

Appendix 2 – Kennedy Meadows Electronic Form Letter

The following is the Kennedy Meadows form letter that was sent electronically via email.

I am concerned about the fate of Kennedy Meadows. I enjoy my visits as they exist now. If I had a choice, I would choose to not have any changes at all.

First, I feel that it is ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL that the Kennedy Meadows planning unit should be LOCALLY managed. The resort operations are a Tuolumne County heritage, and placing a Federal or State agency in charge of the land would move control away from the people who go there to faceless lawyers and politicians who “know best” and are difficult to communicate with. Some of the potential measures for the Kennedy Meadows planning unit could impose too much burden on a local organization. Please work with local committees and modify the potential measures so that they would be sustainable for them. I also feel a local organization should not be “tied” to too many of these potential measures. There should be some procedure in place to modify a measure if it proves to be detrimental, or to add one if something was overlooked. Perhaps a local council with voting rights.

I would also like to comment on some of the existing potential measures:

Sustainable Forestry:

I feel that logging should be limited to salvage logging or fuel management logging.

Open Space:

Open space is what makes Kennedy Meadows beautiful, but what makes it popular is the convenience of it. It is important that they be able to appropriately expand the facilities if necessary. This subject should be fully discussed before a permanent easement is applied.

Historic Values:

This section should EXPLICITLY provide for protecting the cultural heritage and tradition of the Pack Station and the ability for generation of families to continue in the same traditions that their great grandparents did. If this protection is not provided for, my grandchildren may learn about the early 20th century in a museum instead of experiencing it themselves. An added incentive for protecting the pack operations at Kennedy Meadows is that it is situated next to a section of forest that will NEVER be intruded upon by modernizations.

Outdoor Recreation:

If there is a youth program it should explicitly identify educating our youth about 19th and 20th century history including:

emigrants who traversed the land,
agricultural history with the sheep and cattle grazing
the building of Relief Reservoir

Solar panels are defiantly nice and quiet, but would that not take away from the historic feel and also require a huge amount of toxic batteries?

The parking is already public use for lots of day users that don't have a 2 hour limit. This would be a measure that I think is just unnecessary.

Fish, Plant, and Wildlife Habitat:

No one hates animals, but much of this looks expensive, and I am worried that it could force this land into a Federal Agency who has the resources to complete these studies but has regulations that would restrict Kennedy Meadows to continue providing good customer service. I also wonder how much some of these studies are really needed, because the animals named in the planning unit document have been living in Kennedy Meadows since it was opened.

Agricultural Uses:

Cattle grazing is a tradition and a heritage, and additionally, Kennedy Meadows it is a twice year event for visitors to see a real cattle drives. There is not full time grazing in the upper meadow. Horses and cattle grazing in the wild is a part of the Kennedy Meadows history and for the people who are there during those times it is an attraction.

In conclusion, the Stanislaus National Forest is over 855,000 acres! Contained in it are TWO wilderness areas. There are lots of people who think that Kennedy Meadows should be MORE pristine. To those people I say visit one of those 855,000 acres of National Forest. Kennedy Meadows' popularity demonstrates that there are a LOT of people who think that Kennedy Meadows is already practicing a good balance between convenience, accessibility, tradition, and preservation. They have their 855,000 acres, we want our 255.

Thank you for your time.