

10 Oct 69

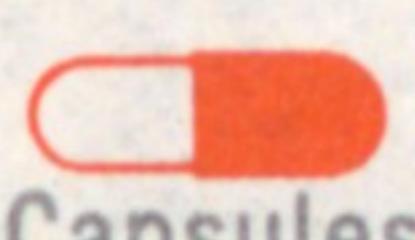
Ray,

Marsh Pitman (Merced Group Cons. Chmn) thought you should have these. I concur.

Notice the tremendous difference in reporting of the same event. The little Merced Sun-Star has far more informative coverage than does the Fresno Bee.

Glage

George Whitmore
Tehipite Chapter
Conservation Chmn.

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Capsules

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P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

23 Oct 69

Honorable Eugene A. Chappie
Member of Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento
California 95814

Sir:

I am requesting clarification of the exact nature of your H. R. 310 which passed the Assembly last year, apparently on July 3, 1968.

Some confusion has arisen in our group as a result of various amendments which were added to the resolution prior to its passage.

A copy of the resolution would be very helpful. However, if this is not available, the question is essentially this:

Did the resolution, as passed, call for deletion of F. H. 100 from the Forest Highway System? Or did it merely call for a delay in initiating construction?

We gather that it also called for a study to determine the feasibility of making Sonora Pass an all-year highway. Could you let us know the status of this study?

Thank you.

You might be interested to know that portions of Assembly District 6 lie within our chapter's territory. Even though the bulk of our six hundred members live in the Fresno area, our chapter is in wholehearted agreement with the Sierra Club position which opposes any trans-Sierra highway crossing in the Minaret or Mammoth areas. Even though we would ~~not~~ profit from it personally, we feel that an all-year crossing at Sonora Pass would make much more sense, and would better serve the interests of the state as a whole.

George W. Whitmore
Conservation Chairman
Tehipite Chapter

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

9 Dec 69

Honorable Jerome Waldie
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Sir:

I have just learned of the introduction of H. R. 15019 to establish the San Joaquin Wilderness in California.

This proposed wilderness lies entirely within the boundaries of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club, and consequently we were involved in drafting the proposed boundaries. During this past summer we did a considerable amount of field work to gather information and to become more knowledgable regarding the area.

This proposal will undoubtedly be considered quite newsworthy by the local media as soon as they become aware of it. We will attempt to secure accurate and proper reporting in the media, and we will also attempt to mobilize local public opinion in favor of the legislation.

To these ends we will need your help in keeping us informed of the current status of the legislation, including your advice as to ways in which we might be able to help.

As a start, I am requesting at least two copies of H. R. 15019 (three or four copies would be very helpful).

Also, a copy of any press release or other statement you might have made at the time the bill was introduced would be helpful.

Could you please tell us the names of all the other congressmen who joined you in sponsoring this bill? Their home addresses would be helpful, although not essential, so we could contact their constituents.

What is the status of the bill at this time? And what action, if any, would you recommend that we take at this time? The local newspaper often picks up and publishes news items from our chapter newsletter, sometimes giving the item rather extensive coverage. Our next "press" deadline is December 18. If you feel that it would be desirable to get extensive coverage in the local newspapers, I am sure that this could be managed by us, provided we received a reply from you prior to December 18.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to preserve the San Joaquin

Wilderness, and wish to help your effort in every way possible.
We look forward to hearing from you as to how we might help.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore
Conservation Chairman
Tehipite Chapter

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
Calif 93631

30 Dec 69

Ray Sherwin

Dear Ray,

Note attached clipping from Sierra Star of 4 Sep 69 which refers to a lower level route being "more feasible, according to Mono (County) Board members". This fits in with what Madera County Road Commissioner Joe Hughes has told me--that Mono officials would accept a lower level route because they feel that all-year use would then be practical, even though they are currently on record in opposition to a trans-Sierra crossing.

John Haapala (spelling?--I don't have my notes with me) of the BPR told me that the BPR's current thinking favors a low level route. This would go on the south side of Lion Point, well down on the canyon wall. This replaces earlier thinking which called for a route over the ridgecrest to the north of Lion Point.

Combining these various sources of information, I am wondering whether there is some risk that the Mono people will reverse their position again, and come out in favor of a crossing after all.

