

# REPRINT

March 14, 2003

Fran Mainella, Director  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Mainella:

As you know, the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks were formerly within the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and now are included within the 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. You may also be aware that there are a large number of constituents within these to districts who are recreational pack and saddle stock users. These constituents have informed us about the history of the management plans for Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks that deal with the relocation of the Wolverton Pack Station.

We understand that the 1980 Development Concept Plan ("DCP") for the Giant Forest area provided for the relocation of the Wolverton Pack Station to the Group Camp Annex across the road from the Boy Scout Camp. It is our further understanding that the 1995 Draft Interim Management Plan/Environmental Assessment ("DIMP/EA"), while it proposed several alternatives to accommodate parking in the General Sherman Tree area, clearly states that the concessionaire-operated horse operation would continue under all of the alternatives. We also understand that the 1996 Interim Management Plan/Finding of No Significant Impact ("IMP") does not address the issue of the relocation of the Wolverton Pack Station at all. In other words, the issue is totally ignored in the 1996 IMP.

Considering the information described above, we understand why private stock users and others interested in horseback riding in the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks would be concerned about the decision in the Record of Decision dated May 26, 2002 to discontinue the Wolverton Pack Station. It is our understanding that the current Backcountry Management Plan ("BMP") has a provision which states that pack and saddle stock use in Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks are recognized as historic and traditional use. Consequently, it is consistent with that "historical and traditional use" to continue the Wolverton Pack Station operation.

As a result of the current situation, we respectfully request that you consider setting aside the decision to discontinue the operation of the Wolverton Pack Station pending a decision on the exact location of a new pack station to replace the one at Wolverton. When that decision is made, we look forward to working with you to obtain funding for the infrastructure needs to accommodate the new location of the Wolverton Pack Station.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

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**Devin Nunes**  
Member of Congress

**George Radanovich**  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks,  
Recreation and Public Lands  
House Committee on Resources