

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

14 July 1970

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

Subject: San Joaquin Wilderness  
H. R. 15019

Dear Mr. Waldie:

Thank you for sending us a copy of your recent letter to Wayne Aspinall in which you requested Mr. Aspinall to take action on H. R. 15019. This provided us with the basis for a short piece in the Sierra Club's National News Report; a copy of the article is enclosed.

The National News Report is sent to Sierra Club leaders throughout the country, but not to our general membership. Some of these leaders will write letters, and possibly some of them will spread the message within their own chapters and groups.

Would it be possible for you to give me some idea how much mail you are receiving on H. R. 15019? It would help me to judge the effectiveness of an article such as this, and enable me to plan further action more intelligently.

You will notice that the article refers to a "48,000 acre" wilderness, while the bill as introduced gave a figure of 43,000 acres. The larger figure is correct, but due to an error somewhere along the line the smaller figure was apparently the one you were given. I spoke to the club leadership about this, and was told that they would take care of the problem. Can you tell me whether or not this was ever done? (Several independent computations have confirmed that approximately 48,000 acres is the correct figure.)

As a final request, I would like to ask you for additional copies of H. R. 15019. I frequently need them, and find it inconvenient to make copies.

Thank you very much for your assistance. Your continuing efforts on behalf of the San Joaquin Wilderness are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman

cc. Barbara Johnson, Tony Chasteen, Bill Rogers



# SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER P. O. BOX 4102 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93744  
5396 93755

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

14 July 1970

Honorable Raymond J. Sherwin  
727 Ohio Street  
Vallejo  
California 94590

Re: Minaret Summit/San Joaquin Wilderness

Dear Ray,

Thank you for letting us know about the meeting with Ike Livermore, et al, which was subsequently cancelled. In addition to my wife and myself, we would have had Barbara Johnson and Tony Chasteen present. My wife and I are now gone for the remainder of the summer, but I hope that our Chapter can be represented by others if a meeting is held during the summer. The people for you to notify would be

Miss Barbara Johnson, 545 Sycamore Lane, Apt 102, Davis, 95616.  
(This address of Barbara's is temporary, and consequently must not be given out to others; in particular, make certain that Mills Tower does not get it!) phone 916-753-3684

Tony Chasteen, Box 172, Forestville, 95436 phone 707-894-2558 (office)  
phone 707-887-7726 (home)  
(Although Tony is no longer a member of our chapter--being in Redwood territory now--he is an extremely valuable worker and a key person in the Minaret Summit/San Joaquin Wilderness project. It would help if you were in contact with him directly, especially since the two of you live fairly close together; Forestville is just north of Santa Rosa.)

Bill Rogers, 28300 Avenue 15, Madera, 93637. phone 209-673-0246  
(As Vice Chairman of our chapter, Bill is serving as acting chairman since the death of Charlie Cehrs in an airplane crash. You will recall that Charlie was one of the most active people in this chapter, particularly on the Minaret Summit problem, so the loss is a rather severe one. Of course Bill has also been one of the more active people on Minaret Summit, so you could expect full cooperation from him. During the summer Bill could probably attend any meeting in person; in any event, he will find someone who can.)

I hope you liked the plug Julie Cannon gave for the San Joaquin Wilderness in the recent issue of the National News Report. We were pleased with it, and thought she did a fairly good job on extremely short notice.

I am sorry I have not answered your previous correspondence, but I have simply been snowed under in paper work. We do not have a project chairman for Minaret Summit/San Joaquin Wilderness, so it does not get my exclusive attention. I hope to take up some of the questions you have raised upon our return in seven weeks (Labor Day).  
*... To explore, enjoy, and protect the natural mountain scene ...*

Sincerely, *George* George Whitmore

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

15 July 1970

Peter Tolles  
3690 Marigold Street  
Seal Beach  
California 90740

Dear Peter,

Enclosed is information regarding the San Joaquin Wilderness (H. R. 15019) which I hope you can put to use.

I am very sorry not to have put this in your hands sooner, especially in view of the interest you expressed in our conversation at the February Board meeting. (We are suffering from the common difficulty of having too many problems and not enough people to work on them.)

