April 6, 1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House
Washington, D.C.

dear President Johnson:

I should like to bring to your attention the fact that the Sierra Club and Audubon Society have succeeded in protecting the last sixty condors - which exist in America - Now the Forest Service wishes to put a road through the Los Padres National Forest, California.

It would be wonderful

Herbert R. Gercks

copy:
Sec. of Agriculture
Sec. of the Interior
U.S. Forest Service
Regional Forester
Wilderness Society
if you would declare this area a California Condor National Monument.
Thank you for considering this.
Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) Margaret Wallace
April 7, 1964.

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson,
President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington D.C.

Dear President Johnson:

The Desomount Club, a group of three hundred fifty nature scientists, many of whom are professors in our Southland universities and colleges, or teachers in our local schools, urge you to declare the region in Los Padres National Forest set aside as a sanctuary for Condors, a California National Condor Monument.

The preservation of this threatened species, the Condor, is a matter of international concern. Only sixty of these huge vultures, which once ranged the continent, are left.

For over a decade strict limitations of activity in the area have been maintained under the combined auspices of the Forest Service and the Audubon Society. The nesting birds, sitting on only ten eggs laid during the year, are very nervous when even distant intrusions are made in the area.

The Forest Service's contemplated road through the region would constitute a fatal blow to their survival. The noise and fumes from the traffic that would ensue from this road connecting two major arteries would further destroy their habitat.

The road, planned for fire protection of the region, would, according to the Forest Service's own maps, only increase the fire hazard as most fires occur along roads. This territory has been free of fires for the last forty years. The road would be a threat to the forest itself.

Declaring this Condor Sanctuary a California Condor National Monument is a step toward preserving an irreplaceable resource, the Condor. You can do it.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Evelyn Gayman
Conservation Chairman for
DESOMOUNT CLUB
24 April 1964

Mr. Stewart Udall
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

You may be aware that a road is being built through the back country in Los Padres National Forest here in California.

Do you know that this road would endanger the existence of the very few surviving condors?

PLEASE -- do what you can to insure that this species is not allowed to disappear because of man's interference with their way of life!

Do you think that President Johnson might be induced to declare this area a California Condor National Monument?

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Evelyn J. Watson

2322 Ramona Drive
Santa Ana, California
MAY 8 - 1964

Mrs. Evelyn Gayman
Conservation Chairman
Descanso Club
4529 Abbey Place
Los Angeles, California 90019

Dear Mrs. Gayman:

Your letter of April 7 to President Johnson has been referred to the National Park Service for consideration and reply. We note that members of the Descanso Club recommend that a portion of the Los Padres National Forest in southern California be set aside as a California Condor National Monument.

We are fully aware of the great interest in this magnificent bird and its fight for survival in the United States. We also know that the Forest Service is fully cognizant of this problem and is in cooperation with the National Audubon Society, has established sanctuary areas for the condor. Apparently, there is some disagreement as to the possible effects of the proposed road improvements on the welfare of the condors. In addition, we understand that the Audubon Society is planning to make a thorough study of conditions affecting the condor population this summer. As further understood that the road and any other development plans of the Forest Service in the general area inhabited by the condors will be held in abeyance pending the results of the study.

The authority of the National Park Service to make studies for possible additions to the National Park System excludes national forest lands. The request or consent of the Secretary of Agriculture would be needed in order to initiate a study of the area suggested for national monument purposes. However, the Forest Service has demonstrated an awareness and concern for the survival of the California Condor. We believe their continued cooperative efforts with the Audubon Society will resolve
TO: the condor situation. A copy of your letter is being sent to Mr. Edward P. Cliff, Chief of the Forest Service, to inform him of the interest of the members of the Deschutes Club in protecting the California Condor.

Promptly, correspondence should be answered or other necessary action taken within 48 hours after receipt. If any delay is encountered, please telephone office of the undersigned.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by
Theodor R. Swem
Assistant Director

cc: Mr. Arthur C. Ferry w/c inc.
Assistant to the President

D. The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Edward P. Cliff w/c inc.
Chief, Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Regional Director, Western w/c inc.
Mr. Lowell Sumner w/c inc.
CNP

Similar letters to:
Mrs. James Wallace
P.O. Box 2021-D
Pasadena, California 91105

Mr. Herbert R. Gercke
Death Valley, California 92328

Mr. Dirck Holscher
Hidden Hollow, R. R. 2
Batavia, Ohio

Return the original correspondence to this office. Yes 

JWHowell:CGFredine:ml
4/30/64
The Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  

My dear Mr. Secretary:

We, the undersigned urgently request that the Sespe  
Wildlife Area within Los Padres National Forest, north of Los Angeles, the  
home of the California Condor, be placed under Federal protection, and de-  
clared a National Park immediately to prevent the certain extinction of the  
California Condor, which has been reduced by man to less than forty birds.

