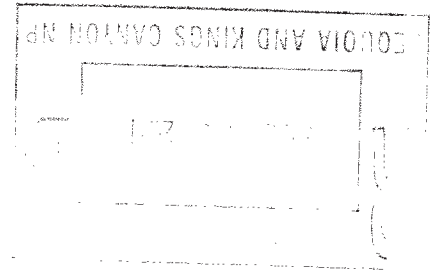


⌘ JEANNE OAKESHOTT ⌘



August 15, 2011

Dear Ms. Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent:

I am writing to comment on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and provide suggestions to improve the condition of the SEKI wilderness and the experience for the many users of this wonderful park.

While I have been backpacking in Sequoia-Kings since the 70's, I am not entirely against the use of stock animals by other travelers. I just feel strongly that their use shouldn't damage the resource or take away from the experience of hikers like myself. Here are my suggestions:

- If I have to get a Wilderness Permit according to the quota system, then people using stock outfits should go through the same process. I resent that if I paid for a trip I wouldn't have to worry about the permit.
- Enough with the horse manure on the trail! Why can't you require the stock animals to wear those things and carry out the manure? I have to camp away from water sources but they do their business right next to creeks and lakes. Disgusting!
- I know when I take the main trails in the park, I'm sure to come across evidence of stock. I go off trail to get away from them. Please outlaw letting people take their stock animals anywhere they want and leave some places for us die-hards.
- I've seen some really stomped-on meadows and think it would be a good idea to require the pack outfits to bring in food for their animals, rather than letting them graze wherever they choose.
- Every time I see a train of stock animals, I cannot BELIEVE that the National Park Service thinks that my dog does more damage or ruins other people's experience more than a string of 20 mules!!!! Have a certification process (the owner pays!) for those well-behaved dogs that don't chase animals, bark incessantly, or bite other hikers. The Delta Society and other therapy and service animal organizations have rigorous dog + handler tests that would permit people like me to enjoy the mountains with my canine friend while preserving the safety of park animals and visitors. Please contact me, Ms. Taylor-Goodrich, if you would like my support in researching this policy change.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my comments.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Oakeshott