As you will have noticed in the most recent issue of the National News Report, Mr. Waldie has asked Aspinall for immediate action on H. R. 15019. I think it would be unrealistic to expect this, but what we must do is let the congressmen see a show of public interest sufficient to ensure introduction of similar legislation in the next session. June 26

I certainly hope you will be able to use Project Flash to get this message across. Because of Mr. Waldie's recent letter to Aspinall, the issue has suddenly become very timely, and if a reasonable amount of public opinion does not materialize it would look very bad.

Unfortunately, our local congressmen are not among the supporters of H. R. 15019. In fact B. F. Sisk (who represents almost all of our chapter members) is the foremost proponent of the Minaret Summit Highway, and he has vowed to fight the San Joaquin Wilderness tooth and nail throughout every committee, every federal department, and on the floor of the House. And the proposed highway doesn't even lie within his congressional district! Nor any of the wilderness proposal except the most minute fragment on one corner. Except for Sisk, the highway would be a dead issue. But he displays such a fierce determination to ram it through that it appears he envisions it will someday be known as the B. F. Sisk Memorial Highway.

The proposed highway (and all except a minute fragment of the wilderness) lie with Harold T. (Biz) Johnson's district. While he has not attacked the wilderness proposal, still his lack of support is a severe handicap.

To overcome these local difficulties, we are dependent on people

like you to spread the message outside of our own territory. Even though the problem lies in central California, the solution to it, in the form of political power, lies in the large metropolitan areas. You are in a position to reach the large number of voters needed, and I will look forward to seeing what you are able to do toward preserving the integrity of the John Muir Trail.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman

(We will be gone until Labor Day, and not receiving any mail. If you need further information, you could contact Tony Chasteen, Box 172, Forestville, California 95436. Although he has moved away from our Chapter, Tony is still the most active person we have on the San Joaquin Wilderness/Minaret Summit Highway issues. He has a very large file of material, and access to a free Xerox.)

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

15 July 1970

Linda Pierce  
18061 Saratoga Los Gatos Road  
Monte Sereno  
California 95030

Dear Miss Pierce,

I received a letter (copy) to you from Jonathan Ela, Assistant to the Conservation Director of the Sierra Club, dated February 26. Apparently you had written to the Sierra Club regarding H. R. 15019, Congressman Waldie's bill to establish the San Joaquin Wilderness. Jonathan indicated that he was forwarding your letter to me.

Unfortunately, I never received your letter, so I can only surmise that it was an expression of support for the proposal. Perhaps you were asking what you could do to help promote it.

Enclosed you will find an information sheet which we have prepared. I hope it is self-explanatory. We would be interested in hearing any comments you might have as to how we could revise it in order to make it more effective.

Letters to congressmen are badly needed at this particular time because Mr. Waldie wrote Mr. Aspinall just last month requesting immediate action on H. R. 15019. Letters from the public to back up Mr. Waldie in his request are very much needed. The issue is not yet widely known, and consequently I am afraid there has not been much congressional mail as yet.

Letters to your own congressman would probably be most effective, since Mr. Aspinall is very resistant to pressure from conservationists. However, he should be getting letters if for no other reason than to deny him the pleasure of saying that he does not get them. In other words, it is difficult to make points with Mr. Aspinall, but it is very easy to lose points; letters have to be written to avoid the latter.

Mr. Waldie should receive copies of all letters to other congressmen. In this way he will be aware of how much support his bill is receiving, and he can let other congressmen know of it to induce them to join the bandwagon which we hope eventually to get rolling.

Thank you very much for your help, and we hope to hear further from you.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman

Tehipite Chapter letterhead

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

22 October 1970

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

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Wilderness  
(H.R. 15019)

Dear Mr. Waldie:

We are assuming it would be unrealistic to expect any action on H.R. 15019 in the lame duck session which lies ahead, and consequently our thoughts at this time are directed toward building a base of support for re-introduction of a similar bill in the next congress. In this vein we have noted your request for ideas on how to stimulate public interest in this issue, and we urge your serious consideration of the following.

We feel that an excellent way of stimulating interest would be for you to make a personal tour of the San Joaquin Wilderness. We would like you to be our guest on such a tour, and we could provide all transportation, food, equipment, etc., as necessary.

The trip would take as much or as little time as you might wish to devote to it, and would be at a time of your choosing (subject to the onset of winter snow).

We would anticipate having a small group, with each individual being selected for his ability to contribute to the success of the venture. The presence of reporters would be at your discretion. The Supervisor of the Sierra National Forest, Zane Smith, has indicated his willingness to accompany us, or to stay behind, whichever we might decide would be preferable.

