STEWARDS OF THE SEQUOIA

Division of CTUC non profit 501c3
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August 6, 2013

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, Director
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296
Alexandra.Stehl@parks.ca.gov

Re: (DPR) proposal to adopt the draft regulations for Wilderness Areas

Dear Major General Jackson,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your proposed regulations. Please consider our comments and include them in the record.

The proposal seeks to:

> *Clarifies that **permanent structures and installations are allowed in wilderness** and preserves where necessary for natural or cultural heritage protection.*

And to allow the Wilderness to be occupied-

> *(b) Upon making the Findings required in section 4351.2 (a), the Director may authorize officers, employees or agents of the Department of Parks and Recreation to **occupy** and use a particular state wilderness*

While the DPR states that it has-

> *….determined that the proposed regulations are consistent and compatible with existing state regulations.*

The proposed action is contrary to the intent of Wilderness lands as primeval.

Moreover this proposal would be in violation of the California Wilderness Act (Public Resources Code Section 5093.30-5093.40), which for example states the purpose of Wilderness lands is to not occupy or modify them and that Wilderness must be left in natural condition, which of course would preclude permanent or temporary structures. The proposal would also violate the act which states Wilderness cannot have permanent improvements or human habitation The proposed action would also violate the Act by harming the “wilderness character” by allowing structures and occupancy that are historically anathema in Wilderness. According to the act only semi improved

campgrounds are allowed, not structures.

> 5093.31. In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, **does not occupy** and **modify** all areas on state-owned lands within California, leaving no areas designated for preservation and protection in their **natural condition**, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of California to secure for present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.
>
> A wilderness area is further defined to mean an area of relatively undeveloped state-owned land which has retained its **primeval character** and influence or has been substantially restored to a near natural appearance, without **permanent improvements or human habitation,** other than semi-improved campgrounds and primitive latrines, and which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions
> (PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 5093.30-5093.40)

The proposed DPR regulation stated purpose is to provide consistency. Yet the proposed regulation would be counter to Federal Wilderness Lands as well as violating the California Wilderness Act.

Please remove the sections in the proposed regulation with respect to Wilderness Lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Horgan
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CC:
Senator Jean Fuller
Assemblymember Shanon Grove
Congressman Kevin McCarthy
Blue Ribbon Coalition