DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PROPOSED PARKS NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-51
Part 1.

PROPOSED PARKS

AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL PARK

CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS

LAST DATE ON TOP

..........................
Excels "Garden of the Gods."

In describing this wonderland Dean G. M. Butler, of the College of Mines and Engineering of the University of Arizona, says:

"Yes, Bonita canyon is undoubtedly more wonderful than the Garden of the Gods."

These few words of this geologist expert, always reserved in awarding undue praise to any phenomenon, are ample verifications of the merit of the Wonderland of Rocks.

Extending in some directions for three miles the Wonderland of Rocks is the result of a peculiar type of erosion, says Dean Butler. Caused originally by the cracking of the rock formation in two directions, the erosion proceeded with entrance of water, perhaps freezing and spreading the small cracks until the erosion began to progress to the remarkable state it has now attained, he relates. The rock creed is shown by maps of the university to be volcanic in nature and of rhyolite formation.

The Wonderland of Rocks is situated in Bonita Canyon, 31 miles southeast of Willcox, and 62 miles northeast of Douglas and is reached from Tucson by way of the former and its tributaries, the width of which rocks found along the channel. From either place it is easily accessible by automobile, a road running through the Sulphur Springs valley, past the Eldorado school to the Paraway ranch.

A vast area of massive pillars extending skyward, in places so close as to nearly touch, in others at a short distance, characterizes the formation, a veritable forest of stone pillars. Unique formation and balancing rocks are common. The latter of these pillars are reported by university geologists to exceed upward for a height of easily 100 feet.

Canyon Rocks.

"In the days of the Indian camp, a homesteader located in Bonita canyon, gathered a small herd of cattle, planted an orchard and built his home," relates Lillian Riggs of the Paraway ranch, situated in the mouth of the canyon.

"Bonita canyon rocks two miles from the mouth. The left-hand fork here has been familiar to all the surrounding country and was known to be of peculiar beauty and grandeur. Visitors commonly exclaimed upon the scenic sights."

Those who loved the canyon searched out the more inaccessible spots and found places of rugged cedarme hide which ordinary moutn-tains shrink into insignificance. The forest service maintained a trail through the canyon, connecting the San Simon valley on the east with the Sulphur Springs valley on the west.

"Fantastic reports began to be heard of the marvelous rocks which existed in the right-hand canyon. This section was nearly inaccessible to the average person, due to the dense undergrowth and the rocky bed of the stream, where no horse could travel.

"Nearly two years ago Ed Riggs wounded a deer in the right-hand branch of Bonita canyon. The following day he went in search of it. The deer he never found, but he discovered a primordial wilderness far more beautiful and amazing than anything he had ever heard of at that time."

Giant Play.

"It was as if the children of the giants had amused themselves with modeling in stone."

"Two mighty camels, kneeling on a rocky parapet, far removed from their native sands, a giant mushroom, a hammer which might have belonged to Thor stands upright, a huge top standing on end and giving the impression of motion and the mighty chubik before which Cheepea's needle dwindles to a trivial thing. All these he found."

"A gigantic stone Maryford bull, an image of Buddha silhouetted against the sky, a mounted cannon covering a gorge below, a sailor with his queer cap at a rakish angle, strolling with his sweetheart through the eastern gray gray gravestones, were also disclosed to his astonished eye. Across the canyon three orphan brothers lean together for support and look stolidly off across the distant valley."

"Farther away, a vast mountain alone, Old Cochise lies in peace, his face upturned to the skies and his slumber serene. On another hill the shooting clambers cluster and await their leader's call."

"Marveling at the strange beauty it was determined to name the Wonderland of Rocks more accessible. A trail was gradually cleared."

"Today those who wish may easily ride there in an hour from the Paraway ranch, where before hours of toil were required."

This odd formation, where the rocks stand upright like fingers pointing to the sky, each separate from its fellows is found almost exclusively in Bonita canyon and its tributaries, the width covering about three miles. Some sections of this area have even yet been explored little or not at all. C. J. Barlow, geologist of the University of Arizona, is among those who have explored this strange phenomenon.

Sugar Loaf Peak rises almost in the center of this region and is a conspicuous landmark in the Sulphur Springs valley.

