

October 14, 1963

Mr. Orville T. Freeman  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Freeman:

Please register our views on one aspect of extending  
Wilderness Areas in the Sierras of California:

We hold the opinion that it is good to preserve a wilder-  
ness area which already exists, but that it is foolish  
to create a wilderness by the destruction of personal  
property.

We are a philosophical group having a meeting place,  
a retreat building for summer discussions. This lodge  
is 2000 square feet in area, of natural stone and con-  
crete, with heavy beamed roof and fireplace. It is located  
some 3000 yards up the canyon bordering our 430-acre  
property in the Tuttle Creek section of Inyo County,  
near Lone Pine.

It took us twenty years, working in the summers with  
volunteer labor, to build this structure.

We have been told by local Rangers that if the Wilder-  
ness Area is extended far enough outward from the truly  
wild regions of the Sierras, we will be asked to destroy  
this building.

Having put the biggest part of our group's resources into  
this lodge and the acres near it, we could never bring  
ourselves to destroy it. We would be bound to resist,  
regardless of consequences.

May we ask, sir: Is it consistent to the purpose of the  
Wilderness Act that people such as ourselves, who were  
long ago granted the right by the Forest Service to build  
where we built, should now be required to destroy the very  
heart of their group activity?

Would it not be better to draw the boundaries around such  
a place, which is by no means in a remote area?

Hoping that our small voice may be heard in this large  
matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

(Dr.) Franklin Wolff  
for the Assembly of Man  
Box 559

Lone Pine, California