it provides for the loss of up to 32 million acres of land which is presently roadless and undeveloped. (73 million acres now minus Goal "C" 's 41 million acres = 32 million acres lost.) This is totally unacceptable. Goal "C" should be considered to be a minimum, not a maximum.

WILDLIFE AND FISH:
There should be more maintenance and protection of habitat. Attempts to manage for increases in some species usually mean losses for other species, and "management" in the normal sense should therefore be reduced.

RANGE:
The figures given seem to indicate that the total range resource is being damaged. Therefore emphasis should be on rehabilitation and protection of ranges. (Attempts to get more AUM's would be bad.)

TIMBER:
Present allowable cut is exceeding sustained yield in many areas, including the Sierra N.F. Therefore allowable cut should be reduced.
The more productive and otherwise appropriate areas should be managed for increases growth of wood. Areas which are less productive or less appropriate should be managed very cautiously, and some presently commercial land should be removed from production entirely, if it has higher uses for other purposes.

LAND AND WATER:
Protection of soil should be the foremost criterion, since it is the basic resource (and is renewable only in terms of eons).
(Ie. increase efforts to protect the soil resource.)

HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Increase employment opportunities by increased emphasis on labor-intensive ways to stimulate growth of wood, protect watersheds, etc. Do not try to create jobs in the old traditional ways which are destructive of the natural resource base. Ie. reduce road-construction, reduce cutting of trees, reduce tearing the land apart; increase growth of trees, putting the land back together, etc. The key is to emphasize labor-intensive approaches as opposed to energy-intensive ones.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg, CA 93631

28 April 1976

L/uis Ireland

Dear Luis,

Had you seen the enclosed letter from Modoc N.F. re. their ORV management plan?

It appears that you might wish to be responding to this because of the implications for the roadless areas in that area, and I am not aware that anyone except you either knows about or is interested in the Modoc roadless areas.

Since the possibility of legislative action to get wilderness study areas up there is somewhat remote, at least for the foreseeable future, probably our best chance of trying to save some land is by keeping ORV's out where possible, and by controlling their use where that is the best we can accomplish.

At least controls on ORV use would help to keep the wilderness option open for the future, and prevent it from being foreclosed.

The April 30 deadline mentioned in the letter appears not xxxxx to be a hard and fast one. Perhaps they would still pay attention to comments received within a week or two of that date.

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

P.S. In addition to what you will be writing, or have already written, do you know whether the chapter has done anything? Since June Dailey is in the M.L. chapter it would seem that she might have something about this.

Even if others have done something, it would still be desirable for you to respond also.