

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

5 March 1973

Allyn Saroyan, Chairman  
NCRCC Tuolumne Meadows Land Advisory Committee  
1637 Catalina Court, Apt 30  
Livermore  
California 94550

SUBJECT: Management of  
S.C. Foundation T.M. property

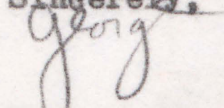
Dear Allyn,

Thanks for sending me the draft copy of your proposed letter to the Sierra Club Foundation. I hope you will accept my comments in the spirit in which they are intended--namely one of trying to be helpful.

In your cover note you indicate that your proposed letter might be sent to the Park Service as well as to the S. C. Foundation. I feel that this would be a breach of protocol, as the Advisory Committee was established to advise the Foundation, not to deal with the NPS. This is the type of administrative detail which should be no problem once you get your feet on the ground.

In general, I find that your draft accurately reflects the thinking of the committee. But I do feel that some points are not emphasized in a way that would really bring them out as clearly as is warranted, and the reader might tend to skim over them. I am enclosing some proposed phrasing. This is not intended to replace your draft, as my enclosure lacks a suitable opening and closing, and the ideas are not necessarily tied together into a coherent sequence. My idea is simply that you might wish to incorporate some of it into your own letter. I hope it is of help.

Sincerely,



George W. Whitmore

cc. Dick Leonard  
Barbara Chasteen

(I have not included Willi Fuller in the distribution because I do not have his address.)

(I feel that the list of resolutions ~~will~~ would best be appended to the letter, rather than being included within the body of the letter. This would permit a more clear presentation of the intent of the resolutions by emphasizing the context in which they were passed.)



Confronted with the Foundation's failure to adopt the Sierra Club's recommendation that camping be eliminated this coming season, and confronted with proposed actions of the Foundation which would have serious long-range repercussions, this advisory committee attempted to salvage what it could from the facts it was given.

A majority of this committee, as well as of the Northern California Regional Conservation Committee, still feels that it would be in the best interests of the Tuolumne Meadows area (and also in the best interests of the Sierra Club) eventually to eliminate regular camping in the Soda Springs area. We note ~~✓~~ that a majority of the Foundation Trustees also voted the same way, but then took a series of actions which would have just the opposite effect.

It is clear that the National Park Service is not in sympathy with our objectives of trying to restore the Soda Springs area to a more natural condition. The NPS insistence that the road must remain open to the public, and that the campground must be opened to the public, are clear indications that their goals are incompatible with our own. In view of this, we find it ~~✓~~ inexplicable that the Foundation is preparing to turn over management and policy direction for the Soda Springs campground to the NPS this coming season.

We passed our first resolution to express our clear and unequivocal opposition to this proposed action of the Foundation.

Our second resolution reaffirmed our strong desire to see the road closed to all except service vehicles. We have observed near/~~unanimity~~ within the Sierra Club on this issue, and are dismayed to learn that the NPS is taking a position against us on this. We strongly feel that this NPS attitude is all the more reason why it would be a serious mistake to turn management and policy direction of the campground over to the NPS this season.

Our third and fourth resolutions, in which we recommended operation of the campground for club members on a walk-in basis, were not intended to be a reversal of our earlier recommendation. (This committee cannot, in fact, reverse the NCRCC's policy position; that policy called for abolition of all regular camping.) Our present recommendation was an attempt to cope with the realities that a significant element within the Sierra Club does not wish camping to be abolished, that the Foundation did not wish to implement the decision of a majority of its own Trustees, and that the Foundation was proposing to enter into an agreement with the NPS which would result in a situation far worse than any of us had envisioned.

Although it was not the subject of formal discussion during our meeting, I believe it is clear that a number of us were somewhat perplexed by the decision of the Foundation to seek NPS purchase of the Tuolumne Meadows property at an early date.

In view of the fact that the NPS wants to keep the road open and wants to operate the area as a public campground, we feel that sale of the property to the NPS should be delayed instead of accelerated. We feel that the Foundation should retain the property at least until satisfactory management precedents have been established. Unless we can get our own management of the property in order, we would hardly be in a very good position to start telling the NPS that we think it should be managed differently once they become the owners.

Additionally, it appears to be a misuse of public funds for the NPS to assign high priority to acquisition of the Tuolumne Meadows property, meanwhile relegating other inholdings where there is a real and ongoing threat of development to a lower priority. It seems that most unwise for the Foundation to encourage the NPS in this poor allocation of their priorities.



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22 June 1973

Dear A & B,

Thanks for recent clips, articles, letters.

