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Letter from C[harles] S. Sargent to John Muir, 1897 Feb 2.

Charles Sprague Sargent

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Jamaica Plain, Mass., February 2, 1897.

My dear Muir:

I have your note of the 25th this morning but I am afraid it is too late to make any changes in the name of the proposed California Reserve. I am going to Washington Thursday to see if I can get it established, but even that is doubtful.

I see that there is a strong probability of a California man being Secretary of the Interior. Of course the attitude of the Secretary of the Interior to the forestry question and to our Commission will mean a great deal. If he is really interested in the matter probably a great deal can be accomplished during the next four years. If he is hostile or indifferent, probably nothing will come of our report. There is certainly no harm in my telling you that we are going to urge upon Congress, provided there is an extra session this spring, to pass a bill authorizing the Secretary of War to guard the Reserves with troops. This we are going to put in as an independent motion in the hope of getting some protection for them this summer, as our general forest scheme will not be available for some time if ever. Now if the Secretary of the Interior could come east with sound ideas as to the importance of the Reserves and of taking care of them, and of the general magnitude and importance of the whole forest question, he would perhaps be in a recipient frame of mind and at least willing to

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listen to what I shall have to say to him. When it is known that California is ready to furnish the Secretary of the Interior, can't you either directly or through other influences get him instructed on these points? I am writing to Mr. Alvord, the President of the Bank of California, on this subject and it might be well for you to confer with him about it.

I now have to devote most of my time to this forestry business this being my third visit to Washington this winter, and so The Silva is not getting on as fast as I wish it was; still I am not without hope of seeing the volume of Pines completed before our trip to Alaska

Faithfully yours,

C. S. Sargent.

John Muir, Esq.
Martinez, Cal.

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