

SUBJECT: High Sierra Primitive Area/Monarch Wilderness/Rancheria Creek
TO: Chuck Clusen, Barry Fisher, Larry Moss, John Konior, Norm Hill
FROM: George Whitmore
DATE: 19 January 1973

At the request of Chuck Clusen, I have located the statement which our former Tehipite Chapter chairman presented at the public meeting conducted by the Forest Service on March 4, 1971, in regard to the USFS Monarch Wilderness proposal.* It is attached.

This document has not previously been available to any of us, and that is why I am giving it fairly broad distribution now.

It was felt that the statement might have significant relevance to the present Rancheria Creek problem, and you may judge it in that light.

*Ax Nelson (the chairman) made an oral statement which was not related to this written statement. I recall very clearly noting at the time that his oral statement bore no relationship to what the chapter executive committee had authorized him to say. This is not to imply that what he said could be damaging to us now, and I am quite confident that it would not be harmful to our interests. In any event, the point is moot because the gathering was a "meeting", not a "hearing", and consequently no transcript was made and I doubt that anybody recorded it. Ax's oral statement consisted mostly of personal reminiscences. Chuck Clusen raised the point as to whether Ax was asked what the chapter's recommendation was as to setting boundaries for a study area. I am sure that Ax was not asked this, nor was anybody present asked that. I do not recall the matter of setting "study boundaries" ever being brought up by the Forest Service or by anyone else. In connection with that particular point, I will again remind all of you of the very striking difference in procedure followed by the USFS on the Monarch proposal compared to their procedure on the Trinity Alps proposal, even though both Primitive Areas were being studied for possible reclassification with approximately the same dates for preliminary public meetings and formal public hearings. It appears to me that the USFS failure to get public input in setting study boundaries for the Monarch is rendered much more significant by the fact that they did seek such input in connection with the Trinity Alps proposal.

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

23 January 1973

Mrs. J. Fontaine
Star Route, Box 1142
Tehachapi
California 93561

Dear Bugs,

Herewith some suggestions for people who might be good candidates for a wilderness workshop:

Harold Basey

James (Jake) Kirihara, 12208 West Bird Ave, Livingston 95334
(Jake is our Merced Group's conservation chairman, and has held various positions over the years; he ~~is~~ has consistently been one of the Group's more active members.)

Maria Bessemer (Mrs), 3228 North Alder, Merced ~~95340~~ 95340
(A long shot; prospects questionable.)

Phil and Hillis (Mrs & Mrs) Johnson, 14160 West Shaw, Kerman 93630
(Excellent people. They were active briefly, but I feel they were turned off by our previous chapter chairman. They are busy, but so is everyone else. I was so impressed by their basic thinking processes and philosophies that I have always felt that it would be worth some effort to try to get them active again--the workshop might be a way to do it.)

John Konior, 6543 North Ferger, Fresno 93704

(Doesn't know anything about the Wilderness System, but I am sure he is interested in learning.)

Norman Hill, 852 East Manning Ave, Reedley 93654
(Apartment 15)

(He needs to be reminded that Wilderness is our foremost concern. Especially in view of the continual agitation--we get it locally as well as nationally--to get involved in urban matters.)

Ben Dwell, 5030 East Hammond Ave, Fresno 93727

(A high school student on our ex comm and also delegate to the NCRCC; "mountains" are his foremost concern.)

Mrs Elaine Dwell (Ben's mother, same address)

(A very concerned member who has helped repeatedly on letter writing, etc.)

Mr. Ara Kaljian, 7896 South DeWolf Ave, Fowler 93625

(A farmer who has recently started showing up at meetings; doesn't know anything about Wilderness, but seems willing to learn. I feel it is worth extra effort to try to get someone like this involved, as the Club is top-heavy with professionals, academic types, teachers, etc. We need more backing from farmers, for one.)

Jack Hamilton, 382 College Ave, Dinuba 93618

(adult son of a logging industry family, and very much pro-wilderness. Was at Roadless Area meeting in May, has spoken before Rotary, etc.)(Same remarks as for Kaljian.)

David Cehrs, 3035 East Buckingham Way, Fresno 93726

(Son of former chapter chairman who died in plane crash. He showed up at H.S. Prim. Area hearing in November; did not want to speak, but we talked him into it--I have always felt that people who have the gumption to do something they find difficult are likely to be worth far more to us than the run-of-the-mill person.) (He is a graduate student in mining engineering; same remarks as for Kaljian.)