We have Andy Russell's Grizzly Country; don't want the Last of the Mountain Men (or do we? maybe it's not what I was thinking of do you recommend it what is it?); hippie book does not sound appealing; and Carl Russell's Firearms, Traps, Tools... would depend on price.

Dinuba (Frances' school address) is in Mathias' district, not Ketchum's. Try Fontaine and those guys farther south.

It is possible that the difficulty with Hosmer may be due to inconsistencies within his staff rather than with the congressman himself. I believe that this was the problem with Cranston. And I am beginning to wonder whether that is the main problem with Sisk.

Recommendation: Try a phone call or other personal contact with Hosmer in order to minimize the chance of short circuiting by his staff. Ask him directly (as I did with Cranston's staff member) why he said one thing one time but now is saying something different. As I implied, this may be nothing more than sloppy staff work--it may actually be the man's intention to support the SJW even though recent letters do not reflect that.

Suggest you closely read Bob Behme's column on ORV's (he calls them RV's) in the July Field and Stream, beginning on page 98. It contains a number of statements and ideas which demand a response. I am preparing one. Can you do likewise?

Dinuba H.S. Hiking Club did a one week trip through the Quadruple Divide ("Dinkey Lakes") roadless area. On last day they followed a jeep trail the last two or three miles. Frances pointed out marmots to the kids, showed them how to converse with the critters, etc. As they walked further along the jeep trail they then came across a dead marmot lying practically on the trail in a pool of gore. It had been shot, probably that same day. The kids were quite incensed over this, understandably. Is it any wonder that there is strong pressure to outlaw hunting and guns? Of course the incident also constitutes a strong indictment of the mis-use of jeeps in the back country, since not ~~may~~ many backpackers are willing to drag a rifle around. The whole thing smacks of the "subdue the earth" mentality, and perhaps can be used to our advantage.

I have copies of the Gerstung-McCloskey exchange, but can lay my hands on only Gerstung's letter at the moment. Well send you the set when I get it together.

Krist Jensen is apparently planning to write to Mathias in his



capacity as a Madera County land owner. He was quite interested in Mathias' letter to McGuire. Youx might write Krist now, while his interest is up, to try to clinch action on his part. (Don't throw too much at him all at once. Keep it simple, just one thing at a time.)

You are presumably aware that the new Congressional Directory is now available. It is a real gold mine of info. Send \$5.05 to the Supt of Documents for a paper bound postpaid copy.

Frances has been working on Cecelia Leach, for more than a year. But Frances is apparently the only person Cecelia has any contact with. It is not exactly the best of all possible situations.

The Military Book Club offer still ~~stxxx~~ stands. Aside from the fact that I get a free book if you agree to buy three for a dollar, I really can honestly recommend this outfit. We have had bad experiences with several other book clubs, but this ~~w~~ one is ~~xxxxxxx~~ actually a good arrangement. Perhaps the name of the organization is misleading-- the books we have picked up from them would more appropriately be considered to be historical rather than military.

My worst fears are confirmed? Good grief, no! Youx didn't get still another dog!?? First you wouldn't join the Military Book Club, and now this! Ego te per omne quod datum mortalibus!!

I will attempt to restore my shattered nerves by spending the remainder of the afternoon in the back yard with a fortified lemonade.

Disconsolately,

G & F *gr*



cc: Robin Brooks  
Bec: Barbara Chasten  
John Miller

Your File: A98

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

5 July 1973

James F. Wolfe  
Assistant Superintendent  
Maintenance and Operations  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 577  
Yosemite National Park  
California 95389

Dear Jim:

Regarding your letter of June 22, in which you confirmed your request for assistance from the Sierra Club in connection with your Youth Conservation Corps project this summer.

I am sorry for the delay in responding, but I have been spending quite a bit of time on the telephone trying to get the best possible person for this request. I think I have found the person. This is

Mr. Robin Brooks  
818 Dartshire Way  
Sunnyvale  
California 94087  
(408) 739-8133

Robin has worked with young people, especially in the area of environmental education. He is familiar with the structure and operations of the Sierra Club, backpacks, and has an interest in Yosemite. And he has agreed to assume responsibility for trying to get someone to help with your request if he cannot do it himself.

I am sending him a copy of your letter of June 22, as well as a copy of this letter.

I realize that you are probably trying to set up a schedule and so would like a definite commitment, but at this moment I cannot give one. All I can say is that Robin is trying. It may be that by the time you and he receive this letter he will have something a little more definite lined up.

