



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1906-04-09

Letter from Geo[rge] W. Stewart to John Muir, 1906 Apr 9.

George W. Stewart

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Recommended Citation

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GEO. W. STEWART, PRESIDENT.
MRS. ANNA MILLSJOHNSTON,
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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT.
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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
GEO. D. SMITH,
RECORDING SECRETARY.
S. L. N. ELLIS, TREASURER.

MT. WHITNEY CLUB



Objects of the Club:

To aid in making Mount Whitney—the crown of the Sierras—and the adjacent Mountain region better known to the world; to stimulate a love for our mountains and their majestic scenery.

Visalia, Cal., April 9, 1906.

Mr. Joan Muir,
Martinez, Cal.,

My dear Mr. Muir:

As you are aware all of the meadows, and most of the lands with large Sequoias, in and near the Giant Forest are in private ownership. For some time I have been engaged in securing options for the sale of these lands to the Government. I have options for all the lands in the Giant Forest, for most of the land in the vicinity, and for much of it on the Mineral King road, further south in the Sequoia National Park. The price for the lands in the Giant Forest is \$30 per acre, and for lands in the neighborhood \$10 to \$15. These are the most important and most desirable for Government ownership. The prices for the timbered lands on the Mineral King road, which is a public road, run from \$25 to \$50 per acre.

S. C. Smith, member of Congress from this (the 8th) district, has introduced a bill in Congress appropriating \$90,000 for the purchase of these private lands. When the matter came up three years ago, there was no one in Washington to go before the Committees who had ever seen any of these lands. At present there are several there, and they will lend their assistance.

It is not proposed to get the endorsements of societies of all kinds all over the Union, but we would like the endorsement of a few men who are known and who know these lands.

If you would write to Mr. Smith a letter, addressing it to him at the House of Representatives at Washington, we who are

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trying to have Congress take favorable action during the present session will appreciate your assistance. Such a step is necessary to insure the preservation of the big trees there. Now all depends on the views of the Secretary of the Interior. The present Secretary will not permit any of the trees to be harmed, but we don't know what some future Secretary will permit people to do with their own lands there.

All of the meadows, the larger portion of the big trees, and nearly all of the best camping places, are in private ownership. The owners have been paying taxes on these lands without deriving any benefit from them for the last fifteen years, and the Government ought, in all justice, to buy them.

A few lines to the President would also be of assistance, as it would help the measure in Congress to know that he is interested in it.

Anything that you care to do in the matter will be entirely satisfactory.

With regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Geo. W. Stewart