

Wilson
Box 46
Folder 3
Parks and Forests: Cleveland National Forest
1956-1959

A collection of letters, statements, office notes, postal cards, a death certificate, telegrams, pamphlets, a court brief & news clippings. These are not filed in chronological order. **Examples are:** a copy of a letter (1/18/57) from Congressman Wilson to San Diego constituent C.W. Van Osdale re/ "I am enclosing the Forest Service pamphlet on the Inaja Forest Fire Disaster;" two copies of U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, *The Inaja Forest Fire Disaster Cleveland National Forest . California*, January 1957 (6 pages each); a letter (2/20/57) from Wilson to the Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress – "Enclosed is a reproduction of the contract entered into between the Forest Service . . . and the Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego, California. The contract relates to the utilization of honor camp inmates in the fighting of forest fires" – the Inaja fire resulted in the death of honor camp inmates -- 2 copies of letters & these reproductions (8/56); a letter (3/27/57) from the Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress in response to Wilson's letter – "This case presents a number of legal problems. . . .;" letters (2/11 & 2/20/57) re/ Wilson replies to Tom A. Williams (Commonwealth Attorney, Callao, Virginia re/ "the claim of Mr. and Mrs. Fallin for the loss of their son, William D. Fallin, in a forest fire in the Cleveland National Forest;" letters (1/10 & 1/18/57) from Wilson and T. M. Heggland (Chief Admin. Officer, County of San Diego) re/ the deaths of honor camp inmates in the Inaja Fire & insurance compensation; a letter (2/12/57) from Richard E. McArdle (Chief, U.S. Forestry Service) to Wilson re/ copies of the cooperative agreement between the San Diego County and the U.S. Forest Service; a letter (12/21/56) from Wilson to Mrs. Lonnie Shepard & attached thank you "In Remembrance" card from Mrs. Shepard re/ assistance as to the loss of Lonnie Shepard in the Inaja Fire; letters (3/19 & 4/1/57) re/ Attorney Williams (Callao, Virginia) and those he represents in the Inaja Fire deaths; letters (1/8 & 1/10/57) & attached death certificate for William B. Fallin re/ Wilson's reminder to Mr. & Mrs Fallin that "There is a jurisdictional dispute between the Federal Government, the County of San Diego, and the State of California as to who has responsibility for the payment of burial expenses;" **other materials in this folder are:** information on liability from the U.S. Comptroller General (4/15/57, 3/11/57 & 2/21/57); letters (12/56) re/ burial expenses for William Fallin; a letter (3/27/57) from the American Law Div., Library of Congress on "Liability . . . Inaja Forest Fire Disaster, 1956;" a letter (3/11/57) from Edward F. Terrar, Jr. (Wilson's Admin. Asst.) to San Diego Attorney John S. Rhoades re/ the Inaja Fire, Rhoades has a claim for an inmate; a copy of *Supreme Court of the United States Nos. 45 and 47. – October Term, 1956* (7 pages) re/ "losses which they allege were caused by employees of the United States in allowing a forest fire to be started on Government land and in failing to act with due care to put this fire out" – remanded to the District Court; a news clipping (5/1/57) re/ "\$875,000 Sought In Inaja Fire Deaths" by "Relatives of four of 11 men burned to death last November . . . against the U.S. government;" letters (1/10 & 1/18/57) re/ County Chief Administrator Heggland responds to Wilson as to Employees Compensation not covering the honor camp deaths; letters (4/15 & 4/18/57) re/ Wilson's Admin. Asst. E. F. Terrar, Jr sends opinion from Comptroller General as to contract liability to Attorney Tom Williams & John Rhoades (President, Young Republicans of San Diego County;

letters (Mar.- June 1958) re/ settlement of claim for a death in the Inaja Fire; letters & office notes (1956-1958) re/ Inaja Fire, sympathy from Wilson & list of the victims of the fire; letters (Sept. 1958) & list of Compromise Settlement (7/17/58) re/ response to Attorney John S. Rhoades query "with reference to the payment of claims for damages resulting from the Inaja Forest fire;" news clipping *San Diego Union* (3/2/58) re/ "Inaja Fire Victims Kin Get \$77,500;" statement & letter (Mar.-May 1959) re/ "Statement By Citizens' Forestry Study Groups of San Diego County" and commentary; telegrams & letters (4/59) re/ Senate hearings, testimony & support for funds for the Cleveland National Forest; List of Senators on Appropriations Subcommittee & copies of letters (5/22/59) Congressman Wilson sent to these Senators; letters (6/59) re/ Mission Soil Conservation District (Fallbrook, CA) urges increased appropriations for Forest Fire Control for Southern California; letters (6/24 & 7/9/57) re/ San Diego Attorneys Howard Dattan & John Rhoades "have filed a law suit in Federal District Court on behalf of Mrs. Irene Wehrung and her children, the surviving heirs of Leroy Wehrung, who was killed in the Cleveland National Forest forest fire;" stapled packet of letters & other items (July-Dec. 1959) re/ responses to San Diego County Cattlemen's Association complaints about government costs, tour of Cleveland National Forest and inadequate fire suppression.