(From Douglas Daily Dispatch, July 2, 1923)
Hon. Warren G. Harding,  
President of the U. S. A.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a pamphlet showing views in a district near by which this post of the American Legion is desirous of having created and designated a national park to be named the American Legion Memorial National Park.

Those who have visited this district are very enthusiastic about its distinctive characteristics and that it should be designated as a national park.

A description written by Dean G. M. Butler, of the University of Arizona, very closely describes its peculiar formations.

In behalf of the American Legion I trust that it will be possible for you to have this district set aside as a national memorial park.

Yours very truly,

Chairman, American Legion Park Committee.

Jul 20, 1923.

Douglas, Arizona
Dear Sir:

I am enclosing for your information a booklet together with a description by Dean G. M. Butler, of the College of Mines and Engineering of the University of Arizona, with reference to a district of peculiar formation and consisting of many square miles of huge pillars from 50 to 200 feet high.

Your particular attention is invited to picture 4 showing the mountain known in this district as “Cochise Head”, which was named for the famous Indian Chieftain.

The vice president of the El Paso and Southwestern System deems this district of sufficient importance to instruct the general passenger agent, Mr. John D. Mason, to have motion pictures made of the district and it will be nationally advertised by the line in the near future.

I have been appointed by the Fred Hilburn Post of the American Legion to the chairmanship of the national park committee, with a view of having this area designated as a national park to be named the American Legion Memorial National Park.

I would thank you in behalf of the American Legion to take this under advisement and if possible have it created into a national memorial park. One view or journey through the park is sufficient to realize that it has sufficient distinctive characteristics and that it should be so designated.

Yours very truly,

Chairman, American Legion Park Committee.
I am enclosing for your information a pamphlet showing views a short distance from Douglas of a district in the Chiricahua mountains which this post of the American Legion is endeavoring to have designated and created the American Legion Memorial National Park.

One has but to visit this district to realize its distinctive characteristics and the importance of its designation as a national park.

I would thank you if possible to have this district designated and created into a national park to be named the American Legion Memorial National Park and if there is any further information or assistance desired please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Yours very truly,

Chairman, American Legion Park Comm.
Views of the Proposed
American Legion Memorial National Park
In the
Chiricahua Mountains
Near
Douglas, Arizona.
Great columns of red rock rising several hundred feet above the canyon floor. Each column an individual structure.
View about one half mile across canyon showing a very small part of the pinnacles. These are brilliantly colored with yellow lichen.
View of another section of the canyon taken about one mile away showing relative height of pinnacles and the canyon wall which is about eight hundred feet at this point.
Read. Note the outline of the mountain shown on the map.

View the area on the mountain known as 'Coastal'.

Reproduced from the Unclassified Declassified Holdings of the National Archives.
Close up view of the columns showing height above trees at their base.
One of the many balanced rocks. This is about sixty feet high and is perfect in form from any angle.
Hon. Hubert Work,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding you herewith a self-explanatory communication from the American Legion at Douglas, Arizona, by which you will note they are very desirous of having set aside an area in the Chiricahua Mountains as a national park and having it named The American Legion Memorial National Park. Heretofore there have been petitions from civic organizations of that section requesting that this area be set aside for this purpose. I do not know how Senator Cameron feels in respect to this but an expression from you in his absence would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Secretary.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON  
JUL 30 1923

Mr. E. F. Beamer,  
Chairman, American Legion Park Committee,  
Fred Milburn Post, Number 11,  
Douglas, Arizona.

My dear Mr. Beamuker,

I have your letter of July 20, recommending that a certain area covering many square miles of huge pillars, caused by natural erosion, near the city of Douglas, be created a National Park.

From the information you give it would seem that this area would not be acceptable for development as a National Park, but would fall more particularly in the category of National Monuments, which are areas of scientific or historic interest, set aside because of these qualifications for the use and enjoyment of the people by Presidential proclamation. Only areas on public domain can be so set apart.

I am turning your letter over to the National Park Service of this Department, having control of the National Parks and Monuments, with instructions that that Bureau study the question of the availability and status of this area, so that the matter may be thoroughly considered.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) E. C. FINNEY,

Acting Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

AUG - 1 1923

Mr. E. R. Summerson,
Chairman, American Legion Park Committee,
Fred Hillburn Post, Number 11,
Douglas, Arizona.

