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Lutterin:

MAR 30 1962

Hollywood 38 Calif  
March 6<sup>th</sup> 1962The Hon. President of USA  
J. F. Kennedy, Pres. USA

My Dear Sir:

I just received a new Orleans Times Picayune of March 2<sup>nd</sup> and notice where you are urging a Big 8-year Land Purchase Plan for recreational facility financing. Which I think is a fine thing to do. I would like to ask you if I could get your opinion in regard to Federal Land in San Bernardino County Calif. I have a 20 year term lease on a 40<sup>ac</sup> site at Big Bear Lake, Calif. I am paying 70<sup>00</sup> per year for the lease but own a 3000<sup>sq</sup> cabin on it and I have to pay the County 50<sup>00</sup> per year for taxes on the cabin & land - which seems to me not to be fair (to pay on a leased property)

This is not all of our troubles.  
 The Mutual Big Bear Lake water  
 against land all around the lake  
 over 20 years ago, and built a dam  
 to furnish water to Redlands City  
 for the use of irrigation. They  
 leased most of the land they got from the  
 Govt and turned around and drained  
 the lake <sup>away</sup> dry - these people 60,000 in the  
 Big Bear Valley who get their recreation  
 up there. Thousands go there to fish but  
 they had to drain the lake just your  
 normal height at the dam (that is the overflow)  
 is 70 feet deep. - at this height the lake  
 is 7 1/2 mile long and one mile wide  
 now after all the rain we have had since Jan 1st  
 36 inches. the lake only has 3 feet at the dam and  
 you can't get on the Highway crossing dam  
 and out the end just 2 mile to the end.  
 This being a forest reserve. I am sure  
 the Govt could protect the Home

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 owners and hundreds of men who  
 have invested their life savings in  
 boat landings, boats and other businesses.  
 Can't something be done to  
 keep this water kept to at least a 50 or  
 60 foot level. So that these 60.000  
 Citizens in the Big Bear Valley that  
 moved up there - built their homes  
 & retired and others for week end pleasures  
 get something of their good efforts in  
 building the valley. (Big Bear Lake) San Bernardino  
 The Big Bear Natural Water Co as I said  
 before after selling or leasing the property  
 around the lake. Drain the lake  
 to get water out from under these  
 Citizens. Can't they be forced to  
 put in pumps to keep the water  
 level up. This is one Reserve that  
 would pay the Gov't to step in and take  
 over this lake and give these people  
 what they should have.

①

I understand the water Co had  
a 20 year lease on Dam with  
Red Birds I furnish water for Orange  
Gross Irrigation but this lease ran  
out 2 or 3 years ago.

The file has risen about 10 feet since  
these heavy rains & snow but I noticed  
in the paper that the water Co. was  
accused of letting water out of the  
dam every day. It seems to me  
they are trying to discourage the  
property owners up there & they will  
dred out for a benjo. All of this  
property I understand used to belong to  
the Govt and was a Forest Reserve. If  
this is the case - how did the water Co get  
a lease of 20 years of this land?

Please advise me if there is  
anything that can be done in making  
this a real National Park.

Sincerely - Edmund B. Spencer

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B56-RNP

MAY 7 1962

Mr. Edmund B. Spencer  
6245 Banner Avenue  
Hollywood 38, California

Dear Mr. Spencer:

A copy of your letter to the President concerning Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County, California, has been referred to us by Special Assistant to the President Ralph A. Dungan's acknowledgment of April 18.

Since Big Bear Lake is within the San Bernardino National Forest under the administration of the United States Forest Service, we believe that you will want to get in touch with that agency regarding the leasing and water distribution problems. The Forest Supervisor located in the city of San Bernardino is quite familiar with the immediate area and would undoubtedly be pleased to discuss these matters with you.

We appreciate your interest in suggesting the Big Bear Lake area as a National Park possibility. Actually, the Department of the Interior is not in the position to undertake studies of lands under the jurisdiction of another Department to determine their park and recreation potential without the concurrence of the administering agency. With such concurrence, we would be happy to cooperate with the Forest Service in studying and evaluating the Big Bear Lake area.

Sincerely yours,

**SIGNED**

William L. Bowen  
Acting Assistant Director

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2) w/c inc.  
Park Planning w/c inc.

J. J. [unclear]