You may want to phone Robin, or send him a letter. One thing we were a little puzzled over was the mechanics of getting to and from the Merced Lake-Vogelsang group, since the distance involved appears to require a two-day trip just for this one group. Since Glen Aulin and May Lake are closer to the road, there appears to be less problem with this group.

I will be leaving the state for a month very soon, so further communication should be directly between you and Robin.

Thanks for your interest and kind offer. Sincerely, George Whitmore

cc: Robin Brooks



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27 July 1973

Dear A & B,

Thought you would be interested in the enclosure from the August Sunset.

I hope Livermore and Reagan see it. Maybe you would want to ensure that they do.

Re. my letter of June 21 to Livermore, he never responded to it. (I sent it to his home address.) I am wondering whether this is any indication that Ike did not concur in my suggestion that a word of thanks to Mathias was in order.

I sent copies of that letter, along with copies of Mathias' endorsement of New Study Area status, to nine different people. Most of those nine people also received additional cover letters, addressed to them personally, explaining the situation and requesting their help in letting Mathias know that we approved of his action, and appreciated it.

Two of the nine have acknowledged my letter(s) and have written to Mathias. Doug Scott had already written. There has been a deafening silence from the other six.

I take that back. One of the six did not remain silent--he proceeded to tell me in ~~uncertain~~ terms what an absolute scum Mathias is, that we have no business trying to establish any rapport with him, and that we should be devoting our energies to defeating him at the ballot box.

All of which makes me wonder, do people appreciate Mathias' action or not? If we don't, then I can assure you that all is lost. If we do, then why the hell don't we say so!

We were on the ~~xxxx~~ South Fork SJ River two weeks ago. Drove all the way to the end of the jeep trail with our van; it ~~x~~ is actually quite easy provided you have sufficient clearance, and don't mind a rather scary crossing of Rock Creek on a makeshift bridge. Climbed Pinchusion Peak, went through Rube Meadow again (Bohna says he has abandoned his cow camp there, so I guess we are free to clean it up.) Went down Chasteen Creek. It is a delightful place, and must be saved. Checked out Rattlesnake Lake again; it was the most godawful mess I think I have ever seen anywhere--we expected it to be bad, as usual, but it was actually revolting this time. Went through Heitz Meadow; if the FS is going to let a junk yard that that exist in the backcountry, I don't see how they can expect visitors to do much better. The FS has also been busy cutting trees between Heitz Meadow and Bear Meadow--apparently because they are crooked, etc. (ie. not of commercial quality). Now they will probably say that the area does not qualify as Wilderness because it has tree stumps in it.

What is the purpose ~~f~~ of your pending visit with Livermore? Would  
info. on timber resources - on the South Fork help you? I could dig it  
out of my files if so. To Canada? G + F



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18 Sep 73

Dear A and B,

I have told the young lady who is working on the wilderness field studies with us that if her report is good enough we can give a copy of it to NBL. (Regarding San Joaquin South Fork, of course.) You will get a copy in any case. If you don't see it by early October please ask me where it is.

As I mentioned on the phone, we are becoming more and more interested in the entire South Fork area. It does not have much of the stereotyped scenic grandeur which many people seem to think Wilderness must have, but there is a lot of just plain interesting country with much biotic diversity. From a distance it appears to be all pretty much similar, but if you get out and start walking around in it you will find that it keeps changing as you walk along.

And it does not seem to have the tremendous resource of commercial timber that I feared it would have. Much of the timber, although large, is scattered in very open stands. The vast bulk of it appears to me to be too small to be of any great value. I suspect that the volume of wood fiber per acre per year which the area is capable of producing is rather low--primarily because much of the area tends to be rather dry. In essence, my impression is that--if the area were to be opened to logging--a disproportionate area would have to be torn up for rather modest returns in board feet at the mill. And of course it would require a huge investment in public funds just to raise the present road to the standards needed to use it for hauling. If you have never driven the road from Kaiser Pass to Edison Lake I would suggest that you plan on doing so sometime soon. It goes through a lot of solid rock where "improvement" costs would be fantastically high.

I will be responding to the enclosed letter from Douglas Reeves, but rather briefly. I thought you might want to add his name and address to your file of key people, and perhaps to write him a note of thanks and encouragement. Since I might not get around to doing what I intend to, something from you would be good insurance.

I presume you have a copy of the Final Environmental Statement for the Yosemite N.P. Wilderness proposal. What is to be done with it? Where do we go from here? (I.e. What is the next step on our part?)

Jim Wolfe sent me a copy of the negative declaration for the proposed Yosemite Regional Wastewater Collection Treatment and Disposal Facility. Shall I make and send you a copy? There are more than 101 pages, and it would obviously cost money.