My dear Mr. Summerson:

This is merely an acknowledgment of your letter of July 20 to President Harding, which was referred to this Department for reply. By this time you have my letter of July 30 in regard to the proposal of the Fred Hillburn Post of the American Legion for the creation of the American Legion Memorial National Park near Douglas, which was in reply to your letter of July 20 addressed to the Secretary of the Interior. As I promised, the matter has been turned over to the National Park Service for thorough consideration.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) E. C. FINNEY.
Acting Secretary.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON
AUG. 1, 1923

Mr. E. W. Campbell,
Secretary to Senator Cameron,
United States Senate.

By dear Mr. Campbell:

The Department has your letter of July 27 transmitting a communica-
tion from the American Legion at Douglas, Arizona, urging the estab-
lishment of a national park in the Chiricahua Mountains to be known as
the American Legion Memorial National Park. The following letter was
sent the American Legion on July 30 in reply to a similar letter ad-
ressed to the Department by them:

I have your letter of July 20 recommending that a certain area
covering many square miles of huge pillars, caused by natural erosion,
near the city of Douglas, be created a national park.

From the information you give it would seem that this area would
not be acceptable for development as a national park, but would fall
more particularly in the category of national monuments, which are
areas of scientific or historic interest, set aside because of these
qualifications for the use and enjoyment of the people by presiden-
tial proclamation. Only areas on the public domain can be so set
apart.

I am turning your letter over to the National Park Service of
this Department, having control of the national parks and monuments,
with instructions that that Service study the question of the avail-
ability and status of this area, so that the matter may be thoroughly
considered.

Sincerely yours,

E. C. Finney.

Acting Secretary.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RECEIVED
AUG 2 1923
MAILS AND FILES
DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
Ron. Stephen T. Mather, Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

I have received the enclosed communication from Mr. E.R. Raumaker, Chairman, American Legion Park Committee, whose address is care Fred Hilburn Post No.11, Douglas, Arizona, together with pamphlet showing views a short distance from Douglas of a district in the Chiricahua mountains which the American Legion desires to have designated as a National Park. Would your Department be disposed to favorably recommend the passage of legislation effectuating the suggestion of Mr. Raumaker?

Any information that you can give me relative to this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please return the enclosure.

Yours very respectfully,

Carl Hayden

P.S. I shall be obliged if you will also furnish me with a carbon copy of your reply to my letter for my files.
Dear Mr. Baumaker:

Acting Secretary Pinnay has instructed this Service to study the question of the availability and status of the area in the Chiricahua mountains near Douglas, Arizona, recommended for reservation as a National Park so that thorough consideration may be given to its possible establishment as a National Monument. In order that the Service may be fully advised as to the location and extent of the area, it would be appreciated if you would furnish us with a map showing the boundaries of the area which it would be desirable to reserve and designate. A map showing the area by township and range subdivisions would be more desirable. Any further information regarding the area which you might have available would also be acceptable.

Cordially yours,

Acting Director.

Mr. E. E. Baumaker,
Chairman, American Legion Park Committee,
Fred Hildrum Post, Number 11,
Douglas, Arizona.

AED 7H Copy to Pinkle}
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON August 13, 1923.

Dear Mr. Hayden:

In the absence of Director Rather I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication enclosing one from Mr. E. R. Hamaker, Chairman, American Legion Park Committee, Fred Hilburn Post, Number 12, Douglas, Arizona, recommending that a certain area in the Chiricahua mountains near the City of Douglas be created a National Park.

Mr. Hamaker has written directly to the Department under date of July 30. Acting Secretary Pinney replied in part as follows: "From the information you give it would seem that this area would not be acceptable for development as a National Park, but would fall more particularly in the category of National Monuments, which are areas of scientific or historic interest, set aside because of those qualifications for the use and enjoyment of the people by Presidential proclamation. Only areas on public domain can be so set apart."

I am turning your letter over to the National Park Service of this Department, having control of the National Parks and Monuments, with instructions that that Bureau study the question of the availability and status of this area, so that the matter may be thoroughly considered."

This Service is studying the question of the availability and status of this area for National Monument purposes. The inclosures with your letter are returned as requested together with a carbon copy of this letter. When full information is obtained regarding the area, the Service will advise you further.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER
Acting Director

Hon. Carl Hayden,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure 6710.

AED:H
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1923.

