

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

20 January 1971

Joseph T. Radel, Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
2957 Birch Street
Bishop
California 93514

Dear Joe Radel,

We have been asked whether the Harvey Monroe Hall Natural Area should not be incorporated into the National Wilderness Preservation System. In trying to check out the matter, I find that we do not have a map showing the boundaries of the Hoover Wilderness.

I would certainly appreciate your providing us with a map showing the Hoover Wilderness boundaries.

Of course any comments you might have regarding the status of the Harvey Monroe Hall Natural Area would be most welcome. You have probably already discussed this with the Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter, within whose territory it lies. However, because it is contiguous with Yosemite National Park we are interested in its status.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore
Conservation Chairman

letter head

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

Sotero Muniz, Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
Federal Building - 1130 "O" Street
Fresno, California 93721

20 February 1971

Dear Sotero,

On behalf of our Tehipite Chapter, I want to thank you (and Judy and Al West) for spending an evening with us at our Conservation Committee meeting earlier this month.

It is only natural that differences would tend to be emphasized at such a meeting, but this should not be allowed to obscure the fact that we really have many goals in common and have much to gain by working together. If we do strive to work together at every opportunity (and I must commend you for your many efforts in this direction already), then our differences can be kept in proper perspective. And we can keep small differences from becoming major ones.

Even though we have not experienced it ourselves, I understand there are some within the Forest Service who question the wisdom of seeking the participation of citizen groups. Although there will be some rough spots as the best mode of participation is evolved, I feel that those, such as yourself, who are seeking it will ultimately be proven right. I only hope that other public agencies, less enlightened than the Forest Service, will not suffer irreparable harm as a result of public resentment at being excluded from the decision-making process.

We look forward to a long and pleasant relationship with you and your personnel as we all grow in our respective roles.

Sincerely,

George
George W. Whitmore
Conservation Chairman

(Because you have expressed some interest in the Sierra Club, I am enclosing a couple brochures which may help to explain us.)

letter for

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

24 February 1971

Luis G. Ireland
4414 San Ramond Drive
Davis
California 95616

Dear Luis,

The enclosed Forest Service announcement regarding the High Sierra Primitive Area (Monarch Wilderness) will undoubtedly be of interest to you. Note that they are proposing the boundaries be extended all the way down to the rivers, and to within five hundred feet (I don't know whether linear or elevation-wise) of the road. We had suggested this as a possibility to them, but I have no idea whether this affected their thinking or whether they would have done it anyway.

San Joaquin Wilderness bill has been re-introduced, as you will have noticed by now. (H.R. 4270, referred to Aspinall's committee)

We would certainly appreciate your noting carefully the enclosed clipping from the Fresno Bee of 19 February, as it illustrates very clearly how this wilderness proposal is very much at the mercy of congressmen ~~over~~ with whom we have very little representation.

Although none of the proposed highway, and only a very small fragment of the proposed wilderness, lies within Sisk's district, nevertheless he is the only one making any noise on either issue. But he is so completely hostile toward the Sierra Club that most of us feel we are wasting our breath talking to him.

The real hope seems to lie in winning over Biz Johnson. But because of his friendship with Sisk, it would appear that our only chance of winning Johnson is to convince him that is what his electorate wants--ie. wilderness classification for the corridor. We are not alone in hoping that you, and others in Mother Lode Chapter, can see to it that pressure is gradually brought to bear on Johnson from within his own district. (I say "gradually" because we have been led to believe that Johnson would rebel at any overt signs of pressure tactics; certainly a slower buildup would have more the appearance of a true groundswell of public opinion.)

Sorry we didn't make it to the Palo Alto Wilderness Subcommittee meeting--we simply got snowed under. Has a date been picked for the next meeting?

Sincerely,

George Whitmore
Conservation Chairman

filed with S.J.W.



SIERRA CLUB

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

P. O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

17 May 1971

Ed Royce, Chairman
Legislative Priorities Committee
842 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore
California 94550

Subject: Implied Dedication
SB 504 (Lagomarsino)
etc.

Dear Ed,

I am addressing this to you because I can't figure who else to send it to. I trust you will give it to the proper person(s).

