

3551 Tolt Av.
La Jolla, Calif.

27 July 1961

Thompson
x Syem

Aug 2 3 41 PM '61
Dear Mr. Udall

Our family is very staunchly conservation-minded. For years I have written pleas in the form of letters to the Dept. of Interior and to the National Parks administration for various projects. So your aims for more land to be set aside for preservation is close to my heart. I read with great interest the article in Newsweek maga-

zine about your interests along those lines. May I add to that list another area that we think could well be in our public lands or kept in it. I know each conservationist has his pet project. But anything with the grandeur and fascination of the Northeastern Mojave Desert deserves some attention. We have so little desert area in National Parks and so much talk about irrigating it to make it grow alfalfa, etc., that I am sure we will all be sorry if the most beautiful is

not saved. This area I have in mind is in the country near Shoshone California. It could be taken in as part of a larger project extending from Death Valley. The rugged desert hills and peaks, sand dunes, (even a stream flows through the valley-like area close to the dunes) are features of this lovely land. At sunset it is a marvel. We took an altimeter to the top of the dunes and found them to be 550 feet above the plain.

We think we discovered these

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dunes and hills and hope that no one else finds them if thereby they are marred with trash, jeep trails and so forth. Highway 127 runs through the area. Four times we have gone up from San Diego just to photograph and climb the dunes. Of course I know they were mapped out and seen long before we came across them, but we are almost guarding them from the public. Graded dirt roads through a desert preserve would ^{be} ideal. Asphalt is

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To

very inappropriate. years ago
Death Valley had dirt side roads
and I hope still does.

I have written too long a letter.
my enthusiasm runs away with
me. Thank you

I remain

Yours Sincerely

(ms.)

Florence G. Goodman

Sydney 8-22
Jensen 8/22

L58-RPS

August 21, 1961

Mrs. Florence A. Goodman
5651 Taft Avenue
La Jolla, California

Dear Mrs. Goodman:

Secretary Udall has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your thoughtful letter of July 27, concerning the need for additional parks and recommending the Northeastern Mojave Desert near Shoshone, California, for that purpose.

As part of President Kennedy's and the Secretary's program to plan and provide for this country's long range public park and recreation area needs, the National Park Service is actively studying the nation's outdoor recreation resources for the purpose of identifying those areas which are of such a quality to warrant their protection in public ownership, whether it be national, state, or local levels. One aim of these efforts is to round out the National Park System through the selection and preservation of areas of exceptional scenic, scientific and historic significance so that it will eventually embrace the broad outlines of our outdoor heritage and of man's career on this continent.

Many factors enter into the consideration of a proposal for establishing a new National Park or Monument. Among the most important of these factors are that the area in question represent a nationally significant type--scenically, scientifically, or historically--and that it be an exceptional and suitable example of that type.

We are sending a copy of your letter to our Regional Office in San Francisco, which is responsible for these studies in California and other of the Western States, for their further consideration. If they have not already investigated the area of your interest, this will call it to their attention.

Again, thank you for informing us of this area.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

William L. Bowen, Chief
Branch of National Park
System Planning

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2) w/c inc.
NPS Planning w/c inc.
SYoung:pac