Dear Mr. Pincley:

I am enclosing a copy of letter written to Dr. Walter E. Taylor, Assistant Biologist, Bureau of Biological Survey, who is now situated at the University of Arizona, Arizona. Dr. Taylor is president of the recently organised Tucson Natural History Society. Dr. Taylor is a young man and a live wire and I imagine is largely responsible for the organisation of the Society. He has always shown great interest in the National Parks and it is desirable to retain his interest as well as to obtain the interest of the organisation. Dr. Taylor will probably write to you inviting you to talk to the Society about Casa Grande and Tumacacori.

With regard to the proposal of the American Legion Post of Douglas, Arizona, to establish a National Park in the Chiricahua mountains, it would be desirable if you could look into this. When we receive the map showing the proposed reservation we can soon determine whether there are sufficient public lands to warrant giving further consideration to the matter. If it seems desirable that the area should be inspected on the ground it may be possible to authorise you to make the trip to Douglas for this purpose. You might let me know about what the cost of this trip would be.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMERON
Acting Director.

Mr. Frank Pincley,
Custodian,
Casa Grande and
Tumacacori National Monuments,
Blackwater, Arizona.

Inclosure. 6707.

AED: H
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

August 15, 1923

Dear Mr. Taylor:

A proposal which would be of interest to the Tucson Natural History Society has been made to the Interior Department by the Fred Hildurn Post, Number 11, of the American Legion, Douglas, Arizona, that an area in the Chiricahua mountains near Douglas, Arizona, be created and designated a National Park to be named the American Legion Memorial National Park.

The Acting Secretary of the Interior in reply to Mr. E. R. Baumle, Chairman, American Legion Post Committee, stated that from the information given it would seem that this area would not be acceptable for development as a National Park but would fall more particularly in the category of National Monuments which are areas of scientific or historic interests set aside because of their qualifications for the use and enjoyment of the people by Presidential proclamation. The Secretary has instructed this Service to study the question of the availability and status of this area for National Monument purposes. We have written Mr. Baumle for a map showing the area and for much further information as might be available in order that this matter may be studied. The only description of the region we have is one written by Dean H. M. Butler of the College of Mines and Engineering of the University of Arizona which was furnished by the Fred Hildurn Post.

The desirability of establishing a National Monument in the Chiricahua mountains is a subject which your Society might well study with the view to making an appropriate recommendation to this Service. It would be desirable to have such recommendation at the earliest practicable date.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Dr. Walter F. Taylor, Acting Director.
President,
Tucson Natural History Society, Box 1092, University Station,
Tucson, Arizona.

AED: H
The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Commener's letter of August 13, is received.

Some of the members of this Society are more or less familiar with the area in question and have expressed the opinion that it is of sufficient scenic value to justify fully its being set aside as a National Monument. The area is within the Coronado National Forest which is under the supervision of Hugh G. Calkins, the Chairman of our Conservation Committee. Mr. Calkins has expressed, unofficially, the opinion that creation of the proposed National Monument would meet with no objection from the Forest Service. He is planning to make a rough survey of the area within the next month in order to fix tentative boundaries that would meet with the approval of the American Legion representative and other persons interested in the project.

I am sure that this Society will, by September 30, be able to submit a definite recommendation as to the desirability and extent of the proposed National Monument.

Very truly yours,

President.

TUCSON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
TUCSON, ARIZONA

August 20, 1923.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
WALTER P. TAYLOR, President  
CHAR. T. VORHIES, Vice President  
DONALD STILLS, Secretary-Treasurer

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
HUGH G. CALKINS, Chairman  
J. V. G. LOFTFIELD  
F. A. CRIDER
The American Legion
Fred Wilburn Post, Number 11
Douglas, Arizona

August 24, 1923.

The Director, National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 16th inst.,
requesting a map showing the area of the
proposed American Legion Monument:

This area as stated by Acting Secretary
Finney of the Interior would fall more
particularly in the category of national
monuments, which are areas of scientific
or historic interest.

It is located in the Chiricahua Mountains
and is shown on the U. S. Department of
Agriculture map of the Coronado National
Forest, 1919, Henry Graves, Forester. The
area proposed by the Legion to be set aside as
a monument is located entirely on public domain
and it is not surveyed. Therefore, township
and range subdivisions cannot be furnished.