Sincerely,

Joseph B. Frank - 31 Irving St - Boston, Mass. 02114
Thomas B. Frank - 15 Lee St - Cambridge, Mass. 02139
Helen L. Thayer - 130办公 St - Dorchester, Mass. 02124
Josephine T. Johnson
Gladys C. Catlin
Margaret M. Haley
Harley C. Smith

Arizona - 31 Irving St - Boston, Mass. 02114
Thomas B. Frank - 15 Lee St - Cambridge, Mass. 02139
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Gladys C. Catlin
Margaret M. Haley
Harley C. Smith
The Speaker's Rooms  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

September 28, 1965

George B. Hartzog, Director  
National Park Service  
Room 3104 Interior Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

I enclose the within petition which I have received from Mr. Joseph McMahon of 31 Irving Street, Boston, Massachusetts, which is signed by him and a number of others in relation to the Sespe Wildlife Area within the Los Padres National Forest, north of Los Angeles, the home of the California Condor.

You will note that these people ask that this area be placed under federal protection and declared a national park.

I shall appreciate it very much if you will seriously consider the within petition which I am respectfully forwarding to you and your associates for your consideration and attention. Will you kindly advise me of a reply which I may send to the signers of the petition.

I shall also appreciate it if you will make a copy of this petition and return the original to me.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Encl.
Mr. Joseph P. McMahon
31 Irving St. Apt. #1
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear Mr. McMahon:

This is in response to the petitions which you recently sent to the President and to the Secretary of the Interior. You and the other petitioners expressed concern for the California condor and you requested that the Sespe Wildlife Area in California be declared a National Park in order to place the home of the condors under Federal protection. Your petitions were referred to this Bureau because the California condor is of special concern to us.

The Sespe Wildlife Area, which is the principal nesting site of the condors, is already in Federal ownership. This 53,000-acre wildlife area is within the Los Padres National Forest and is operated by the U.S. Forest Service as a refuge for the condor. The Forest Service management program for the condor limits human activity on the area and some portions are closed to human entry. In order to further enhance conditions for the condors, the Forest Service plans to acquire those few hundred acres of land within the boundary of the Sespe Wildlife Area which still remain in private ownership.

As you probably know, the Secretary of the Interior is supporting legislation which would authorize this Department to take a position of leadership in a program to enhance the chances for survival of a large number of wildlife species which are faced with extinction in the United States. The California condor is one of these rare and endangered species. If Congress acts favorably upon this proposed legislation, it will enable us to undertake a more active program for the preservation of the species.

This Bureau has already developed a management and research plan for the California condor which will provide us with more facts on its status and life history. This plan will be implemented in the near future, using special funds appropriated to the Department during the present Congress.

It appears that the designation of the Sespe Wildlife Area as a national park would be of no particular advantage in preserving the condor since the area is already managed as a refuge and the proposed legislation, if passed, will provide authority to carry out an expanded program to improve conditions for this and other endangered wildlife. Furthermore,
any such proposal would require a joint investigation of the area by agencies of the Department of Agriculture and Interior to determine what, if any, nationally significant values were present to meet the criteria for designation as a National Park. There are no current plans to undertake such a study.

We appreciate the efforts of you and the other petitioners in behalf of this interesting bird. With public support such as you have shown here, we are encouraged that it will be possible to perpetuate the condor as a living part of America's native fauna.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) ABRAM V. TUNISON

Director

cc:
Directorate Reading File
Assistant Director - Cooperative Services
Regional Director, Portland, Oregon w/c inc
Bureau of Reclamation w/c inc
Division of Wildlife Research
Endangered Species w/c inc
National Park Service

RES: IMBerner: VMEarbar: Benson: je 9/30/65
Rewritten: Per: Dr. Erickson: je 9/30/65
Hon. John W. McCormick  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on your recent letter written in behalf of Mr. Joseph McMahon who forwarded a petition to your office urging the Sespe Wildlife Refuge be declared a national park.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has replied to Mr. McMahon in response to similar petitions forwarded to the President and to the Secretary of the Interior. Mr. McMahon was advised that the 53,000 acre wildlife area is already in Federal ownership and is administered by the U. S. Forest Service as a refuge for the condor. The Forest Service management program for the area limits human activity so as to further enhance conditions for the condor, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is implementing a research program that will provide additional information to assist in the preservation of this endangered species.

It appears that the designation of the Sespe Wildlife Refuge as a national park would be of no particular advantage in preserving the condor since the area is already managed as a refuge and efforts are being made by the responsible Federal agencies to insure their preservation.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) THEODOR R. SWEM  
Assistant Director

Enclosure

cc:  
Regional Director, Western  
SFI  
CNP  
FM Benson: f j w: nr 10-13-65