



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1906-12-28

Letter from Frank Bond to John Muir, 1906 Dec 28.

Frank Bond

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 28, 1906.

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, California.

My dear Mr. Muir:

Senator Flint, of California, has sent me a copy of your letter of September 12, 1906, addressed to Mr. John J. Byrne, Los Angeles, California, in which you briefly report your examination of certain petrified forest remains in Arizona, lying to the north of the Petrified Forest National Monument, proclaimed by the President December 8, 1906, and containing ~~60,776~~ acres, of which a copy is herewith inclosed as well as a copy of the Act of June 8, 1906, under which this and other monuments have already been created. Senator Flint has also sent me your pencil sketch, showing approximate area, direction and distance from Adamana station, S. Fe. Railway, of the various petrified forest remains visited by you, and I think it certain that those named as "1st," "2nd," "3rd" and "Blue Forests" are covered by the proclamation. It is of the others, therefore, and particularly those north of the Railroad, that I wish to get, if possible, more definite information. In preparing the drafts of proclamations and the maps which are made a part of them, it is extremely desirable that the requirements of the second paragraph of the Act which restricts areas of monuments, be kept in mind, and this I have done heretofore and desire to continue. I have no doubt that your

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view as to the desirability of reserving the new forests is correct, and I think the proper way to handle them would be to ask the President to sign a proclamation adding them to the present Monument; but I am in doubt as to the necessity of reserving three and a half townships, or 80,640 acres, to accomplish this end, as is shown upon a blue-print map of the A. T. & S. F. R'y Co. filed by Senator Flint. I would be greatly obliged to you for more definite information as to these forests, particularly as to their separate locations, and the least area of land actually necessary to protect them. It is not deemed necessary that each tract reserved shall be within the limits of one large reserved tract; small lots, even though some miles distant from the main body, may be made a part of any Monument. I have therefore in mind an addition to the Petrified Forest National Monument which shall consist of the three or four small and separated tracts noted by you, and which shall contain in the aggregate but a fraction of the large area noted on the Railroad blue print.

This blue print is entitled "Drawing No. 115-7434, Map showing Location of Petrified Forests, etc., Apache Co., Arizona. Los Angeles, Cal., H. C. Phillips, Chief Engr., Nov. 30, 1906, etc." If you procure a copy of it, perhaps you will be able to locate the least area by sections that will be necessary to reserve, and I will be greatly obliged for any assistance you may be able to give me. You will no doubt remember me when I recall the fact that Major Chittenden, Mr.

Marshall and myself spent a few very pleasant hours with you at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, as members of the Yosemite Park Commission, a little over two years ago. I am now, in addition to my regular duties as chief of the Drafting Division, this office, charged with all matters relating to National Monuments, of which I have prepared four proclamations and have several more in anticipation.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank Bond

In charge of National Monuments,
General Land Office.