Mrs Cecelia Leach, 312½ South "K" Street, Madera 93637

(Not a backpacker, and doesn't know what it is all about, but showed up at Roadless meeting in May, and also H.S. Prim. Area hearing in November; spoke at the first one and submitted a written statement to the hearing officer at the latter. Same remark as for Cehrs--she didn't want to get up and speak in May but did so when she found how badly we were outnumbered; she settled for the written statement in November because we were coming out ahead.) (SHE IS ONE OF OUR VERY FEW MEMBERS IN MADERA COUNTY!)(This is vital because of the San Joaquin Wilderness problem--I think one active member in Madera County probably is worth ten active members in San Francisco.)(We have tried to get her involved in the SJW issue, but so far she has not taken it up--for a while it was because she was working on the Porterville nuclear plant problem.)

James Sellers, 1301 - 21st Avenue, Kingsburg 93631

(High school teacher, active with students, summer ranger in Sequoia. Very interested in Mineral King.)

John Seaman, 2311 - 21st Avenue, Kingsburg 93631

(High school teacher, active with students.)

Lynn Hulen, c/o 200 North Midland Drive, Visalia 93277

(In spite of persistent rumors to the contrary, Lynn is--as of early this same month--still in the Visalia area, and never left it. I feel that the rumors were perhaps the consequence of an internal problem in the Kaweah Group. I strongly recommend that you try to use Lynn as one of your primary contacts in the Visalia area. He showed great promise as their conservation chairman; had he been Group chairman I think you would find the Kaweah Group would now be in better shape than it is.)(Lynn is separated or divorced; but he has not moved to Fresno.)

Jim Stewart, Exeter

The only other person I know of who has really been active in the Kaweah Group. (I realize others have been doing certain things, but the distinction is one of perspective and order of magnitude.)

Mr Donald Jensen, 1141 Park Circle Drive, Fresno 93727

Roger Jensen (Don's teen-age son, same address)

(Both of these people showed up out of the blue at a recent cons. comm. meeting. Both seemed to show some promise, and I would like to see them given some encouragement by having them receive a notice of the work shop.)

Krist Jensen, 421 East Wrenwood, Apt 106, Fresno 93710

(A new member of our ex comm. Potentially very active, but so far he--like 95% of our members--does not realize that anything significant happens at the local level.)

Dennis Olswang, P. O. Box 4232, Fresno 93744

(A sometime member of our ex comm. Has been helpful in various ways, but has not settled down into any particular field of interest. Maybe we can get him to focus more on Wilderness via a work shop.)

James P. Pitton, 4279 North Fourth Street, Fresno 93726

(Wanted to do ~~firm~~ wilderness field surveys during the summer but was unable to do so because of a change of plans. Maybe we can ~~ask~~ nail him with the work shop.)

Daniel P. Christensen, 8765 North Cedar, Fresno

(DFG employee; very concerned about backcountry impact resulting from ORV access)

Richard Dierking, 1555 Peach, Clovis, California

(Rather strange attitude; obviously interested, but reluctant to become involved. Why don't you give it a try?)

Mr. Marsh Pitman, 2832 East Arden Lane, Merced 95340

Paul M. Pitman (son, same address)

(Invite them separately, as Marsh will probably be too busy to come. Paul may be able to come by himself.)

Erna Benoud, 286 West Sycamore, Reedley 93654

Miss Pam Burton, 4712 North Rowell, Fresno 93726

Peter Orchard, Box 28-C Commons, California State University at Fresno, 93710

~~(Mrs) Phoebe D. Farnham, 2258 Dayna Way, Merced 95340~~

Miss Deborah Osborn, P.O. Box 563, North Fork

Miss Pat Wilson, 1407 East Fountain Way, Fresno 93704

(A good letter writer even though we never see her at meetings because of her work schedule.) (Perhaps she could make it on a week end.)

Mauray Parent, 21 West San Gabriel, Clovis 93612

Steve Southerland, 4145 Bert Crane Road, Atwater

Patrick F. King, P. O. Box 4025, Fresno 93744 (active)

Norman Poitevin, 4935 North Effie, Fresno 93726

(our long-time newsletter editor; very concerned about wilderness)

George Flint, 254 West San Bruno, Fresno 93704

(Potentially a good man but needs to be drawn out.)

