

EPW 520/125

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DEC 31 1960

Dr. Walter Orr Roberts
Director, National Center for
Atmospheric Research
Boulder, Colorado

Dear Dr. Roberts:

I have written to Governor McNichols expressing appreciation for the valuable assistance of the people of Colorado in securing a site for the National Center for Atmospheric Research. We anticipate that this new national laboratory will make great contributions to the sciences of the atmosphere in coming years, and are pleased with the prospect of the excellent location being negotiated at Boulder.

You have called my attention to the matter of preserving in its natural state for public use an area inside the western portion of the site. I am referring specifically to the part of the site which is contiguous to the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the site and which is bounded approximately on the east by the summit of the ridge that runs immediately west of the Table Mountain mesa.

As you have pointed out, this area will not be used for the development of buildings and other facilities of the Center, although its acquisition is essential to protect the Center from possible encroachments. In addition, this area is characterized by micrometeorological and ecological conditions of enduring scientific interest which should be protected. For these reasons, it is the firm intention of the National Science Foundation to leave the area in question in its undeveloped natural state. An exception may be the installation of a water storage tank in the natural area to obtain sufficient elevation for the Center's water supply.

I see no reason why public access to the Mesa Trail need be restricted. You may assure the interested persons in the Boulder area that we recognize the importance of

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this nature trail and natural area, and nothing in our plans would interfere with present or future uses as an area open to the public.

All of us recognize, of course, that war or other national emergency could require us to alter these assurances. I do not anticipate, however, that they will be modified in any lesser circumstances.

In behalf of the National Science Foundation and myself, would you please convey our appreciation to the people of Boulder and others who have demonstrated their interest in the National Center for Atmospheric Research. The strong support and cooperation which is being given by the State of Colorado and particularly the community of Boulder will do much to assure the success of the Center as a scientific institution.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Alan T. Waterman

Alan T. Waterman
Director

Copy to:

Dr. Henry G. Houghton