



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1910-12-05

Letter from John Muir et al. to [William H. Taft.], 1910 Dec 5.

John Muir

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Hetch Hetchy

San Francisco, Dec. 5, 1910.

To the President,
The Secretary of the Interior, and
The Secretary of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:-

We have just been informed that certain unique features of the Sierra Nevada, possessing great scientific significance, as well as remarkable scenic beauty, are in danger of being destroyed. These are commonly known as the 'Devil's Post Pile' and 'Rainbow Falls', situated in the Sierra Forest Reserve on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River and within a few miles of its source. An application for a reservoir site for power purposes is now pending before the local officials having jurisdiction, and we are informed will be acted on in a few days. The use of such a reservoir site will result in the flooding of and obliteration of the Devil's Post Pile and the possible use of the Rainbow Falls. These features were originally included within the boundaries of the Yosemite National Park, but were unfortunately excluded when the area of the Park was diminished in 1905.

We feel that before any such permit be granted, the situation should be carefully examined to ascertain just how serious this damage will be, and we urge the protection of these wonderful features by the establishment of a National Monument so that they may remain objects of scientific and scenic interest.

Photographs of these features are enclosed herewith.

Very respectfully,

John Muir,
A. G. Noyes,
J. N. Le Conte,
Wm. E. Colby,
Wm. F. Bade,
F. C. Franklin,
W. C. Morgan,
E. T. Parsons,
Willoughby Rodman.

Board of Directors of
the SIERRA CLUB,

Per

Secretary.

06308

*Had expected you down
before this. Do you
approve of foregoing.
Plan to stay with
me all night before
you go South - as I
have important matters
to discuss. Keith is improving
I think. Sincerely Colby*