This summer in Seattle we found several books which we picked up for you, since the price was good and I thought there was a fair chance



you do not already have them. These are

Straight Up (biography of John Harlin, the Greek God who was  
a contemporary of George W. Whitmore) \$3.60  
West of the Indus by Wm O. Douglas; his travels on the track  
of Alexander, more or less. A must if you are  
interested in Asia/Himalaya travels. \$2.00  
Mt. McKinley, the Pioneer Climbs by Terris Moore. This is  
a very fine book, a real collector's item. \$4.00

All are in excellent condition. Straight Up has a dustjacket.

Re. the letter from NBL to me, dated 13 September, I am somewhat puzzled. He seems to be hostile toward Mathias. Until now, such hostility as I have observed has been emanating from people who dislike Mathias because of his socio-economic philosophy. I don't know what to make of the fact that NBL is now sounding like Larry E. Moss.

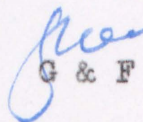
Ike's attitude seems to be that, since the USFS had already put the San Joaquin on the Study List, Mathias' action didn't mean anything. But he is overlooking the fact that the list was only a tentative one. We had no assurance whatsoever that the SJW will appear on the final list. Maybe Ike knows something us peons don't. (Re. the final study list, we have heard from the USFS RO that it has gone to the printer.)

Actually, the thing that bothers me the most is that Ike completely missed the entire thrust of my letter to him, which was the "one step at a time" concept. He wants Mathias to come out 100 per cent on our side, and right now. But this is simply not going to happen. Facing that reality, it seems to me that we have no choice but to attempt to win Mathias over one step at a time. (That's why I feel that letters from Merced are important.)

Do you feel that Ike is letting impatience cloud his better judgment? Perhaps he is ~~xx~~ anxious to see his goal of many years realized while he is still in public office, and is not willing to wait for it to happen. Or perhaps he feels that it would be much more difficult for us to get the corridor classified as Wilderness after the Reagan administration leaves office.

What date do you want us to help you catch a deer? Do we get to practice eviscerate it? (We would accept a certain modest amount of supervision, and promise not to spill the gall over too much of the meat.)

Sincerely,

  
G & F



P. O. Box 485  
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20 October 1973

Dear Barbara,

On the assumption that you will be at Luis' meeting next Saturday, I have gone through our records to see which of our SJW slides you have. If you can bring these with you next Saturday that would be much more satisfactory than mailing them. (I will never forget the blow to the Mineral King effort when Albert Hill's set of his very finest 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 slides was lost in the mail.) If you must mail something which is irreplaceable, I assume you realize that registered mail is the only way of shipment which ensures against loss. "Certified", "insured", etc. merely give you a record of receipt, tell you where the package was last known to have been, or give you money in the event of loss. I am not interested in money, it is the slides that I want!

Rather than making a list of the slides you have, I have copied our complete index lists (which you typed), and have crossed off those which you do not have. For 1969-70, for example, this means that you have SJW-69, Nos. 1, 2, & 3; also SJW-70, Nos. 1-8, 11-13, 16, 21-29, etc.

According to our records you also have one of our metal/plastic slide file boxes with the flip-out compartments. I don't know what kind of container we had the earlier batch of slides in when we gave them to you; was it also one of the same compartment file boxes?

Re. the Fresno Bee clipping about the North Fork and Madera County Chambers of Commerce giving all the legislative assistants the grand tour of the SJW, I sent one of these to Livermore, but not to Larry Moss.

Incidentally, did you note that Mathias was the only legislator not represented? I don't feel that any conclusions can be drawn from this, but it certainly provides fertile ground for speculation. One possibility: Are the proponents such dunderheads that they overlooked the fact that it is Mathias' district?

Re. your mention of our going over to Sebastopol after Luis' meeting, this appears to be a strong possibility. We want to talk with John Moore in Davis, but perhaps this could be done Friday night instead of Saturday night. Also, it is almost certain that we will have Eileen Devine with us. She is the young lady who has been doing a lot of research on the roadless areas, starting with field trips but also carrying over into personal interviews she has been conducting in the Sierra NF offices. She is fourteen years old (fifteen next month), but her mind has already developed far beyond the point where most people normally stop. Also very full of initiative and persistence ("aggressiveness"?). Apparently the USFS doesn't know what to make of her, and they have already turned over to her large amounts of information which I didn't even know to ask for. They seem not to realize where her sympathies lie, but when this finally becomes clear to them I guess they will start treating her like they do everyone else.

Maybe we can phone you later in the week when our (and your?) plans are firmed up better.

Sincerely,

G & F