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1897-02-25

Letter from W[aldemar] Lindgren to George C. Perkins, 1897 Feb 25.

Waldemar Lindgren

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-DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-

-UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-

WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb. 25, 1897.

Hon. George C. Perkins,

U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

In a letter of December 18th. 1896, Prof. David S. Jordan of the Stanford University, requested me to call upon you and consult about the matter of the forest reservation of the high Sierras. The Sierra Club and many other people in California had asked him to take the matter before the Forestry Commission and before Secretary Francis. Prof. Jordan wrote to me because my official duties as a geologist have made me familiar with that special section of California to which he refers. At the meeting of the Forestry Commission last January, I appeared before them upon their request and explained the economic value of the areas which it was proposed to reserve.

The Commission did not agree with Prof. Jordan as to the areas which should be placed in the reservation, and only reserved a strip of land embracing both sides of the summit of the Sierra Nevada extending from the northern line of the Yosemite National Park for 35 miles northward. The distance from the northern line of the newest reservation to the southern end of Lake Tahoe is about 35 miles. The objection of the Commission to extend the reservation further northward was that the range in the vicinity of Lake Tahoe is comparatively largely taken up by cattlemen and sheepmen which go to their accustomed ranges every year. Further, that the reservation of this area would have no practical value as the forests for a considerable distance south of the railroad has been taken up, and that, moreover, the old sections belong to the railroad. Lastly, the forest in the high mountains of this vicinity is very scant, and has little economic value. I proposed two smaller reservations at the head waters of the American and of the Cosmunes rivers, but the Commission did not find it practicable to add these small areas to the other sections reserved.

Very respectfully,

(signed) W. Lindgren.

U. S. Geologist.

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