

# EXHIBIT 15

*Letter of C. Record, Calif. Desert Advisory Comm.  
to R. McDonald, Inyo County Supervisor (Nov. 7, 1978) (from Inyo County files)*

November 7, 1978

Richard B. McDonald  
Supervisor, Fifth District  
County of Inyo  
P. O. Box 737  
Lone Pine, California 93545

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 1978 regarding the last meeting of the Desert Advisory Committee.

I have discussed your concerns with Mr. Pfulb the Desert Planning Director, and based on that discussion I submit the following response to your concerns.

In your first paragraph you seem to indicate that you interpreted the work that BLM has done to inventory wilderness characteristics as some form of final recommendation and this of course is not the case. The maps which have been prepared and responded to by the public do represent the Bureau's best evaluation of the characteristics that do now exist that reflect wilderness qualities. The Wilderness Act is very specific as to the nature of the qualities they must investigate and they have had extensive public input during their inventory period. Nevertheless, I recognize that reasonable minds may differ on the interpretation of wilderness qualities because in many cases it is a subjective evaluation. The law does require however that BLM make a determination and map the areas that they feel now contain wilderness characteristics. It should be very clear however, that what has been done so far is not a recommendation on the part of BLM, that the areas identified as having wilderness characteristics are recommended for wilderness designation. Before arriving at a recommendation, BLM will be studying potential wilderness opportunities along with the many other opportunities and competing demands during the planning process which will begin next Spring and extend throughout the Summer of 1979. At the conclusion of this study and planning period, a draft plan for the entire California desert will be prepared containing recommendations not only for wilderness, but for many other uses. This draft plan will be published and circulated for public review and comment approximately January 1980. After receiving public input, BLM will then reevaluate the draft plan and make a final recommendation on wilderness which will be one component or element of the comprehensive plan for the California desert which will be submitted to the Secretary of Interior in October 1980.

As you can see, there should be ample opportunity for you and the Board of Supervisors in Inyo County to develop your own recommendations and to submit those recommendations to the Advisory Committee and to BLM. I know that Neil Pfulb's staff has been in touch with the planning staff in Inyo County to establish direct liaison between the professional staffs in your county and their own. It is my recommendation that this relationship should be encouraged and expanded upon.

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Inyo Production

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Refer: Letters  
the Superv. Plans  
date: 11-8-78 BY

Richard

Inyo

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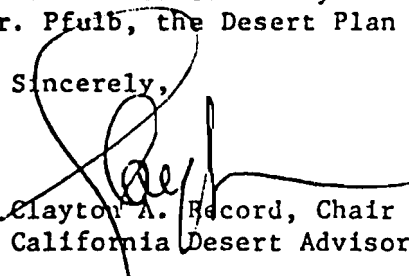
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I believe if there is a constructive and positive staff relationship in which the DPS staff and Inyo Planning staff are working together, and that the citizen's committee in turn is working closely with your staff, such a relationship would produce the most positive and practical results. I assume that the products and recommendations produced by your citizen's advisory committee would be presented to the Board of Supervisors who in turn would review and decide what recommendations were to be passed on to BLM and the Desert Advisory Committee.

By now you may have already received a packet of information which was sent out October 31, 1978 by BLM which includes the draft wilderness inventory maps and narratives and has been sent to each member of the Board of Supervisors with an extra copy to the Chairman for the record. In addition, copies were sent to Inyo County Planning Department and Commission. Information has been included which shows that public hearings will be held in Lone Pine on December 14, 1978 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in Town Hall at Bush and Jackson Streets. It should be emphasized that these hearings are intended to provide opportunity for the public and county spokesmen to officially comment again on the "wilderness inventory" and there will be in the future during calendar year 1979 other additional opportunities for public and county comment and recommendations concerning areas to be recommended for wilderness designation as part of the comprehensive plan.

As the local government representative on the Committee, I recognize there may be some differences in the manner which each county may wish to proceed in coordinating their planning with BLM. However, my comments and suggestions reflect how I expect these procedures to unfold in Riverside County and possibly some of the other counties. If I can be of assistance at any time, please feel free to contact me directly or through Mr. Pfulb, the Desert Plan Director.

Sincerely,

  
Clayton A. Record, Chair  
California Desert Advisory Committee

cc: Neil B. Pfulb  
Desert Plan Director