



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1897-03-09

Letter from Arnold Hague to John Muir, 1897 Mar 9.

Arnold Hague

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 9, 1897.

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, California.

Dear Mr. Muir:-

The editor of Harper's Weekly told me he would write and ask you to prepare an article for the Weekly on the forest reservations. I hope you will see your way clear to do this. I suppose you have the necessary material with you to prepare a popular article on the subject. It is very necessary that the people be educated in this matter as to the importance of forest reservations.

You are doubtless already aware that the President promulgated thirteen proclamations setting aside over 21,000,000 acres of forest lands. This has created a great howl from the Northwest, and the last days of Congress every effort was made to break them down, the Senate going so far as to vote to annul all the proclamations. Today the forest reserves stand where they did after promulgation, but there is no doubt that the fight will be renewed as soon as Congress meets or the new administration gets to work. In the name of the poor settlers much pressure will be brought to bear to throw these forests open to the great syndicates, who as you know have been cutting timber off government lands for many years.

In the amendment to the Sundry Civil bill annulling these reserves, the California Senators would not permit California to

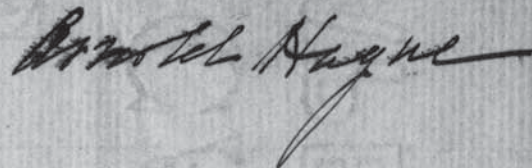
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be included, consequently The Stanislaus and San Jacinto reserves stand. I understand that both Senators White and Perkins are in favor of these reserves, as are most of the intelligent people of California who have no selfish interests in the matter.

During the legislative fight Sargent, Brewer, Abbott, and Pinchot were here.

I send you a copy of the report which the Commission made to the Secretary of the Interior Francis. Through one of the newspaper clipping bureaus of New York I have had sent to me a large number of the comments in regard to these forest reservations and it is astonishing what a large proportion strongly endorse the action of the President and the Commission.

Very truly yours,



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