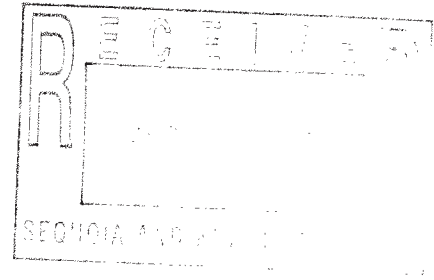


Steve Mangels



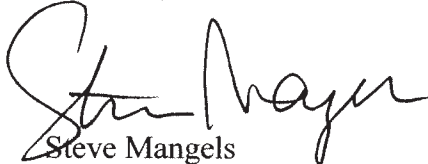
Karen Taylor-Goodrich
Superintendent
Wilderness Stewardship Plan Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway Three Rivers
California 93271

Dear Karen:

I am writing in response to the new Wilderness Plan for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. As a 23 year resident in the Sierras the Commercial Stock Outfits are my biggest gripe. The summers are short and trying to maximize the outdoors experience hiking and backpacking is quickly ruined once the passes are open enough for the pack animals. The urine, manure, flies and pulverized trails has become more than I can handle. I now find my wife and I hiking more cross country which does its own damage which we hate but have no choice.

I am not a purest or radical by any means. We have snowmobiles, mountain bikes, cross country and downhill skis. We even do a bit of four wheeling. We need to limit the pack string sizes and the damage the animals do along with too large of parties for the sites. I know we aren't yet to the point of eliminating the outfits completely. We see that the majority of the large parties do not understand the fragile environment and the packers are not going to act like sheriffs with paying customers. They also need to have more designated stock trails. I know that they generate needed money in these lean times but to have the outdoor experience of a small number of pack trip customers ruin the experience for the thousands of us on foot is not right. We also put money into the Forest Service through taxes. I would gladly give the money we now send the High Serra Hikers Association to you if we start seeing needed changes.

Sincerely,


Steve Mangels