Regarding the enclosed clipping from the Fresno Bee of 12 Nov 69, and the copy of a statement submitted to the Sierra National Forest by Tehipite Chapter. Notice toward end of the clipping the reference to possibility of transferring funds from the Minaret Summit-Agnew Meadow project to construction on the west side of the crest. Jackson Carle (Sisk's man) seemed quite unhappy that the need for a forest development road on the west side had not been brought out earlier. He felt that, had this been known, Sisk would have seen to it that the present conflict between USFS and BPR (forest development versus forest highway) would never have come to pass. As it is, apparently it would be difficult, at this late date, to reconcile the differing objectives of the two agencies.

It appears that bureaucratic inertia and red tape are on our side! (Also inter-agency competition and lack of cooperation, according to some opinions I have heard.) Do you have any ideas as to how we might profit from this confusion?

Thank you for sending the material on Minaret Summit-Agnew Meadow from Deinema.

I have an article and maps on San Joaquin Wilderness in our forthcoming chapter newsletter. You should be receiving a copy of it around the first of the week.

Sincerely,
George
George W. Whitmore

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

30 Dec 69

Honorable Jerome R. Waldie
P. O. Box 864 Civic Center
Concord
California 94520

Subject: SAN JOAQUIN WILDERNESS bill
(H. R. 15019)

Sir:

Thank you for your very prompt response of December 13, in which you answered by letter of December 9. This enabled me to prepare a timely article for our chapter newsletter.

I am enclosing a copy of the newsletter. I am also sending a copy of it to your Richmond office, and am sending multiple copies of it to your Washington office.

A news clipping is enclosed, in which Congressman B. F. Sisk's letter to you is quoted. Mr. Sisk apparently was under the impression that the boundaries of the proposed San Joaquin Wilderness include the Reds Meadow-Devils Postpile area. In an attempt to prevent further confusion, I prepared the map which appears in our newsletter. I am also enclosing with this letter a verbal description of the proposed boundaries. If these boundaries do not agree in every respect with those called for in H. R. 15019, I assume you will let us know immediately.

I am also enclosing a map of the Mammoth District of the Inyo National Forest on which I have drawn the San Joaquin Wilderness boundaries. This may be useful to you in that it shows the San Joaquin Wilderness in relation to some of the surrounding area.

May I call your attention to that portion of our newsletter article in which we mention the Forest Service management criteria for the San Joaquin area. This seems quite relevant since the Forest Service has, by the imposition of these management criteria, administratively created a "San Joaquin Wilderness". All that H. R. 15019 seeks to do is to formalize this by including the area within the purview of the Wilderness Act. There would be few, if any, significant changes in the management of the area. This appears to be a very strong argument which can be used to promote H. R. 15019, and to rebut its opponents.

I have noted your request for copies of clippings and correspondence. We are in the process of reviewing our files, and are making copies of material which we hope will be useful to you. This will soon be mailed to your Washington office.

As I indicated to you previously, our chapter is embarking on a campaign to build public support for the San Joaquin Wilderness. We are assuming this will be a long-term effort, and consequently it will be very important that we be kept informed of the status of H.R. 15019. We trust that you will let us know whenever there are significant developments.

We thank you again for your interest and help in this matter.

Sincerely,

cc. your Richmond office
your Washington office
Mike McCloskey
Ray Sherwin

George W. Whitacre
Conservation Chairman, Tehipite Chapter
Sierra Club

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California

30 Dec 69

Zane G. Smith, Jr., Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
Federal Building - 1130 "O" Street
Fresno
California 93721

Dear Zane,

The enclosed copies of our newsletter, Tehipite Topics, will possibly reach you in advance of the regular distribution, which you normally receive.

You will probably find this issue of exceptional interest because of the article on the San Joaquin Wilderness. I am enclosing an extra copy on the chance that you might want to send it to the U.S.F.S. Regional Office.

I am sending Joe Radel a copy of the newsletter, as well as a copy of this letter. I hope this will facilitate coordination between the two Forests and the Regional Office.

I will try to keep you informed of relevant developments, and will hope that you might be able to reciprocate.

Sincerely,

cc. Joe Radel

George W. Whitmore
Conservation Chairman
Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club