

which represents a secret plan by the ACF for the proposed national park in the Victorian high country. The document is nothing of the sort!

The foundation has dozens of policy statements on aspects of conservation and, before these are determined in a final form by the ACF Council, members and interested persons are given the opportunity to comment on the draft.

In this case, a notice was placed in the ACF June 1985 newsletter stating that a draft policy on national parks management was available from ACF and that comments were welcome. Presumably, this is how the document "happened to fall" into B. Master's "hands". Naturally, it was not stamped "confidential", as claimed by B. Masters but I suppose it was felt necessary to make this claim to give the impression of secrecy.

Your correspondent also claims that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, under extreme pressure from the conservation movement, had removed huts which might have helped Mr Crean who was lost in the Charelottes Pass area of Kosciusko National Park.

This is yet another furphy. The Director of the Parks Service, Mr Whitehouse, has said the question of the removal of huts was invalid. Mr Whitehouse said: "In the area where Mr Crean was presumed lost, there are several huts in close proximity — Seamans, Illawong, and the Albina emergency shelter". What a pity that anti-national park people are prepared to exploit personal tragedy for the sake of their distorted propaganda.

It's a pity also that such energy could not be put into honest debate about the protection of our heritage.
(Dr) J. G. Mosley, Director, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Alpine critic astray

SIR — The letter by B. Master (Express 20/8) is yet another example of how low opponents of the Alpine National Park are prepared to stoop in their efforts to stop the legislation from being passed by Parliament.

B. Master claims that he has obtained a document

SIR — Several days ago a document happened to fall into my hands. It was headed "Australian Conservation Foundation, Policy Draft, National Park Management," and was stamped "Confidential".

It appears the ACF is not showing its full hand in the battle over whether the high country should become a large national park. The ACF is planning some pretty dramatic moves if the national park is to proceed.

The document states: "National park authorities should encourage appropriate usage of national parks and prohibit inappropriate activities. Existing inappropriate uses should be terminated or phased out. In cases of reasonable doubt, such as fishing, beekeeping and horseriding, an environmental impact assessment should be carried out

Park for all ... with exceptions



before deciding." This is one of the oldest excuses in the book.

The document continues: "Appropriate national park recreation obviously excludes activities such as shooting, resource extraction, loud entertainment and, in particular, the use of motorised vehicles. Motorboating is similarly inappropriate in waterways enclosed by or adjacent to national parks."

Have all you fishermen, shooters, beekeepers, horseriders, four wheel drive enthusiasts and boat-

ing enthusiasts started to worry yet?

The document continues: "Existing refuge huts are a source of great controversy; retention on grounds of historical value seems reasonable; otherwise, there are good grounds for removal, an important one being they tend to encourage dependence rather than self-reliance and, therefore, have their dangerous side. They are also landscape intrusions, from which National Parks are supposed to be essentially free."

I'm sure Mr Crean, who was missing in the Charelottes Pass area of the Kosciusko National Park, would have appreciated the safety of a hut had they not been removed from that area approximately a year ago by the National Parks Service under extreme pres-

sure from the conservation movement.

The document continues: "Horseriding should generally not be permitted in national parks but where it is in fact permitted, should be confined to modified or rural areas and public roads and excluded from tracks in natural areas. The rights of the motoring public should not exceed those of the walking public where there is competition for access to park features. Walkers must have priority in national parks."

Mind boggling isn't it? In other words, national parks are for everyone to use, except fishermen, shooters, beekeepers, horseriders, motorcyclists, dog lovers, four wheel drivers, boaters, handicapped people, aged people, miners and music lovers, according to the Australian Conservation Foundation.

I strongly urge all people concerned by these proposals to lobby their local MP and the Minister Joan Kirner NOW before the decision on the proposed national park is passed in the spring session of Parliament.

Incidentally, it was revealed on July 24 during an Administration Appeals Tribunal hearing through the Freedom of Information Act that "little or no" costings had been done before the plans for the proposed park were announced last August. The decision by the Cain Government to go ahead with the large Alpine park was therefore obviously an unresearched pre-election promise made under pressure from the excesses of radical conservationists.

Don't say you weren't warned.

B. Master

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