Having reporters and/or Mr. Smith along would have drawbacks as well as advantages. One way to solve that problem would be to have these people accompany us on a jeep tour along a ridge crest which borders the western margin of the area. This ridge provides a very comprehensive view of the San Joaquin Wilderness, and is a worthwhile excursion in itself. Following this, some people (such as reporters or Mr. Smith) could leave, while we would continue on foot into the wilderness.

We don't know whether you have any backpacking experience, but I can assure you it is not necessary. We could adjust the itinerary and pace to suit you. If you do not have prior experience, this actually could be played up in order to demonstrate that the wilderness is open to practically anyone, and is not accessible only to

the "hardy few" who have managed to "lock it up for their own exclusive use." We would especially like to have you climb Balloon Dome, as it is a very enjoyable scramble and looks far more difficult than it really is; but decisions such as this could be deferred until we are on the trail.

In addition to the possibilities for newspaper publicity, we should perhaps mention that conservation writer Michael Frome has shown a glimmer of interest in the San Joaquin Wilderness; your touring the area just might provide the catalyst needed for him to take a real interest in it. I am sure you realize that your touring the area would cause many other people to take an interest in the problem of its preservation, and it would give us a better chance of getting articles into the various conservation publications.

Aside from the interest which other people would take, we feel that a very major benefit of such a trip would be the opportunity it would provide for an interchange of ideas and enthusiasm among us. We envision that the result would be synergistic in that the renewal of enthusiasm among all of us would be greater than could ever be achieved by continuing in our accustomed paths. We feel that you, as well as ourselves, would experience this, and we look forward to sharing with you this sense of renewal which the wilderness offers.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman

cc. your Washington office  
Ray Sherwin  
Mike McCloskey  
Tony Chasteen  
Barbara Johnson

P.S. We are assuming that you are in California, and will be for several weeks. Because of the risk of early storms, it would be desirable to make the trip as soon as possible. However, there should still be time immediately following the election, in the event that you will not be free until then. My phone is (209) 897-3692, the best times to call being prior to 8:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m.

TEHIPITE CHAPTER letterhead

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

Michael McCloskey, Executive Director  
Sierra Club  
1050 Mills Tower  
San Francisco  
California 94104

25 December 1970

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Wilderness

Dear Mike,

We presume that legislation to establish the San Joaquin Wilderness as a legal entity will be introduced in the next Congress. On this assumption, Tehipite Chapter's Executive Committee has decided to seek one change in the original proposal, and to suggest another change.

The change we are definitely recommending is to add an additional area at the southwest corner of the original proposal. This is shown with pink cross-hatching on the enclosed map. This would bring the boundary down to Granite Creek (in its lower portion only), down to the main San Joaquin River between the river's confluences with Granite Creek and the South Fork of the San Joaquin, and down to the South Fork between the South Fork's confluences with the main river and Rube Creek.

This appears to add about 2,500 acres to the original proposal, making a total of approximately 50,500 acres.

This change is based upon our having gained a greater familiarity with the terrain during the past year. We have walked parts of the originally proposed boundary, and found that the topographic features it followed, while obvious, still did not provide any feeling of separation from the surrounding lands. We had the very distinct feeling that the land below us, all the way down to the river, was definitely a part of the San Joaquin Wilderness. Furthermore, the bulk of it is of very high caliber from the scenic and esthetic points of view. To our knowledge, it is totally unimpaired by any work of man, nor are there any plans for its desecration.\* There appears to be timber of commercial quality only in one small area to the east of Granite Creek, but the Forest Service has not included this within the immediately adjacent Indian Sale, which they are presently preparing for bids. We would vigorously oppose any plans to cut that particular grove of trees, as we have become quite fond of it and consider it to be an integral part of the San Joaquin Wilderness.

It might also be noted that during the past year the Sierra National Forest designated almost all of the San Joaquin Wilderness as a Frontier Management Unit, and their management unit boundaries also included most of this area which we are now proposing for inclusion in the Wilderness. This designation essentially recognizes that this is defacto wilderness and should be managed as such, at least for the present.

\*Other than the uneconomic hydro developments which have been previously acknowledged, and which seem to be totally lacking in proponents.

The other change (which we are merely suggesting) is not shown on the enclosed map. This is only for the sake of clarity, and is not to imply that we have reservations about the proposal. In fact, we have heard little objection to it, but we feel that its nature is such that we should defer a decision on it to higher authority.

