

Carol Broberg

August 27, 2011

Karen Taylor- Goodrich
Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Dear Karen;

As a long time (40+ years) hiker, backpacker and back country skier on the Sierras I was delighted to see I had the opportunity to comment on the SEKI's Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

In my enclosures you can see what some of my personal experiences have been. Primarily a person walking on a trail is a lot closer to the ground than a horse back rider and gets the full impact of horse damage.

The ground in the Sierras is so fragile and there is so little soil. Horses' hoofs act like plows and quickly make a trench. Then the rocks are scrapped off, then the horses go on to create another trench, all over! I have seen especially this year with the late start the trail after winter and some foot traffic becomes usable again, but it take only one pack train to ruin it again. Like Yosemite horse hoofs should be shod with big soft coverings to minis trail damage. Horses have to be limited to only necessary use, not bringing lazy luxurious guests in. Meadows are ruined by grazing horses and mules, turned into muddy messes.

There are only a few lesser known places one can hike without piles of hose manure, files and dust, there should be more, and could be if we could limit horse use to only a few trails and have some for hikers only. It would be welcomed by all foot traffic if one member of the pack team would be last with a shovel to toss the horse poop off the trail.

Packers should be limited just as hikers in the permitting system, even if it is a short season. No more letting them write their own permits.

Sincerely,

Carol Broberg