

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

26 January 1973

People's Lobby  
3456 West Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles  
California 90019

Gentlemen:

Regarding "Second Rough Draft, Environment Act of 1974".

Under "Citizens Right to Sue" I find the provisions for all civil penalties and all sums awarded, as well as costs and attorneys fees, to be awarded to any citizen who brings the action to be quite objectionable. I question the propriety of such provisions. But more importantly, I feel it would give the opposition some very powerful arguments to defeat the entire initiative. In particular, I feel the opposition would use these provisions to support their contention that society would be brought to a grinding halt by a plethora of lawsuits.

Under "Conflict of Interest" there appears to be repeated and numerous inconsistencies relating to the investments of board members and officers and to those of their spouses. In some sections the investments of the spouse are considered relevant; in other sections they are not so considered. There are references to the "extent of his or his spouse's investments" (emphasis provided); the use of "and" instead of "or" would make more sense and is presumably what was intended.

Under "Industrial Polluters" it is stated that monitoring devices will be waived "upon a finding that such devices are available" but too expensive. Would it not be advisable to provide for a waiver in the event that such devices are not available?

Also, it is stated that such devices shall be installed on all stationary sources which require a permit or registration. Does this include agricultural burning? In this area such burning requires a permit, but I seriously question whether it would be feasible to monitor the emissions in any meaningful way.

This section also states that such devices shall be "capable of measuring and recording the nature and amount of pollutants emitted". This appears to be so grossly vague and lacking in definitions as to be utterly meaningless.

There appear to be numerous flaws in the technical aspects also, but I will let those with more expertise in such matters make those comments.

This proposed initiative is a vast improvement over Proposition 9, but I feel it is still in too crude a form for me to judge whether I would be able to support it. I urge that you not attempt to take it before the general public until it is in a form that most conservationists could support. I strongly feel that ill-conceived and/or implemented proposals such as Proposition 9 do us far more damage than we can afford.

Sincerely,  
George W. Whitmore

The NCRCC Wildlife Committee chairman, Bill Collins, is also NCRCC delegate to the national committee. He appears to be a reasonable person that one can talk to, and even with!

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

28 January 1973

Dear Tony,

Enclosed you will find the following:

1. S.C. National Wildlife Committee proposed policy, with 1/1/73 cover letter from its chairman to the S.C. Board of Directors. This constituted pages 9 through 24 of the Board's conservation agenda background packet.
2. Letter from Laney Hicks to Robert Hughes (chairman of the National Wildlife Committee). (Page 25 of BOD background packet.)
3. Letter from Brock Evans to Robert Hughes. (Page 26 " " " " .)
4. Southwest RCC resolution on predator control, 4/72.
5. Northern California RCC resolution on proposed wildlife policy, 1/13/73. (This and SWRCC resolution were included in the addenda packet of background information for the conservation agenda.)
6. Revised (as of 20 January 1973) wildlife policy proposal submitted for the BOD's consideration by the National Wildlife Committee. (2 pages) This is the definitive proposal, worked out in final meetings of the National Wildlife Committee on Friday night and Saturday morning, January 19 and 20.
7. "Hunt the Hunters Hunt Club" article by Cleveland Amory, which was reprinted in the January 1973 issue of the S.F. Bay Chapter Wildlife Committee Newsletter
8. National Audubon Society policy on hunting, as stated on page 98 of the January 1972 issue of Audubon.

If you review items 1 through 6 you will be viewing the wildlife policy proposal as it was presented to the BOD. This was considered to be a controversial item even before it came up for discussion on the agenda. When it did come up there was considerable criticism of the policy proposal, and it was referred back to the National Wildlife Committee for reconsideration.

There was some criticism of the makeup of the committee. Bob Hughes noted that only three RCC's had nominated delegates to the committee. Sherwin asked that the remaining RCC's send delegates to the committee, and that there should be some members at large; nominations for delegates to the National Wildlife Committee should be submitted to Jack Townsley.