This would call for alteration of the boundary in that area where it crosses back and forth across the Fresno-Madera County line. Originally we had called for the boundary in this area to follow down the crest of a ridge which lies between two creeks. (As shown on the enclosed map.) What we are now wondering is whether there would be some political advantage in having the boundary follow the county line. The rationale behind this is that then absolutely none of the San Joaquin Wilderness would lie within Congressman B. F. Sisk's district.

We certainly don't think that this would change his mind one iota, but we are wondering whether it might possibly weaken his voice of opposition, even if only slightly. If it would facilitate action on this bill, we would definitely be in favor of it. It is just that we have no way of knowing whether it would make any difference.

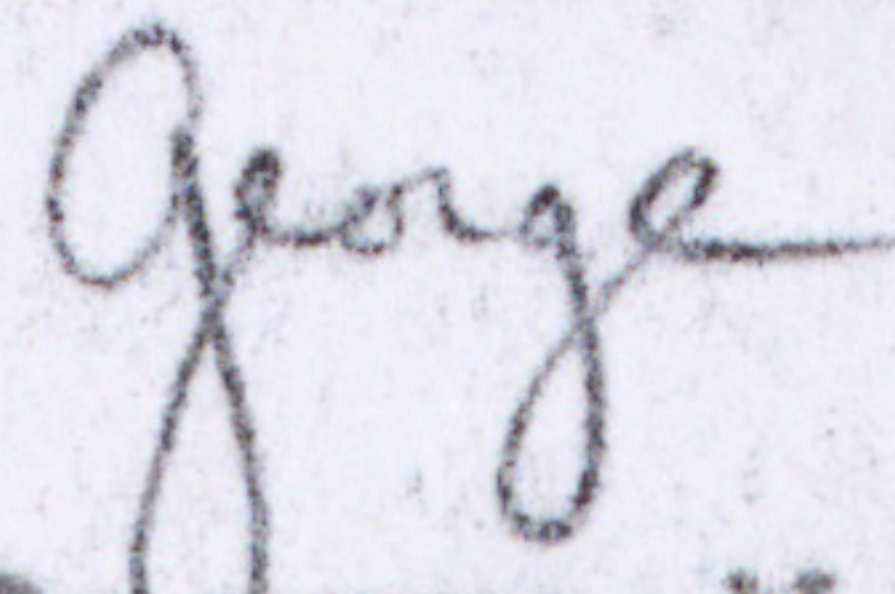
We are wondering whether the best procedure would be to call for the boundary to be on the county line in the early stages. If the bill could be brought out of committee, it could then be amended to restore the boundary to its ecologically and esthetically preferred location. This is assuming that the effectiveness of Sisk's opposition would be lessened once the bill was out of committee.

We urge that no one underestimate the vehemence and determination of Sisk's opposition, which almost seems to verge on fanaticism in its irrationality. Except for Sisk, we feel that there would be no significant opposition to the San Joaquin Wilderness--but the opposition of this one individual appears to be extremely formidable.

In any event, whether the boundary follows the county line or the ridge crest would make very little difference in the amount of area encompassed by the proposal, since the ridge crest is on one side of the county line over half its length, and on the other side of the county line over the other half of its distance.

One final item regarding re-introduction of this bill. Please remember that the original bill, through either typographical or clerical error, stated that the area encompassed on the described map was approximately "43,000" acres. This was, of course, supposed to have read "48,000" acres. We are wondering whether this was ever brought to Mr. Waldie's attention. In any event, if we add 2,500 acres as recommended in the first part of this letter, then the total would be approximately 50,500 acres.

Sincerely,



George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman

cc. Tony Chasteen  
Barbara Johnson  
Ray Sherwin  
Will Siri  
Lloyd Tupling  
Frances Walcott

(My apologies for not enclosing copies of the map for all of you. Besides the one for Mike, I had time to prepare only one additional copy.)

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

25 December 1970

Dr. William Siri  
1015 Leneve Place  
Richmond  
California 94532

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Wilderness bill  
(Jerome Waldie)

Dear Will,

Enclosed is the material you were good enough to request of me when I spoke to you at the Board meeting earlier this month.

Besides a copy of the bill (H. R. 15019) I am enclosing a couple statements issued by Waldie, a promotional brochure which we prepared locally, and a copy of a letter which I am sending to Mike McCloskey today. This last item, along with the map which accompanies it, is especially important because it describes two possible changes in the wilderness proposal; it also describes an error which appeared in H. R. 15019 and which must be corrected in the new bill which we hope Waldie will introduce.

