

August 20, 1965

Dear Sir,

I am Gary Arveson and I am thirteen years old. I lived in Yakima for nine years and I have been through the Yakima River's canyon between Yakima and Ellensburg many times. Because I collect rocks, and the rocks in this canyon are so very interesting and beautiful, I wish that it could be preserved in some way. Recently I learned that the highway going through there may be changed in some way or rerouted, so I think that the canyon should be made into a federal park of some sort to preserve it.

Sincerely

Gary Arveson
12448 N. E. 72nd St.
Kirkland, Washington
98033

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

Oct 18 8 47 AM '65

Western Region
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
L58 San Francisco, California, 94102

October 14, 1965

Hon. Warren G. Magnuson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Magnuson: ^{Interior}

Your August 24 inquiry in behalf of Gary Arveson of Kirkland, Washington concerning conservation of natural values in Yakima Canyon has been forwarded to us for reply. His letter is returned herewith in accordance with your request.

Proposed highway reconstruction through Yakima Canyon would involve realignment and widening of existing U. S. Highway 97 to four-lane Interstate Highway standards as part of Interstate Highway 82. The project includes a proposal to rechannel about 17 miles of the Yakima River within the canyon. An alternative alignment back from the canyon rim is being considered but is opposed by commercial trucking interests and bus companies because of the additional travel time which would be required.

The Seattle Office of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is conducting a study of the two routes in cooperation with the Washington State Parks Commission and the State Highway Department. The resulting recommendations will be presented to the Bureau of Public Roads.

Natural values present in the Yakima Canyon, while doubtless of considerable local interest, are not believed to be of national significance and therefore are not being considered for inclusion in the National Park System.

In view of the current Bureau of Outdoor Recreation study on this matter we are forwarding copies of this letter, your reference slip and Gary Arveson's letter to the Bureau's Seattle office for their information and any additional appropriate data which they may wish to provide to you.

Duplicate cc:
Portland w/incoming ltr
Director w/incoming ltr
BOR, Seattle, w/incoming ltr

Sincerely yours,
(SGN) EDWARD A. HUMMEL
Edward A. Hummel

Enclosure