It should be carefully noted that a revised committee could still come up with an unacceptable policy proposal. From what I observed at their meeting Friday night it seemed to be dominated ~~by~~ by anthropomorphism, ~~antivivisectionism~~, antivivisectionism, and other irrational

ideologies. The Bambi syndrome appeared to be endemic. The group repeatedly made it clear that they were concerned about the fate of each individual ~~organism~~ organism--not just the health, welfare, and viability of the species or of the ecosystem upon which it is dependent. (I say "organism" instead of "animal" because their definition of "wildlife" includes such exotica as crickets, protozoans, and green algae slime--yes, plant organisms as well as animal organisms.) Their obsession over the fate of an individual specimen is critical, because if their thinking is carried to its logical conclusion these people would have to admit that they are opposed to the killing of even one duck, one rabbit, or one deer. Officially, they did not come out in opposition to hunting, but it is clear that they tolerate it only under protest. Friday night some individuals wanted the committee to oppose "recreational killing" (ie. hunting), pointing out that only 3.4 per cent of the California population hunts (ie. kills). Bob Hughes immediately squelched this proposal, stating that it would never be accepted by the BOD. He stated that this issue had been the source of considerable dissension within the committee a couple years ago, and that the fighting had almost destroyed the committee, and some of the club along with it. (Privately, he stated to me that the reason he is now chairman is because of the previous chairman's actions in regard to the issue of hunting.)

Have I made the point? Regardless of what these people say officially, it is quite clear that they would probably oppose hunting if they thought they could get away with it. How sure can we be that future Directors of the club will not decide to go that route?

I am convinced that the problem is that people afflicted with the Bambi syndrome gravitate toward the wildlife committee(s), and thus these committees will be subjected to that kind of pressure in perpetuity. And I don't think the problem can be solved simply by placing people with other philosophies on the committee(s). The reason I believe this is that too many of the wildlife people have great compassion and consideration for Bambi, but somehow manage to be quite aggressive toward mere human beings who might differ with them. (Eg. the save-the-animal types who advocate killing human deer hunters.) I happened to have a rather enlightening encounter at the Board meeting with one of the National Wildlife Committee members; I tried to present a certain thought to ~~the~~ a group of committee members, but was prevented from doing so by one individual who didn't like what I was trying to say. ~~xxxxx~~ This person zeroed in on me, monopolized the "conversation", and physically isolated me from the rest of the group by subtle maneuvering. Utilizing ridicule, contempt, arrogance and other niceties (to say nothing of emotion and illogic), this individual effectively prevented me from communicating my thought to the group.

The point in relating this incident is that I don't think many wildlife managers, professional biologists, or just plain reasonable people, are likely to spend a week end traveling across the country to a meeting of the National Wildlife Committee if they are going to be treated in that manner. It might happen once or twice, but sooner or later most of them would give up. And the committee would be right back where it had started--dominated by the Bambi lovers.

I really feel the answer has to be not only the addition of new

people to the committee, but also the removal of some of the present members. I don't have any reason to think that that ~~would~~ include the present chairman; in fact, I got a distinct impression that he was a moderating influence which was holding some of the more rabid types in check.

Recommended action: Submit Harold Basey's name to Jack Townsley as a nominee for the committee (delegate at large; the NCRCC already has a delegate). Include the recommendation that some of the more rabid types must be removed, otherwise it will do no good to ~~nominate~~ place new people on the committee as they would likely not survive long. Explain Basey's background as a professional biologist having great expertise with animals, in the field, with the NPS, etc. Also his role on the Yosemite Cooperative Deer Studies; I think he has started a wildlife committee within the Yokut Group, but am not sure of that.

Will you do this?