It is in the northern part of the Chiricahua
Mountains surrounding Sugar Loaf Mountain, and,
roughly speaking, is bounded by Finery Canyon on
the south, Indian Creek on the east, and west
Whitetail Creek on the west. All of these points
are shown on the aforementioned map.

I note, according to the press dispatches, that
you have written to Dr. Walter P. Taylor, president,
Tucson Natural History Society, with reference to
the Legion Park, and, as chairman of the Legion
Park committee, I have invited Dr. Taylor to
accompany the American Legion on a picnic which the
Legion is giving in Finery Canyon on September 2
and 3.
In order to designate the boundary of the proposed Legion Monument it would be necessary to run a survey and it is suggested that a representative of the National Park Service visit Douglas, Arizona, and make a trip to the proposed park in order that they may have first-hand knowledge as to the desirability of creating through presidential proclamation this area as a Legion monument.

Those who have made personal trips to the proposed Legion Monument are unanimous in their acclamations that it far surpasses the Garden of the Gods and that words cannot describe its beauty and grandeur.

Trusting that it will be possible for a representative of the National Park Service to visit this area, I am

Very truly yours,

Chairman, American Legion Park Comm.

ERRpl.
August 25, 1923.

Dear Mr. Mather:

I have Service letter of August 13 from Mr. Cammerer, in which he incloses a copy of a letter which he has written to Dr. Walter P. Taylor, of Tucson, Arizona, and one which he has written Mr. E. R. Rauhaker, of Douglas, Arizona, regarding a proposed National Monument in the Chiricahua Mountains, near Douglas, Arizona.

I have unofficially known of this proposed monument for some time and saw in the papers some time ago that Governor Hunt had paid it a visit, being the guest, I believe, of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce.

I have never visited that part of Cochise County, but knew there are some very interesting features there and have no doubt some of the formations are well worthy of preservation as a National Monument.

The cost of visiting the region, should you deem it desirable for me to go over and look things over on the ground, would not be great, as I could make a trip over there in my car some time when I am working at the Tumacacori. The expense would not exceed fifteen or twenty dollars for the three or four days that would be needed.

It will be a pleasure to give any information or assistance to Dr. Taylor and the Tucson Natural History Society, as Mr. Cammerer suggests in his letter, and I will make a special effort to get in touch with Dr. Taylor at the first opportunity.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Custodian, Casa Grande and Tumacacori National Monuments.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON  

August 28, 1923.  

Dear Dr. Taylor:  

I have your letter of August 26th. Thanks for the information given. If this area proposed for a national monument is within the limits of the Coronado National Forest, recommendation for its establishment as a national monument by Presidential proclamation would properly be made by the United States Forest Service, of the Department of Agriculture, as it would remain, under its status as a monument, under the administration of the Forest Service.  

In order that the entire record may be submitted to the Forest Service for its consideration, it would be appreciated if the report your Society has so kindly offered to make, could be submitted to this Service for transmittal to the Forest Service.  

Cordially yours,  
(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER  

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Acting Director  

Dr. E. N. Taylor, Pres.,  
Tucson Natural History Society,  
Tucson, Ariz.  

AED:M
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

September 22nd
1923

Dear Mr. Rauscher:

Acknowledging and replying to your letter of August 24th, the area in the Chiricahua Mountains proposed by the American Legion of Douglas to be set aside as a National Monument is entirely within the Coronado National Forest which is administered by the United States Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Should a National Monument be created in this section it would remain under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and recommendation for its establishment as a National Monument would be made by the Department of Agriculture and not by this Department. I am, therefore, referring copies of our correspondence to the Foresty of the United States Forest Service for consideration.

Cordially yours,

Amo B. Gammerer
Acting Director

Mr. E. R. Rauscher,
Chairman,
American Legion Park Committee,
Fred Hinkley Post, Number II,
Douglas, Arizona.

c/o Mr. Greenly
Mr. Hinkley

ASD/A
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

September 22nd
1 9 2 3

Dear Mr. Pinkley:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of August 27th, I am enclosing copy of a letter I have just written to Mr. E. R. Flannaker of Douglas, Arizona advising him that as the area proposed for a National Monument in the Chiricahua Mountains is entirely within the Coronado National Forest recommendation for its establishment as such would be made by the Department of Agriculture.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Acting Director.

Mr. Frank Pinkley,
Custodian,
Casa Grande National Monument,
Blackwater, Arizona.

