



1903-07-07

Letter from Alden Sampson to John Muir, 1903 Jul 7.

Alden Sampson

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ALDEN SAMPSON,
GAME PRESERVE EXPERT.
BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Visalia,

7 July, 1903

Dear Mr. Merriam:

I am sending you a copy
of my report on Game Refuges, revised.
I want you to see what I have said
about the bears, p. 19. I thought of you
when I wrote it, and many times
before and since. When I have seen
the long pistillate flowers of the pines,
little long, tiny, squinted, beaks, mothers
of pines. When I have thought of you.
And now as I am entering the
Sierras, more than ever I wish that
you were there. All of your wisdom
of the woods I crave as my own.
My interest in the people of the
forest, the deer and squirrels and
bears, ever increases. My first
act when I have the house, shall
be to keep the hunters away from
the two or three remaining grizzlies. If
they create this summer, I will save them.

I have finished my reconnaissance
South of Teahachis; should I give so
long a time to all of the Reserves,
my tour would take five years, but
the Southern California hills are of
enormous interest, and as a matter
of fact I could not get about in the
Sierras before this time of the year.

As it is I doubt if I shall have
time to visit the high Sierras. I
much desire to see them when
you are there, therein lies half
their charm. I shall have a look
at the Half Dome on which I
lost the ropes, which had fallen
down, in 1880. I send you a
picture, as exact a reproduction
as one could wish of how that
looked. (This ^{is the general appearance of} happens here in
Switzerland). With all good wishes
for your happiness & safe return. I am
Very sincerely yours Allen Lawson