Arthur H. Evans, Jr. and Gay (Mrs?), 231 Locust Avenue, Coalinga 93210

Larry Fielden, 854 West Clinton, Fresno 93704

~~Bill Carmichael, 5628 North Ninth Street, Fresno 93726~~

~~(Teacher at Fowler; has been active getting his kids involved.)~~

All of these people have indicated an interest in one way or another. There aren't any "Tony Chasteens" in the list, but there might be some potential ones. Most of the names on ~~which~~ which I give no comment are from a list of people who responded to a questionnaire and who stated that they were interested in wilderness. It is possible that some of the addresses are not current, but I am confident of most.

Sorry I didn't know where the San Joaquin display is. We called Barbara's mother (Merced) and she didn't know, either; I think that is a pretty good indication that it is in The Geysers. That is also where our entire slide collection is. I can't say that I feel either the

display or the slides are doing the cause any good up there, as that is considerably off the beaten track. You might drop Barbara a note and inquire as to the possibility of getting the display (hers) or the slides (mostly ours) down here for the workshop.

I assume we will be hearing from you as to how you want us to help. We will try in whatever way we can, but you should be forewarned that I have no interest in trying to arrange physical facilities--a consequence of too many unfortunate experiences in the past when attempting to do it.

Are you working up a spell to ensure bad weather that week end? Otherwise people might prefer to go hiking. Let us know if you need any help in arranging this.

Tell Joe we appreciate his letter to constituents of Mathias. It was well done and should get at least a few letters. I presume you are spreading out the mailing of it so that Mathias won't get the letters all at once; this is a simple enough technique, but one which we find is almost invariably ignored.

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

25 January 1973

J. Martin Winton
P. O. Box 1102
Fresno
California 93714

Dear Martin,

I understand that the bill concerning taxation of wetlands in Merced County has been reintroduced in the present session of the California legislature.

I do not know the author of either the previous or the present bill, nor do I know the number of the bill(s). I hope that you can provide me with this information so I can request a copy of the bill from the appropriate legislator.

Since the phrasing of bills is often unintelligible, I would be interested in hearing your interpretation of what the bill calls for. There was considerable confusion on this point last fall, and I am hoping to clarify it--at least in my own mind--this time.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

(It is my understanding that the bill would be applicable only in Merced and one other county. It would help if you could let me know which other county is involved.)

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

29 January 1973

Lowell Smith
22 Doud Drive
Los Altos
California 94022

Dear Lowell:

I have been meaning to give you the enclosure for some time in order that you might remove the item from your "suspense" file. This subject appeared in the minutes of the November 12 (Santa Rosa) NCRCC meeting. (Proposed state park adjacent to San Luis Wildlife Refuge. Sorry I couldn't get more information--even this was obtained only on the third attempt.

1. Please remember to send me a copy of the letter from Inyo N.F. Supervisor Everett Towle in which he asked NCRCC opinion regarding realignment of the John Muir Trail. I presume you will be writing him of the NCRCC resolution on that subject, and of course I would also appreciate a copy of your letter to him.

2. And could you also please send me a copy of the letter which Jack Townsley wrote you in which he "responded" to some of the issues raised in your "Report on Board of Directors' Meeting on October 21-22, 1972", dated November 1, 1972. (Regarding BOD failure to act on NCRCC requests.) I would like this because I was the subject of some of the (erroneous) statements which Townsley made, and I would like to know more precisely exactly what it was that he said.

Sorry for the trouble, but I promise not to bother you again for several months.

Berg heil,

George Whitmore

C3
Rec'd
2-8-73

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

Stewart M. Brandborg, Executive Director
The Wilderness Society
729 Fifteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

29 January 1973

Dear Mr. Brandborg:

Last October 10th I wrote you a letter to which I never received a response. Apparently my letter (or your response?) was lost in the mail, so I am enclosing a copy of it now.

My concern over the subject of that letter is greater than ever, and I would still like to know what the status of the issue is within the Wilderness Society. The only change is that it no longer appears necessary for Ray Sherwin or Mike McCloskey to receive copies of your response.