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Further points:

Item 7 is included so you can see that the problem is not just with the national committee. This is not an isolated instance. Cf. July 1971, ppl-2; they commented upon the California Rifle and Pistol Association position on AB660 (Dunlap's mountain lion bill), then concluded with a slur upon the "saviors of America" who "imagine themselves sallying forth to defeat a government army with their squirrel rifles". Cf. also November 1971, p.3; they compared membership of National Rifle Association with that of Sierra Club. (Why not the DAR, Rotary, or ADA? They have a fixation about firearms, hunting, and the NRA.) Cf. also February 1972, p.8; they reprinted a lengthy S. F. Examiner editorial(?) which attacked trophy(?) hunting. Cf. also September 1972, p. 4; they reprinted text of an NRA ad seeking members who wanted to preserve the right to hunt. (Again, a fixation on the NRA and hunting.) Cf. also January 1973, pp. 5-6; the "Hunt the Hunters Hunt Club" article by Cleveland Amory (enclosed).

I have often considered writing somebody (I don't know who) to object to the inclusion of the above type of material in the S.F. Bay Chapter Wildlife Newsletter, but have kept putting it off largely because none of the previous incidents have been flagrant enough. But there is a definite pattern established which I would like to see broken. Perhaps the Cleveland Amory article is flagrant enough to get a reaction from the powers that be. Frances didn't think it was. What do you think?

Item 8 is included so you can see that some organizations, even with a strong wildlife preservation background, are capable of talking about the subject of hunting in a calm, forthright, reasoned, intelligent manner. And they didn't simply sweep the issue under the rug, as has the Sierra Club, because it might be divisive. Of course this is easier to do in an organization that doesn't have the strong member participation that the Sierra Club does. That complicates matters.

I trust you will now solve some of these problems.

George

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

26 February 1973

Robert C. Hughes, Chairman  
National Wildlife Committee  
Sierra Club  
P. O. Box 2471  
Trenton, N.J. 08607

Dear Bob:

I understand that, as a basis for discussion, your committee will be using the draft "Policy on Plants and Animals" which was on the agenda for the January 12-13 meeting of the Board of Directors. Therefore, that is the document I will respond to.

I find many difficulties with this document, but feel that most of the problems are merely symptoms of a lack of agreement on basic principles. I feel that one indication of an imbalance in the document is the small number of words devoted to the "preamble" compared to the large number of words which are then used to address specifics. Actually, many of the specific statements contain general principles which would be applicable to other situations. I feel that these general principles should be gathered together in one opening statement ("background" or "preamble").

It does not make sense to start discussing specifics until the basic principles have first been spelled out, but the present and previous drafts all suffer that very serious flaw.

I suggest that you limit the scope of your concern to animal life. That is a sufficiently difficult subject in itself without complicating the issues by trying to talk about plant life at the same time.

I suggest that your background statement discuss definitions. Having heard the discussions at the meeting of your committee in January of 1973, I feel that a failure to have defined terms is a very major source of your difficulties.

For example, if "wildlife" is to include all naturally occurring species and populations, it then becomes difficult to avoid favoring protection of a host of micro and macro organisms which make life difficult or impossible for man.

In my own part of California, this would include the endemic soil fungus which invades human lung tissue. It would also include the mosquito which transmits encephalitis to humans. As additional food for thought, remember that grizzly bears were quite numerous throughout California not too many years ago; are we to endorse removal of people so the grizzlies can be reestablished?

I cite these examples to illustrate the necessity for defining your terms before you attempt to address specifics.

I really feel very strongly that your committee has had the cart before the horse too long, and that is the basic source of your

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difficulties. I urge that you forget the specifics until later. For now, limit yourselves to fundamentals until we are in agreement on those. Then we can stand some chance of getting agreement on the specifics which will follow.

On the chance that my above words of wisdom will be ignored, I will comment on one of the specifics, namely the section on "Hunting and Fishing."

#### 6. Hunting and Fishing.

Traditionally, the Sierra Club has been primarily concerned with the maintenance of ecosystems, including the habitat and the populations which occupy that habitat. I feel very strongly that this is precisely where our concern should continue to be centered.

