

HOWARD J. WHITAKER

15 August 2011

Wilderness Stewardship Plan
Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

RE: Wilderness Stewardship Plan

I am being gradually driven away from enjoying SEKI, due to the number of stock animals allowed to graze, trample and pollute, SEKI's alpine meadows and lakeshores, as well as the same stock, depositing tons of manure on trails, while at the same time, tearing trails' surfaces to pieces, with their hooves.

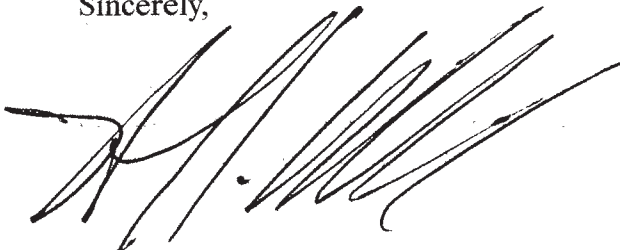
Why NPS has for so long, allowed this particular form of commercial interest, to so degrade SEKI, to the detriment of both the parks' environment and hikers, I can only ascribe to the timidity of NPS management, in the face of organized pressure from stock interests and their local political allies.

The time is now at hand (hopefully), for NPS to finally, institute and enforce, radical changes upon the use and presence of stock in SEKI, by both minimizing its presence and, by adopting stringent measures to reduce the impact of stock's presence; to do anything less at this juncture, is an abdication of NPS's responsibility to protect SEKI.

I'll not prolong this submission by listing the many measures which must be implemented to finally end the plague of degradation, which unlimited, unrestricted, unregulated, stock usage, is imposing upon SEKI, as a number of concerned organizations have provided yourselves with numerous, well-considered, recommendations, such as those advanced by High Sierra Hikers Association.

Please, at long last, impose upon the commercial stock interests, the sort of stringent, comprehensive, regulations, which will both cause a cessation of their awful damage to SEKI, as well as allow the majority of SEKI backcountry visitors, hikers such as me, to not be plagued by the mess and destruction, stock use is causing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Whitaker", written in a cursive style.