



SIERRA CLUB

530 Bush Street San Francisco, California 94108 (415) 981-8634

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

9 January 1976

Rothwell P. Broyles, Superintendent
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines
California 95043

Your File: D18
XL7617

Dear Mr. Broyles,

Re. Final Environmental Statement for Proposed Master Plan--Pinnacles National Monument.

There was no acknowledgment in the Environmental Impact Statement of our recommendation in response to the Draft EIS to seek the optimum boundaries for the Monument. We feel that this is a most important goal and should be pursued vigorously. It would be of great value to Pinnacles National Monument to include the entire watershed of Chalone Creek at the northern end of the Monument, not only to protect that portion already within the boundaries, but to establish a more readily definable and manageable boundary, and to provide a more adequate habitat area. Much of this area is already in public ownership (BLM).

We question the desirability of objective no. 4, ". . .insure wider distribution of use throughout the monument," and its repetition on page 6. Does dispersal really make sense in such a small monument? Implementing this goal would be a major action with possible major consequences on the terrain, the visitor's experience, and the wildlife.

Before major actions are taken to open up new areas to large numbers of visitors, such as the proposed trail in the northern section and the proposed new route in Frog Canyon, an Environmental Impact Statement should be done--at the very least an Environmental Assessment.

We commend the decision to convert the Monument to day use and the plan to instigate a shuttle system during peak usage periods. However, we question the decision to reduce parking spaces, except for the few that would be removed by restoration of the head of Bear Gulch.

We recommend that the shuttle terminal, parking, trailhead, and picnicking facilities on the east side be at the location of the present headquarters. In connection with this we would like to see the removal of the restroom facility, culvert and fill, and road at the head of Bear Gulch. We urge restoration of the natural stream course and land contours in this area.

We urge that the road along Chalone Creek not be extended beyond the present terminus at Chalone Annex campgrounds. That would be the most appropriate location of the shuttle terminal and parking area.

We commend the plan to acquire land to protect lower Chalone Creek, but would also recommend addition of Alternative Acquisition A. We feel that this is of value for the protection of park lands along Chalone Creek and as a buffer. It is important to provide adequate protection for the natural features unique to NPS lands that are found in Pinnacles National Monument--the special vegetation and wildlife types as well as the geologic formations.

We commend the comprehensiveness of the Wilderness Plan, but believe that the boundaries should come closer to the roads and developments and come to the ends of the roads at Chalone Annex and West Balconies.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore by JAW

George W. Whitmore
Vice Chairman (Federal Lands Division)

P.O. Box 310
Selma, Calif. 93662

(209) 224-3693

21 December 1978

Michael McCloskey, Executive Director
Sierra Club
530 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mike:

A member of Tehipite Chapter, John Konior, apparently wrote you a letter on 19 December in which he asked for advice re. an action (15 Nov 78) of the Tehipite Chapter executive committee. The action was one authorizing me to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the past in connection with chapter conservation activities. The exact nature of Mr. Konior's letter is unclear, as he has refused to provide any member of our executive committee with a copy of it. However, it would appear that the main thrust of his letter was to question the legality of the ex. comm. action.

The above information became known to our executive committee at its regular meeting on 20 December. At that meeting it was decided, on my motion, to withhold reimbursement of my expenses pending receipt of your response to Mr. Konior's letter. The primary motivation for authorizing this delay was the fact that at least one individual has been threatening to sue the chapter treasurer if he issues a check to me.

Considering that legal action has been threatened, it seems only prudent to seek your advice. But since Mr. Konior's letter to you may have contained inaccuracies, and may have been overly selective in the information he chose to present to you, it seems that there is a real risk that your response to Mr. Konior will not be particularly useful either to him or to our executive committee, and a further round of correspondence will become necessary.

I am therefore suggesting that you might do any, or a combination, of several things:

1. Send me or the chapter chairman and/or treasurer a copy of Mr. Konior's letter
2. Write or phone me or the chapter chairman and/or treasurer seeking corroboration of Mr. Konior's statements, and further information if necessary.

Thanks for your cooperation in helping to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

Tehipite ex. comm. (partial listing)

	1978	1979
chairman:	Steve Mortimer (happens to be an attorney)	Gary Schroeder
treasurer:	Phil Ahlstrand	Steve Mortimer
member:	George Whitmore	George Whitmore
member:	-----	John Konior (term starts Jan '79)

Michael McCloskey

2.

21 Dec 78

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cc. Steve Mortimer, 1300 Decesari, Madera/(209) 674-8712 (work)
Phil Ahlstrand, 4766 E. Fountain Way, Fresno 93726, (209) 252-3884
Gary Schroeder, 4880 N. Cedar, #107, Fresno 93726, (209) 229-7334
John Konior, 6543 N. Ferger, Fresno 93704, (209) 439-5018
(this number is both work & home)