



Sierra Club

Great Lakes Chapter

P. O. Box 22
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July 13, 1978

Dr. David Kenney
Director
Illinois Department of Conservation
605 Wm. G. Stratton Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Dave:

Thank you for giving me the feed-back in your recent two letters. Part of the richness of democracy is our freedom to exchange ideas and even criticisms. I hope that we can continue to share viewpoints towards the accomplishment of positive goals.

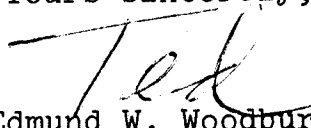
You and Governor Thompson are to be highly praised for the Middle Fork, the acquisition of vitally needed land in northeastern Illinois and elsewhere. (And for stopping game hunting in Beaver Dam State Park.) But so much more needs to be done. The Governor and you should vigorously publicize and emphasize how far we are behind. In his position as the state's chief executive and leader, Governor Thompson should energetically make speeches about our lack of state parklands, conservation areas, and natural areas. I feel that he should enthusiastically give conservation a much higher priority than he is now doing--principally by seeking new sources of conservation revenue and by persuasively impressing upon the public the urgency of the matter.

Game hunting in State Parks and timber cutting programs in State Parks and conservation areas are inappropriate activities for the DOC to sanction. Most people would agree with that, I believe. I concur with you, Dave, that the thrust of attention, efforts, and funds by conservationists should be placed towards furthering programs of aggressive, active DOC land acquisition. But the Department of Conservation should stop the environmentally compromising position of ever and ever more intensive multiple use which impairs or destroys preservation, ecological, aesthetic, and park values.

It is one problem to have painfully little in the way of protected and preserved parks and natural areas. But it is an even greater loss to damage or impair or destroy what precious little that we have already set aside.

Thank you very much, Dave, for publicly endorsing the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (H.R. 10255/S. 1140).

Yours sincerely,


Edmund W. Woodbury
Chairman