

August 19, 2011

VK 8/23/11

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

Dear Ms. Taylor-Goodrich:

I would like to comment on SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan based on my own decades of experience hiking in these parks, which I and many others consider the most spectacular parts of the Sierra Nevada.

Since there are many negative impacts associated with commercial packers, these services should not be given preferential treatment for wilderness permits and should only be allowed for people who physically cannot hike. I have been on many hikes and seen able-bodied people being transported into the wilderness along with extensive amounts of unnecessary gear. As a result, trails are covered with manure, bells interfere with natural sounds, weeds are introduced, water sources are polluted, and trails are degraded.

I would like to see foot-travel-only trails established so that hikers can escape these impacts. In addition, grazing should be strictly limited, commercial stock outfits should be required to pay fees to cover the costs of repairing the damage they cause, the number of stock animals per group should be reduced, and their animals should be required to wear "diapers." Finally, prevention measures should be required to deal with the threat of invasive weeds.

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Thank you for considering my suggestions and I hope that SEKI can remain the spectacular place I have visited since my childhood in the 1950's.

Sincerely,

*Mary Alice Pisani*

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