For the benefit of those who would like to place more emphasis on the welfare of individual specimens, I would like to point out how these people are making it more difficult for us to protect the entire population or species of which that one animal is merely an example.

In general, a single animal could be provided with the necessities of life by man. But to provide for the continuing viability of an entire population or species, man usually must preserve natural habitat and ecosystems on a large scale. These habitats and ecosystems are sometimes called wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, wilderness areas, etc.

I would like to remind your committee members that the Sierra Club has been quite active in achieving preservation and protection of such areas since its founding in 1892. In other words, we have been protecting wildlife since our very beginnings.

But we have not been alone in striving for the protection of habitat and ecosystems. We have enjoyed the mutual assistance of many other organizations, some of which are sportsmens clubs, hunting and fishing clubs, etc. A notable ~~exception~~ example was the eight year effort it took to achieve passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Many different organizations worked for passage of that legislation, not the least of which was the National Rifle Association.

More recently, the one-million member NRA specifically endorsed our local efforts to incorporate the upper San Joaquin River area into the Wilderness System; they did this because we asked them to. When I was talking to a member of Senator Cranston's staff last year, seeking his support for this proposal, I was asked what organizations were supporting it. I was very happy to be able to list a half dozen different types of organizations, including the NRA and the Merced Fish and Game Club.

The Senator's staff member took notes at that point, and seemed impressed by the diversity of the supporting organizations. Two weeks later, the Senator wrote a letter in which, for the first time, he stated that he would support the San Joaquin proposal.

My point is that I would like to continue to receive the support of organizations such as the National Rifle Association and the Merced Fish and Game Club. They are vital to the success of our efforts! We cannot afford to alienate these groups which are helping us to protect habitat and ecosystems, and the animal populations which are dependent

on those habitats and ecosystems.

If some of our members still wish to place more emphasis on the welfare of individual animals--as opposed to populations, species, habitats, and ecosystems--then I would urge that those efforts be channeled through some of the organizations which already exist for that rather limited purpose.

Personally, I feel that the Sierra Club should continue to maintain its holistic view of the Earth, and cannot afford to become bogged down in such peripheral issues, particularly if the issues promise to alienate large numbers of our existing and potential allies.

Specifically, I object to the overall tone of the section on "Hunting and Fishing." To some of your committee members it probably does not sound unfriendly. But let me assure you that it does sound unfriendly to some hunters to whom I have shown it. They detect a basically hostile undercurrent, even though opposition to hunting in general is not explicitly stated.

I think you will encounter considerable opposition to the statement on trophy hunting. I think what you mean is,

"We object to the use of hunting techniques which result in a systematic degradation of the quality of the breeding stock."

Doesn't this say what you really mean? And still it avoids the objectionable phrasing which could cause severe misunderstandings, particularly when taken out of context. (Can't you see it in the headlines? "Sierra Club objects to trophy hunting." Period.)

In the same section, the next to last sentence is obscure. I think what you mean is,

"We object to the use of aircraft, off-road vehicles, or electronic techniques to search for, pursue, or attract animals which are to be hunted."

In the same section, I find the last sentence to be extremely offensive. It is quite clearly an implied criticism of "non-esthetic" uses (ie. hunting) of wildlife. It is, quite simply, a mealy-mouthed way of trying to slip past the Board something which they would never adopt if it were stated more openly.

I urge that your committee adopt a more constructive attitude toward hunting. That is, a point of view which would be conducive to helping the Sierra Club in its efforts to preserve habitat and ecosystems, and the animal populations which are dependent thereupon.

I realize that some of your members find hunting to be a difficult subject. For that reason I am enclosing a copy of the National Audubon Society's policy on hunting. It contains some interesting ideas which might help your group in their deliberations.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

27 March 1973

Shelley McIntyre  
Sierra Club  
1050 Mills Tower  
220 Bush Street  
San Francisco  
California 94104

Dear Shelley,

Just a reminder that I need copies of the Wilderness Committee resolutions for the NCRCC meeting this coming Saturday.

