

Date: 11/11/97
Sender: songdog@infowest.com (Phillip Bimstein)
To: Don Falvey
Priority: Normal
Subject: Sound in Nat'l Parks

Don -

I thought you'd like to see this note:

Phillip,

For the first time in my life, I was able to visit some of the national parks out west this summer, namely, Rocky Mountain in Colorado and Arches in Utah. In addition, I climbed to the top of Tom, Dick and Harry ridge near Mt. Hood on a beautiful, cloudy afternoon.

While I do not have a flashy quote for you to carry to the hearings, I can send my strong support in your effort to restrict flights over the parks. I live in Chicago presently, and have otherwise lived in cities for the entirety of my life. For the first time this summer, I experienced the silent majesty of nature at its extreme in the America's national parks. I realized how for all of my life, I have been followed by cars, trains, airplanes, etc. and have not even noticed that there is still such a thing as almost total silence (except for the comforting noise of the wind and nature that surrounded me) until I sat on top of a mountain, viewing the rolling clouds in each direction, and thinking how thankful I was that in my lifetime I was able to experience peace in this silence. It is my true belief that this experience has changed me as a human being by showing me that life is not just a din of random noises, but rather, that because humans cannot sit still long enough to enjoy what surrounds them so they build and forget what our connection to nature really is.

The national parks remain to be one of the last protected zones that I know of where silence is precious and the environment is kept sacred by limiting traffic by ground. It only makes sense to me that the same government that protects things this way would be able to see the value in protecting the majesty of silence in the air as well.

Good luck, and keep fighting the good fight.

Sincerely,

Dennis Huston