Mike

October 30, 1978

Dr. Donald Field
NPS Coop. Park Studies Unit
College of Forest Resources AR-10
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Dear Dr. Field:

I would like to provide you with additional information related to our wilderness bibliography project.

One of my grad students, Michael Hollmann, is preparing a wilderness bibliography as his masters project. Mike comes well prepared for this job since he has a degree in library science. Mike started the project under Dr. John Schomaker about a year ago. I took over this summer when Dr. Schomaker went to work for the Forest Service.

The primary purposes of our project are to compile a comprehensive bibliography on wilderness management and to acquire one or more copies of all relevant publications. The scope of the bibliography is very broad and we plan to cover every major aspect of wilderness and wilderness management. The intended target group includes researchers, managers, college students in natural resources, and others who have a professional interest in wilderness. A few popular publications will be included, primarily to provide historical perspective. Mike has conducted extensive literature searching and acquisition. We are still in the process of identifying and acquiring relevant publications.

Would you send us a copy of any wilderness publications your office has published? If copies are out of print, would you send us a reference?

One of the critical aspects of our project is the development of a controlled vocabulary or thesaurus of descriptors. We are enclosing two copies. All subject headings used to index publications will be drawn from the thesaurus. We would appreciate your comments and/or those of other professionals familiar with wilderness.

We feel that our project has potential in the development of a data base and that our objectives may overlap with those of the Renewable Resources Technical Information System (RRTIS). From a financial standpoint, it would be logical for us to compile our bibliography and develop a computerized data base at the same time.

The options we perceive in terms of the final product are:

1. Prepare a printed bibliography with key word descriptors but without annotations. We are committed to producing this product.

2. Number 1 above, plus have the data in a format as input for the RRTIS computer programs. At the least this would mean using the FIREBASE format and filling out RRTIS input forms (Form FB/RRTIS-2, 11/76) or some other appropriate format. At the most it would mean punching IBM cards and/or preparing a magnetic tape. How far we would go would depend upon the compatibility of the university and U.S. Government computers.

3. Numbers 1 and/or 2 above, plus write annotations or digests for each citation. Due to the great number of publications involved and our limited budget, we currently cannot provide annotations.

4. Numbers 1, and/or 2, and/or 3 above, but update on a periodic basis. Associated with this should be the capability of document delivery to those who need loan or retention copies of documents.

Our involvement in computerizing the bibliography depends on the interest and support of the agencies involved in wilderness management - the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. Without technical and financial assistance, it will be impossible for us to go beyond a printed bibliography. We would appreciate some feedback from you concerning these various alternatives. If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 885-7911.

Best regards,

Joseph E. Hoffman
Associate Professor

JEH:dds

Encl.