Since you will be making copies of the various agency responses to the Club's policy statement on wilderness permits for Thurman Troster, I would appreciate receiving copies of them also. (Please don't mind the sentence structure--I'm in a hurry to meet the outgoing mail.) I have an exceptional interest in this particular subject, but even so I would not bother you with this request except for the fact that you will be looking the letters up for Thurman anyway. Of course there is probably no reason for haste on this, my second, request.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*George*  
George W. Whitmore

*George - the wording was slightly altered by the B.O.D. + is in the minutes, but this should suffice for now.*

*J.M.*

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

6 April 1973

Holway R. Jones, Chairman  
S.C. National Wilderness Committee  
25 Skyline Park Loop  
Eugene  
Oregon 97405

Subject: W.C. resolutions

Dear Holly,

At the NCRCC meeting of March 31 we discussed all four resolutions passed by the W.C., and acted on three of them. I am enclosing an annotated copy of the resolutions so you can readily visualize just what we did and did not do.

Since time was short, I read only the key portions of the resolutions; I have circled those parts in red. I gave background information on all the resolutions in order to put them in context.

For the benefit of the NCRCC secretary, I have indicated the sequence in which I presented the resolutions (notation circled in green). For your purposes this is of course irrelevant.

Beside each resolution I have written the action taken.

Taking them in the same sequence in which Shelley listed them:

1. (Re. hunting.) I did not push this, but they seemed to be a strong interest in endorsing the sense of the resolution. There was some concern expressed that it was perhaps too broadly stated; you will recall this same concern was expressed at the WC meeting. As a result of this concern, a substitute motion was made and passed. I do not have a copy of the exact wording, but it was close to

"The NCRCC resolves that the BOD should publicize the Sierra Club's policy on hunting in order to allay the fears of sportsmen regarding their use of public lands."

In view of the strong endorsement given this concept both by the WC and the NCRCC, it does seem appropriate to bring it to the attention of the BOD at least for discussion and publicity internally within the Club. I realize the BOD might wish to delay action on it until taking up the matter of wildlife policy in general, but we need discussion of our resolution at an early stage if it is to be of any value.

2. (Re. "backcountry".) As noted, this was read and explained, but no action was taken because there was insufficient time to go into it in the depth it seemed to warrant. This should not be construed as criticism of the resolution, for it was not. I read this resolution in its entirety to Luis Ireland and Marge Sill, and they seemed to agree with it. The three of us discussed the second paragraph re. "...the Sierra Club has long urged the addition to the NWPS of all qualifying land..." (emphasis provided). It seems unclear whether this

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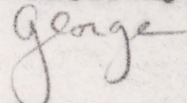
this is, in fact, established Club policy. I have personally witnessed discussion over this precise point off and on over the years, and I must say that if it is truly Club policy then it is a policy of which quite a few of us have remained ignorant. In any event, it does not appear to be essential to the intent of the resolution. My personal feeling is that even if that is what we think, we should not go around publicizing the fact. It gains us nothing, and we have plenty to lose by advertising the fact that we want every last acre and then some.

3. (Tabled resolution.) Not brought up.

4. (BLM.) Concurred in as written.

5. (Wilderness study bill.) I brought this up first because I felt it was the most urgent and I wanted to ensure NCRCC concurrence. There was no problem getting agreement that it was a sound idea. There was, however, a fair amount of unhappiness expressed over the phrasing of this resolution (as well as of No. 2 re. backcountry). The general feeling was that these resolutions sound like they were written by a committee, and that they need considerable tightening up and rephrasing so that the meaning really comes across on the first reading. As it is, a person has to study these resolutions carefully to figure out what they are trying to say. I feel there is an object lesson here for conduct of future WC meetings, and will give my thoughts on that later.