During the past three months I have received various indications that the subject of wilderness management, including restrictive permits, is undergoing extensive review by the Wilderness Society. I am told that these deliberations are confidential, and that the conclusions will be announced in due course.

I find this zeal for secrecy to be quite disturbing, because it provides the basis for a real disaster. I refer specifically to the risk of an organization becoming ingrown, and consequently out of touch with the society in which it must function if it is to attain its objectives.

In trying to work with various conservation organizations, I have observed that the leadership hierarchies are usually quite willing to presume their own omniscience. This leads, at best, to ignoring their own members and the public generally. It can, and has, lead to an inquisitorial attitude which attempts to neutralize or destroy differing views.

These shortcomings, in turn, can lead to a loss of political and social effectiveness through a failure to understand the thinking processes of the grass roots citizenry. (Yes, some of these people think; perhaps more importantly, they vote.)

Would not a conscious attempt at being more open in the development of policy, at least to those who have sufficient interest to inquire, be an effective way of minimizing the above mentioned pitfalls?

If it is not asking too much, I would like the opportunity of reviewing the wilderness management policy proposal which is apparently being drafted by Harry Crandell.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

9 March 1973

Barry Fisher
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Inc.
311 California Street, Suite 311
San Francisco
California 94104

Re. Rancheria Creek
(Three Springs timber sale)

Dear Barry:

I spoke very briefly with the Sierra National Forest timber management officer, John Underwood, this afternoon. I asked him the status of the Three Springs and Smith timber sales, proposed.

He stated that the Regional Office is making a decision as to whether the Sierra N. F. should proceed with the sales. Apparently the R.O. is trying to decide whether to consider your letter of February 13 to John McGuire to be a formal appeal, since the letter did not follow normal appeal channels. But Underwood confirmed for me that even a formal appeal does not necessarily result in suspension of the appealed action. So I don't see why they should be making an issue out of whether your letter did or did not follow the specified procedures.

Underwood stated that the Sierra N. F. failed to get the supplemental funds which they had wanted in order to construct the new roads to "higher than prudent" standards. But this alone would not necessarily prevent them from going ahead with the sales--they could simply settle for a "prudent" road system. (They tell me that "prudent" means that minimum road which is necessary only to remove the timber, and which is funded through the timber sale itself. Building to a "higher than prudent" standard means getting special funds from some other source.)

In essence, I suggested that it appeared that "Anything could happen at any time." Underwood thought that this was very accurate phraseology.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

(It would help if you avoided mentioning this letter to any USFS people, as I don't want them to get the false idea that I go running to you with every little thing they say. I thought I would relate the above to you since I was writing/other matters anyway.)
you of

5 April 1973

Pam--

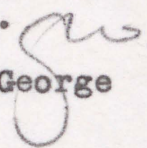
On this one (proposed letter to R. Sherwin, H. Allen, M. McCloskey, L. Moss re. someone's idea to create a new trail west of and parallel to the John Muir Trail in order to "relieve congestion" on the JMT) it may be that the need for the letter has already passed.

At the November NCRCC meeting it was mentioned that Sherwin was about to put the club on record publicly as supporting the concept. Thus at that time there was a certain sense of urgency about making our position known internally (within the Club).

But since that crisis has presumably passed, it appears to me that the best course of action at this time would be to drop the matter. At least we are on record in case it comes up in the future.

This advice (ie. to drop the matter) is based in no small part on conversation I had with Sherwin last Tuesday night at the meeting which you happened to know was pending. I was truly amazed at some of Ray's ideas and misconceptions regarding the NCRCC. In part, some of it is based upon fact; but the facts have somehow become blown up out of all proportion in Ray's mind so that his perspective is not what it could be.

I really think the answer would have to be to have him sit in on an NCRCC meeting from time to time. But that is another subject, and somewhat beyond the ken of this letter.


George

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

5 April 1973

Pam Deuel
c/o Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club
190 California Avenue
Palo Alto
California 94306

Dear Pam,

There have been several different issues under discussion during the past eight to ten months regarding various aspects of the Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail alignments or routings. I was afraid that people would start to mix the issues, and this has indeed started to happen, even though they have to kept separate if they are to make any sense.

One issue has to do with PCT alignment in the southern Sierra where there is apparently a conflict with bighorn sheep. Joe Fontaine, the Kern-Kaweah Chapter, and the Sierra Nevada Task Force have been involved with that.

