Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/26/2021 9:27:01 PM
First name: robert SP
Last name: Parker
Organization: sierra mountain center
Title: owner
Comments: I wish to comment upon the Cottonwood Creek and Upper Owens River Wild and Scenic Management Plans.
1) Cottonwood Creek. I disagree with the assessment that the USFS managed section of this area does not have any outstanding recreational values. SMC has used this area for decades for starting a White Mountain Crest hike. The upper sections of Cottonwood Creek though Granite Meadow and on towards Tres Plumas and Mcafee Meadows area have great value to us and the guests we take there for scenery, solitude and remoteness. Our use has been recorded by the USFS permit administrators. There are some wonderful campsites near the creek and walking the creek is a delight. It can be done as an overnight or as a day trip from the gate to Barcroft to Crooked Creek.
2) additional mammal species in this area include bobcat, puma, fox, ringtail and kit fox.
3) Owens Headwaters. The draft peripherally mentions backcountry skiing. Glass Creek and the White Wing area are used extensively by us in the winters for day tours and for basecamps. There are more than three permitted outfitter guides operating in this area and again this data is available within the USFS.
4) The CRMP Scoping letter makes not that user capacities will be established. There is no data on this in the draft. Currently use is not enough to require issuance of wilderness permits. I suggest rather than mandating user limits right now the USFS retain the ability to do so in the future if necessary. However as a guide to the public if there are limits imposed upon the guided public there also must be limits upon the non-guided.
Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment.
SP Parker