Sincerely,



George W. Whitmore

cc. Shelley McIntyre, WC Secretary  
Jake Miller, Acting NCRCC Chairman  
Ramona Wascher, NCRCC Secretary  
Luis Ireland, NCRCC WC Chairman  
Marge Sill, NCRCC WC "policy subcommittee" Chairman

P. O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

27 April 1973

John Wedberg, Chairman  
S.C. Mountaineering Committee  
c/o Shearson, Hammill and Company, Inc.  
1901 Avenue of the Stars  
Century City  
California 90067

Dear John Wedberg:

Thank you for your note of March 8, in which you request notification if I wish to continue receiving minutes and notices of the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee.

I do, particularly in view of the changes in the Committee which I presume will accompany the change in its chairmanship.

My lack of attendance at past Committee meetings was not at all due to a lack of interest, but rather was due to frustration and a sense of futility following my attendance at the first few meetings of the last Committee more than ten years ago.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

7 May 73

Harold Basey  
2301 Dana Lane  
Modesto  
California 95350

Dear Harold:

I am forwarding the enclosure to you since I felt you might be the person in the Yokut area who would have the greatest interest in the matter.

Duff's letter indicates that someone else in the Yokut area must have received the letters also, but that may or may not have been the person who should have received it.

The aspect of this subject which most concerns me is that the person (Harry J. Buncke) who is objecting to the hunting might be one of those who wants the Sierra Club to oppose all hunting anywhere. It is possible that he is just using this particular situation as an opening wedge, and that his interest in the matter might be much broader than is evident at the moment.

I feel that this particular situation would be worth investigation in order to head off the anti-hunters at the pass, if that is really the problem at stake here.

(this past week end)

As you may know, the Board of Directors/considered a resolution calling upon them to make clear the fact that the Sierra Club is not opposed to hunting. They refused to pass the resolution, and tabled it instead. This action will probably be construed as an anti-hunting stance by those who want the Club to take that position. I can see the chapter newsletter headlines already, "Sierra Club Refusēs to Endorse Hunting!" (Although the endorsement of hunting has never been brought up, the anti-hunters are trying to make an issue out of it in order to get a backlash which will help them to get actual opposition to hunting.) (In other words, they are not willing to let the Club maintain a neutral stance--they figure they have a better chance of getting what they want by seeking an outright confrontation.)

I hope you can get actively involved in this problem. It is assuming major proportions, and it looks like we are headed for a showdown on it--perhaps later this year. In the meantime, we are getting adverse publicity which is damaging the Club, as well as being harmful to hunters and hunting.

Sincerely,

George W. Whitmore

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 937631

15 May 73

Shelley McIntyre  
Sierra Club  
1050 Mills Tower  
San Francisco  
California 94104

Subject: Wilderness Field Studies

Dear Shelley,

Re. your letters of May 3 to me and to John Stiegler ("Zeigler" in your file).

John and his companion, Duncan Bedinger, came through yesterday enroute to various central Sierra study areas. I had had them stop at the Sequoia N.F. office in Porterville before coming here, and they had done an excellent job of following my instructions while at the N.F. office--they obtained roadless area boundaries and timber sale information which I had been lacking.

I had a rather hectic day--six hours preparing instructions for them before they arrived, followed by another six hours of priming them while they were here. They left in a cloud of paper, with me feeling that we had hardly scratched the surface of what was needed.

Their instructions were necessarily quite open-ended, because of considerable uncertainty regarding road conditions at this time of year. There is no point in my telling you where they might go; I will let you know what areas they were able to cover after they come back through here in about ten days.

I had myself formally appointed "Coordinator of Wilderness Field Studies" for the Chapter area, so now it is official. I hope this helps to clear up some of the lines of communication. It also means I have a modest budget for phone calls and supplies.

It is not clear to me whether any national funding is available for transportation or food. If you could let me know I would certainly appreciate it. (I'M sorry to bother you on that, but I simply can't recall whether there was any definite statement made about it at the Organ Pipe meeting. I will listen more closely next time!)