Aside from Mike McCloskey, you are the only person to whom I am sending a copy of the map which shows our recommended changes. I am sending it to you since you indicated that you would be seeing Waldie and you offered to discuss the bill with him to see whether he is willing to introduce it again in the next Congress.

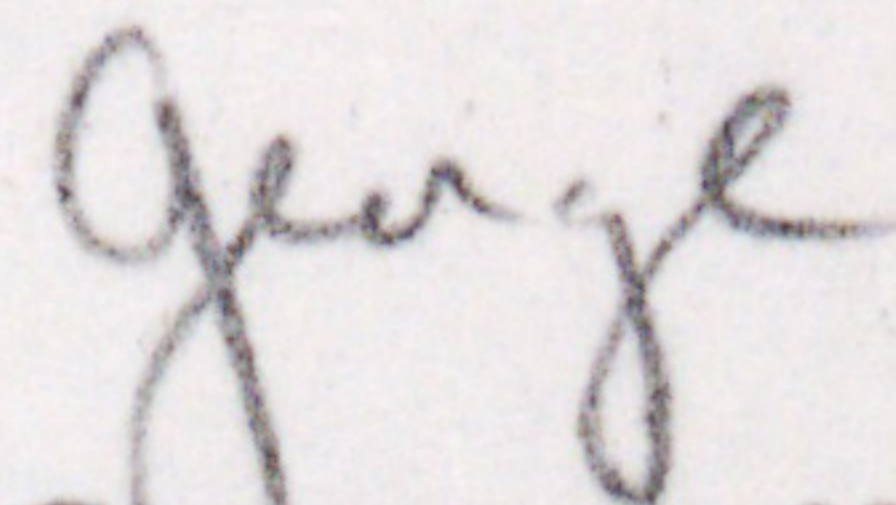
By way of background, I offer the following:

1. The San Joaquin Wilderness proposal has been endorsed in principle by the Merced Fish and Game Club, The Spokane Mountaineers, and the National Rifle Association. We will be seeking further endorsements.
2. We are gaining support within the Sierra Club. As you heard Ed Royce announce at the December Board meeting, the Northern California Regional Conservation Committee has recommended that this be one of three wilderness proposals in Northern California and Nevada on which legislative action should be expedited. (Out of a total of twenty or thirty under consideration!)
3. Fifteen California congressmen co-sponsored the bill, making a total of sixteen. (Their names are on the bill.)
4. Of these, Congressman Paul McCloskey has displayed a very active interest in the San Joaquin Wilderness, and has

apparently been conferring with Waldie on it. We would like to see greater emphasis on bi-partisan support, and hope that Mr. McCloskey's interest can lead the way for this.

Thanks for your help, Will. Down here in the boondocks we find it extremely frustrating to have to depend on other peoples' congressmen to save the Sierra Nevada from the egotistical greed of our own congressman. (He wants to route Interstate 70 through it!) But as long as it's that way, we are quite dependent on someone like you to get the ball rolling.

Sincerely,



George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman

(It was never clear to us how Mr. Waldie was induced to sponsor the bill in the last Congress, but just last month Maynard Munger Jr. indicated that he had been the one who requested Waldie to do it.)

(I certainly hope you can find the time to drop me a brief note outlining what you were able to accomplish and/or learn from Waldie; otherwise we wouldn't know what tack to take next.)

TEHIPITE CHAPTER letterhead

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

25 December 1970

Francis J. Walcott  
3500 Fulton Street Apt 14  
San Francisco  
California 94118

SUBJECT: San Joaquin Wilderness

Dear Francis,

Thought you might be interested in a copy of our letter of this date to Mike McCloskey re. certain changes in the SJW boundary which we are recommending. Sorry about the poor carbon--maybe someday Xerox will market an economy model for home use.

Long before this we should have taken steps to get the endorsement in principle of the San Joaquin Wilderness proposal by the Wilderness Society. Could you please let us know what steps we should take to accomplish this?

So far we have the endorsement of the Merced Fish and Game Club, the Spokane Mountaineers, and the National Rifle Association. We would like to sign up more organizations, starting with the Wilderness Society!

Please let us hear from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*George*

George W. Whitmore  
Conservation Chairman