Another issue is the proposal made by someone who thinks that establishing a new route (in additon to both the PCT and JMT) somewhere to the west of the Sierra crest area would relieve congestion on the crest. This was discussed at the November 1972 NCRCC meeting, and also at SNTF meetings. People generally took a dim view of it, unless it was considerably farther west than its proponent had envisioned. The proponent had suggested a route which was basically in defacto wilderness areas all the way, and NCRCC and SNTF were opposed to introducing a new trail system into defacto wilderness. There seems to be some feeling that such a trail would make sense if it were in those portions of the Sierra which have already been carved up by roads, logging, etc.

Another issue, and the one which I was inquiring about, concerns realignment of the John Muir Trail in the Devils Postpile area of Inyo N.F. in order to make its alignment identical with that of the Pacific Crest Trail in that area. The NCRCC acted on this at its January 1973 meeting. A copy of the resolution passed is enclosed (it was incompletely reported in the minutes of that meeting).

Background on this is that I had an exchange of communications (both written and oral) with Inyo N.F. people last summer and fall. It was on NCRCC agenda for November, but discussed only very briefly for lack of time. At that time Lowell said he wanted some indication from Inyo N.F. that they actually wanted our support for realignment of the JMT. I communicated this to Inyo, and they in turn wrote to Lowell asking Sierra Club opinion. That letter to Lowell would have been dated approximately the first of January (give or take a few days).

The item was again placed on the NCRCC agenda (January meeting), with ~~the~~ action taken according to the enclosure.

Lowell was to have communicated the results of NCRCC discussion (ie. our resolution) to Inyo N. F. It is not clear to me whether or

Pam Deuel

J.M. Trail realignment

5 Apr 73

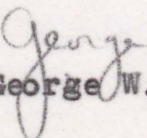
not this was ever done.

If it was done, I would like to get a copy of Lowell's letter to Inyo N.F.; I also would like a copy of their letter to him, in which they asked for Sierra Club opinion.

If the NCRCC resolution was not communicated to Inyo N.F., then it appears that steps should be taken to ensure that it is done.

If you can check this out, I would be happy to help in whatever way I can--including the drafting of any letters which may be needed.

Sincerely,


George W. Whitmore

(As further background, the proposal to realign the JMT to make it coincident with the PCT in the Devils Postpile area went through the full chain of command before ever being brought to the NCRCC. It was reviewed, discussed at length, and approved by the Tehipite Chapter conservation committee, Tehipite Chapter executive committee, and the Sierra Nevada Task Force. Eventually the NCRCC went through the same process with it. After all this hassle, I am concerned that the matter may have simply died on the vine.)

(I would like to clear this from the files so we can get on with more important issues. I must say I am intrigued by the way in which this seemingly innocuous and routine item aroused so much discussion at every level of the Club hierarchy. Especially in view of the casual and perfunctory treatment frequently given to matters of far greater complexity and significance.)

P.O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

6 April 1973

Douglas Scott
The Wilderness Society
729 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Doug,

3-26-73
I trust that the enclosed letter from Alan Cranston in which he states that he "will cosponsor a (San Joaquin Wilderness) bill that Senator Tunney plans to introduce" will be as pleasing to you as it is to me.

This is the first time we have gotten him to commit himself in writing. Previous statements sometimes actually verged upon being unfriendly, and were generally noncommittal.

The staff member I talked with was Lois Hart. She described herself as being a "letter writer." But I must say the interest and intelligence with which she conversed on the San Joaquin proposal seemed to indicate that her responsibilities must go somewhat beyond mere "letter writing." She indicated that she was relatively new in the office.

I was starting from ground zero, as she seemed totally unfamiliar with the Wilderness Act or its intent or meaning, but this did not prevent her from asking intelligent questions which were quite to the point.

Perhaps you can follow this up with a continuing contact. Judging from the initial results, it would appear quite worthwhile.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P.S. Shelley and Larry Moss informed me earlier this week that Bob Mathias has already introduced not only a Yosemite wilderness bill, but also one for Sequoia-Kings Canyon, but I have not yet seen anything in writing on this. I didn't have a chance to ask them the source of their information. In that office Susan Recce (LA) was the one I talked to. Former AA Jim Lake had left, and his replacement--Phil Pendergass--had not yet arrived, but should be in the office by now. Susan Recce (pronounced ree-see) was totally unfamiliar with the Wilderness Act, but was learning fast. Again, some follow up by you while it's fresh in her mind could possibly be quite worthwhile.)