I had only one copy of the "reporting form" which Duff was giving out to the study teams last summer, and it escaped from me yesterday. I would appreciate it if you could send me at least one (or more) sets. Also any other material which is intended to assist us coordinators.

Luis seems to be getting some studies organized for areas farther north, but He is apparently counting on me to look after it down this way. I note that Kern-Kaweah has a considerable number of roadless areas, but all I ever hear them talk about is Golden Trout and Domelands extension; you might sound out Larry to see if he knows whether the other K-K areas are being adequately looked after.

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

1 June 73

Luis Ireland  
4414 San Ramon Drive  
Davis  
California 95616

Dear Luis,

Enclosed is a copy of the letter from Frances Walcott to the editor of American Forests, dated 18 Dec 72. Sorry it didn't copy very well--that is a reflection on the copy I have from which it was taken.

You should send to National Forest Products Association, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 and ask for a copy of "The Wilderness Issue", a booklet they have published.

If they will let you have them, you might want to ask for a couple dozen or so, and then have them available for distribution at your next Wild. Comm. meeting. That way ~~xxx~~ people could see what the opposition is ~~x~~ up to--it is very enlightening, and alarming.

The Spring 1973 issue of New England Sierran is devoted entirely to Wilderness, mostly eastern. Eight pages, newspaper format, like the Yodeler. But it is probably not worth the trouble of trying to get them to send you a copy. Probably Allen Smith put most of it together. Writing him might be the easiest way of getting a copy.

The above three items are the only things I have received from the National Wild. Comm. since those mailings in connection with the March meeting at Organ Pipe. And those mailings were rather disorganized because of the confusion and delay in notifying them of the NCRCC delegate.

The most significant item to come out of the Organ Pipe meeting, aside from the resolutions, is probably the Thurman Trosper revision of the Harry Crandell document. During my trip to Washington I pieced together a picture that indicated great unhappiness within the Wilderness Society with the fact that the Harry Crandell ~~document~~ document had been copied in quantity and distributed rather widely within the Sierra Club. One of our former Directors, in particular, was more or less accused of gross indiscretion for having let this happen. And Harry Crandell himself seemed to take the whole affair rather personally.

The moral of all this is that, when I get the Thurman Trosper revision into your hands, you should take great care to keep a close rein on the distribution of it. The safest way would be not to copy it, but rather to farm out a loaner copy which is clearly marked "DO NOT COPY", "DRAFT", "PRELIMINARY", "EMITS DANGEROUS RADIATION IF PLACED IN COPYING MACHINE", etc.

Have you heard that there were about 1,400 statements submitted for the High Sierra Primitive Area (Monarch) public hearing? Now we are trying to find out what they said. The F.S. is so upset over the whole matter that they refuse to talk about it. You don't suppose that means

Sincerely,

George Whitmore

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

16 June 1973

John Konior

Dear John,

My suggestions and requests for items needing executive committee attention are as follows:

CONSERVATION:

- Westside Freeway--postmortem or prognosis? *B.F. Schreiner (letter from chapter?)*
- Rogers Crossing--report
  - plan for action
- HJR 444 (Sequoia N.P. hydro facility)-- report and action
- Wilderness Field Studies--report *(text of Kern Kowach resolution)*
- San Joaquin Wilderness--report
  - authorization for interim brochure *expenses funded outside chapter*
- Oil Sumps--report *Bob Mathis action*
- Summer Procedure (in cons. chmn's absence)

**STATE SCHOOL LANDS  
COUNTY TRAILS**

SECRETARY:

- Post Binders for Minutes--action finalized?

INTERNAL:

- Mailing Permit
- Consolidation of California Chapters--report
  - plan for action *take reprint relationship of chapters pertinent to the ch. westside freeway*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Report.

Items are not listed in any order of implied priority.

I realize that some of the conservation items may have been discussed at the conservation committee meeting this past week. In those cases, I would presume that only a brief report would be in order.

Thanks, and see you Wednesday.

