



January 17, 1983

(208) 885-7911

Ms. Jackie Day  
Program Officer  
Association for the Humanities in Idaho  
1409 West Washington Street  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Ms. Day:

I am please to attach herewith the grant proposal for a project on Humanist Values of Wilderness in Idaho and the Northwest, submitted in behalf of the Wilderness Research Center of the University of Idaho.

I appreciate deeply the advice provided by you personally via telephone and letter in the preparation of this proposal. I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Marvin Henberg's constructive counsel and critique.

It is fitting, and perhaps overdue, that a facility such as the Wilderness Research Center should address its attention to matters of philosophy, aesthetics and history implicit in natural resources. Among technical disciplines, designs for management have a long taken precedence and priority, although Aldo Leopold long ago based his own approach to wildlife and forestry on studies of Eastern literature and philosophy, which thus led to his conceptualization of classified wilderness in America. And, in due course, his own written words have become part of our literature and culture.

This doubtless accounts at least in part for the enthusiastic support expressed by our humanist participants. I personally contacted and outlined the project to all of them. And all were unhesitant in praise of the proposal. Dr. Stegner, I should note in frankness, indicated a possible conflict, but nevertheless stated, "I will be there if I can." The others gave what may be called firm commitment pending confirmation of dates. I will forward their vitae as a separate attachment shortly.

Our project is oriented strongly toward grass-roots Idaho. The oral history interviews are intended to evoke valuable cultural expressions from diverse types of residents whose lives and lifestyles have been influenced by the wilderness characteristics of the natural environment. We have set forth in the proposal key "core questions" to be utilized in the interviews, but these questions are to serve as starters for broad discussion and exploration ideas with the interviewees.

The preparation of this proposal has been a thoroughly beneficial exercise in itself, a thoughtful collaboration among colleagues, with illumination upon significant channels of humanism in wilderness which we are eager to pursue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Frome".

Michael Frome  
Visiting Associate Professor

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