

25 August 11

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

Dear Superintendent Taylor-Goodrich:

Three of my friends and I are about to embark on my 40th annual back pack in the High Sierras, this year into the Big Pine Basin. (Two of the others have been enjoying the Sierras for over 60 years!) This year, we will base at Fifth Lake, and plan to overnite during our week up to Sam Mack Lake, hopefully with a hike up to Palisade Glacier, where we last visited in 1972. We are all over 70 years old, and are continually troubled that the High Sierra Hikers Association is advocating regulations that would not allow us to enjoy our precious Sierras any longer.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote the Director of the Sierra National Forest Headquarters in Clovis expressing our dismay at the position that is being promoted by the High Sierra Hikers Association. My three back packing friends and I are all FORMER members of that Association, but we terminated our support when we realized that, by limiting our use of the commercial Packers, we could no longer get up to the mountains we love so much. We do not believe the Wilderness should be available only to young elite athletes who seem to have no use for any Packers. We urge, therefore, that your review of the Backpack Management Plan and the Stock Use Plan will take the desires of us older "geezers" into account and NOT prevent our future use of Packers to get us up to where we used to be able to get on our own. Hopefully, this letter and enclosure will become a part of the public comment you are seeking, and that both will serve as strong statements that the Wilderness should be available even to those of us who no longer possess the physical strength to get there on our own.

We appreciate all that you and your outstanding staff members do to make the forests and wilderness so vital an American treasure. Thank You!!

Sincerely,