George Whitmore

(I tried to phone Bill Tanner today--Saturday--and found that his phone has been disconnected. Do you have any idea how to reach him?)

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

22 June 1973

John Stiegler  
2685 Orchard Avenue  
Los Angeles  
California 90007

Dear John:

I guess you and Duncan will be submitting a report in due course, but in the meantime I am needing the maps for further trips we are trying to schedule.

New sheets you had were Patterson Mtn, Giant Forest, Tehipite Dome; a used sheet was Triple Divide Peak, and a partial sheet was Marion Peak.

I am particularly concerned about getting the Triple Divide Peak map back, as it was my personal copy and had a considerable amount of corrections and notations on it which I had made over the years. I have no other record of the information which is on that map.

It would help me in knowing how to plan further trips this summer if I could know what and how much you and Duncan learned. I realize that hardly anybody gets a kick out of writing reports, and that is why we don't really expect anything very lengthy. But we do need at least a collection of notes and comments; these do not have to be organized into any particular format, so long as it is clear what each comment refers to. Having your route drawn in on the topographic maps helps considerably in understanding the comments, and in helping us to plan where other people should go.

I am especially anxious to get your observations of the area from the Kings River up through Bear Wallow and on up to the Weisman Spring area, since it is unlikely that anybody else will want to go into that area this late in the season. We know that the road goes from Black Rock up to the ridge crest and then up Rogers Ridge (it shows on the Sierra National Forest map which I gave you). But what we are especially concerned about is the area which you walked through which lies west of the road. I don't know of anyone else, besides you and Duncan, who has been in that particular area; it would really help if you could tell us something about it.

And please try to get the maps back to us, especially my personal copy of the Triple Divide Peak sheet.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

*George*  
George W. Whitmore

P.O. Box 485  
Kingsburg  
California 93631

22 June 1973

Larry E. Moss

Dear Larry,

Re. "environmental ratings" for legislators, the League of Conservation Voters published a chart subsequent to that which gave the figures you were mentioning. The most recent chart of theirs which I have is based on fourteen 1971 votes and one 1970 vote. On a computation which results in a ranking system ranging from "1" to "405", Mathias is rated 341, Biz Johnson also 341, and Sisk 264.

The previous League chart was based on voting from about 1961 to 1970, and it is the one which contains the figures you were using.

Actually both charts leave much to be desired regarding the validity of their ratings, but the earlier chart is especially crude in this regard. Both charts acknowledge their shortcomings, at least in part.

One factor they do not mention is that a legislator can vote the "correct" way on issues outside his own area, but vote "wrong" on issues within his own district. The League has made no attempt to take this factor into account. (Sisk has quite a reputation for doing this; so does the Fresno Bee.)

It seems to me that how Sisk, Mathias, and Johnson stand on local issues within their own districts is far more critical to us than how they vote on national issues such as those on which the League bases its computations. Their vote on issues such as the SST or the Highway Trust Fund is only one out of 435--but on local Wilderness issues their vote is practically 100 per cent of that 435! And because their vote on the local issue is so critical, I feel it would be suicidal for us to seek a major confrontation. We would lose, to put it bluntly. The best we can hope for, in these districts at this time, is to score points through a gradual process of education. And this is what some of us have been working toward. We have scored some modest successes, and I feel we should stick with a winning game plan. If and when we stop showing any progress, then we can consider changing the tactics.

Incidentally, you may or may not have heard that the Fresno City Council voted unanimously to oppose the Rogers Crossing dam. And the Fresno County Water Advisory Committee more or less took no position--considering the people on that committee it was quite remarkable for them to remain relatively neutral. There has been some confusion re. status of Zenovich's SB 623; it apparently will not be going to Finance after all because it was amended in such a way as not to require a study. This means that it stands a much better chance. You might check with John Zierold on this. It was also amended to call for a moratorium, rather than inclusion in the Protected Waterways System; it apparently would have failed even in Natural Resources if it had not been so amended.

Sincerely, *George*

George W. Whitmore