15 April 1973

John -

I have prepared the two enclosed letters for your signature. You may want to sign them and mail them immediately, in view of the short amount of time remaining. Or you may prefer to wait until Wednesday in order to seek Ex Comm authorization; this would hardly seem necessary, in view of the fact that we have routinely invited Sotero and Joe in the past. (I spoke to Joe at the USFS meeting Friday, and learned at that time that he had not yet been invited.)

*improved
my
system
4-18-73*

Aside from past precedent for inviting them, I feel it is highly desirable to do so. It gives us a chance to talk to them in a less formal atmosphere than is usually the case, and I really feel that this helps to minimize differences.

Regarding Rodgers Crossing dam, the NCRCC Water Resources Committee will be discussing this issue on Thursday Apr 19; I believe Norman Hill plans to be present. It would be highly desirable for Norm to be able to tell them that the Chapter has gone on record in vigorous opposition to the dam. The NCRCC committee would then merely have to support our position. Otherwise they will be forced into ~~the~~ trying to prod us into taking a stand.

Wouldn't it be nice if the Chapter could lead the way on issues in our area? Instead of dragging along at the end of the parade, saying, "Yeah, us too."

If we are really going to justify our existence, it seems to me we have no alternative. Otherwise, how can we object to being merged with other chapters?

It would be advisable to place the Helms Creek pumped storage project on the Ex Comm agenda as an announcement item. Frances has received no input in her request for questions to put to the PG&E. I fear that people may be ignoring the issue simply because it has not reached the crisis stage (just as with Rodgers Crossing). To be fair to all concerned, it really seems we should be expressing our concerns on these issues now, while there is still an opportunity for the utilities to take our objections into account.

George

5/25/73

Jake,

I would appreciate it if you could have some extra copies run off for the map and description which I ~~xxx~~ mailed you under separate cover.

That way we could have some for distribution at the meeting. Undoubtedly some people will be driving up late enough that they will not have time to look at anything. Those people we will try to catch at the meeting and have them look at things when they drive out of the area. (But morning light is better in the canyon; it gets too hazy in the afternoon.)

I would appreciate return of the original copy of the map, as it is of such a nature that we would probably find further uses for it.

As an agenda item, we should confirm the resolution adopted by Tehipite Chapter and the NCRCC Water Resources Committee re. keeping the Kings as a free-flowing river. Some people apparently feel this is not necessary since the NCRCC authorized the Water Resources Committee to take a position which the NCRCC EX Comm would confirm. But this is not a desirable procedure, and was authorized only as an expedient measure.

The full NCRCC should resolve on this issue. And what more appropriate place to do so than on the banks of the Kings River itself!

As a further agenda item, I would like the opportunity of addressing the group regarding the history of the area (it figured prominently in early Sierra Club history), present problems, and its future. (I know that sounds formidable, but I envision about five to ten minutes. OK?)

Thanks.

George

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

22 June 1973

Joe Fontaine

Dear Joe,

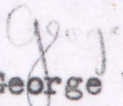
Enclosed is a copy of the resolution on management of National Forest redwood groves as passed by the NCRCC at their meeting in Cedar Grove on June 9-10. As you will note, they made still further changes to the original SNTF resolution, although I believe the basic intent and meaning is still intact.

What did the SCRCC do on this item? Where do we go from here? (It was suggested at the NCRCC meeting that the resolution should be sent to Hartesveldt for his comment, but it seems to me that this would be premature until there has been further SC-NC RCC coordination.)

As you might infer from the fact that the wording went through several revisions, the issue turned out to be quite controversial within the NCRCC. For a while I thought we might lose it entirely, but as finally amended it did not have any opposition, as best I recall.

I really feel that the opposition we encountered early in the discussion was founded on misconceptions and misunderstandings, ~~was~~ so I would not consider it to be substantive. But it nevertheless indicates some of the problems you can expect whenever you propose to get near a redwood grove with a chainsaw or match.-- The subject, by its nature, simply happens to be a very emotional one with many people.

Sincerely,


George W. Whitmore