Enclosed is a newsletter item from the California Rifle and Pistol Association regarding SB 504 and the Sierra Club. You will note that they state the Sierra Club is attempting to amend SB 504, and they even quote specifics from the amendment which we are supposedly seeking.

The information in the CRPA newsletter differs quite drastically from the information contained in the minutes of the April 24 (Millbrae) meeting of the Legislative Priorities Committee. (page 3, toward bottom) The minutes state that we are opposing SB 504, not seeking to amend it. The minutes also state that the Rural Lands Committee of the Mother Lode Chapter will draft language for an alternate bill.

Are the quotations in the CRPA newsletter from the alternate bill which Mother Lode's committee was to have drafted? The time factor seems to negate this.

I wish someone would straighten out either me or the California Rifle and Pistol Association, whichever seems to be more badly in need of it.

Thanks, whoever it is who reads this.

Sincerely,

George
George W. Whitmore
Conservation Chairman

To: Wilderness advocates

From: George W. Whitmore (P.O. Box 485, Kingsburg, Calif. 93631)

Subject: Wilderness

Date: May 19, 1971

One aspect to current developments which concerns me greatly is the tendency for the Forest Service to consider Wilderness as being a piece of pristine scenery which is to be held essentially inviolate. Only very limited numbers of people will be allowed into it, and those chosen few will be harrassed in various ways for the duration of their visit. On the other hand, the Forest Service says, if you want merely to ramble through the mountains searching out the challenges of solitude, exploration, and discovery, then they have places called "Backcountry" (or "Frontier Areas", or "Pioneer Areas"). You will be free from harrassment in those areas because the damned preservationists haven't made the Forest Service's job of management so difficult there.

Of course it won't take long for the general public to realize that they would be much better off with more "Backcountry" and less "Wilderness." After all, parks are for people, remember? "Wilderness" isn't doing anybody a bit of good-- it's just tying up a lot of fine country that people need in order to escape the pressures and frustrations of civilization.

Do we really think we are ever going to get a San Joaquin, a Dardanelles, a Snow Mountain, a Siskiyou, or any of the dozens of others?? The Forest Service is in the process of giving the public plenty of reason not only to deny us these, but also eventually to repeal the Wilderness Act itself.

And many of our best people are falling all over themselves in their zeal to support the Forest Service in this magnificent endeavor.

P.O. Box 485
Kingsburg
California 93631

Dennis Olswang
P.O. Box 4232
Fresno
California

12 June 1971

Dear Dennis,

Glad to see you back on the Ex. Comm. Also to find you interested in the problem of implied dedication, as it is something which I am personally interested in but simply don't have time to follow up.

We leave for a trip into the San Joaquin Wilderness at the crack of dawn tomorrow, but I wanted to get certain materials into your hands before we left. My secretary was supposed to have copied this stuff today, but had difficulties with Xerox machines being not available today (Saturday). So you will have to put up with a patchwork approach; enclosed is:

Sierra Club Daily File, Thursday, June 10.

Sierra Club Legislative Priorities Contacts, June 9.

Minutes of the Legislative Priorities Meeting of May 22.

ABove are typewritten extracts which you may keep.

Following are the only copies (originals) which I have, and I would like to get them back (perhaps you could Xerox them and return the originals soon.)

Extract from California Rifle and Pistol Association newsletter of May 1971.

letter from me to Ed Royce, dated 17 May 71, re. imp. dedication.
response to above letter, by John Zierold, dated June 11.

I have a huge amount of material from the Sierra Club's Sacramento Representative, gathered together into a binder. I plan on leaving this with Phil and Hillis Johnson, 1015 N. West Avenue, Fresno 93728 (233-3781). They have offered to serve as coordinators for the chapter during the summer while we are gone, insofar as conservation matters are involved. Besides having the mail which will have come to our address, they will be in touch with people throughout the state to whom I will have given the Johnson's name as contacts for this chapter. You might want to get in touch with them re. Sacramento legislation, or other matters. They will be assuming this function starting the end of June.

How about a mint julep on top of Balloon Dome in September? No swimming pool up there, but then you can't have everything! Just think how much more you will appreciate the pool upon your return from that ethereal perch!! Let us know.

Sincerely,
George & Frances