Enclosure #757

AB/4
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

September 22nd
1923

Dear Mr. Crayley:

On instruction from the Department this Service was recently called upon to study the question of the desirability and the availability of recommending the establishment of a National Monument in the Chiricahua Mountains near Douglas, Arizona, the suggestion for which reservation was made by the American Legion at Douglas. Through correspondence with the proponents of the project we have found that the area proposed for reservation is located entirely within the Coronado National Forest. We are, therefore, referring copies of the correspondence to you for your consideration, as a monument, if established in this section, would come under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. I am also including copy of the letter I have written to Mr. R. R. Bannaker, Chairman of the American Legion Park Committee advising of the reference of this correspondence to you.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer
Acting Director.

Mr. W. H. Grealey,
Forester and Chief,
U. S. Forest Service,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure #7570

APP
REPORT ON RHYOLITE PARK.

The area commonly known as "Rhyolite Park" comprises the greater part of the drainage of Bonita Canyon and a portion of Jesse James Canyon, on the west slope of the Chiricahua Mountains. It consists of a series of fields of large rocks in a great variety of shapes. The typical forms are: (1) pillars, from 6 to 26 feet in diameter and 50 to 220 feet high; (2) balanced rocks, of which the largest has a base of about 5 ft., a maximum diameter of 25 feet and a height of 30 feet; (3) rocks resembling faces and figures of animals, human beings, etc. Each type is represented by a large number of individuals. The area is cut by many canyons with steep walls ranging from 100 to 500 feet in height. The canyons and small basins or minor park-like areas, are covered with a great variety of vegetation, including at least eight coniferous tree species. Deer appeared to be fairly abundant and several large flocks of band-tailed pigeons were observed.

Not only are many of the individual rocks interesting but they are so grouped as to be very impressive in the mass and are divided by wide fissures, which, in the aggregate, give the appearance of buildings separated by streets and alleys.

This area is within fairly easy reach of Douglas, Bisbee, Tombstone and Willcox. Automobile roads may be travelled to within about two or three miles and trails are available the rest of the way for travel on foot or horseback. A considerable amount of public interest has already been aroused and all of the visitors to the area seem to be enthusiastic about it.

In the event that a National Monument is created, it is believed that it should embrace a large enough area to include all of the principal scenic features. The boundary of such an area would be described approximately as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Sec. 36, T. 16 S., R. 29 E.; thence South to Jesse James Canyon; up this Canyon and its south fork to the main Chiricahua divide; thence Northwesterly along this divide over Sugarloaf Peak to the head of Bonita Canyon; thence Westerly along the North rim of Bonita to the West line of Sec. 25, and South to the W1/4 corner of Sec. 36, T. 16 S., R. 29 E.; thence East one mile and South 1/2 mile to the place of beginning. The area lies in Secs. 25 and 36, T. 16 S., R. 29 E. and unsurveyed sections which, when surveyed, will probably be Secs. 19, 33, 31 and 32, T. 16 S., R. 30 E., G. & S. R. R., all within the Coronado National Forest.
Development.

If made a National Monument, the area should be left as nearly as possible in its natural state. Trails necessary to facilitate foot and horse travel should be built, but it is not believed that any automobile roads are necessary for the present. Creation of a National Monument should serve to call deserved attention to an area of unusual scenic attractiveness and to afford protection against depredation likely to occur as a result of the expected increase in the number of visitors. Until very recently, when trails through the brush surrounding the area have been opened, "Rhyolite Park" has been known to comparatively few people, but it is now becoming quite widely advertised.

The area was examined by the undersigned on September 14 and 15.

[Signature]

Tucson, Ariz.
Dear Mr. Cammerer:

I am inclosing a copy of the report made by the Chairman of our Conservation Committee on the proposed National Monument in the Chiricahua Mountains. This is in answer to your letter of August 26, 1923. Mr. Calkins went over the ground personally, and has, as you will see, worked out tentative boundaries for the proposed Monument. The area seems well-suited to the purposes of a National Monument, and I hope no difficulty will develop to bringing about the necessary Presidential Proclamation.

Sincerely yours,

Walter P. Taylor
President

Mr. Arno R. Cammerer,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

October 10th
1 9 2 3

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I have your letter of October 3rd enclosing copy of report made by the Chairman of your Conservation Committee on the proposed National Monument in the Chiricahua Mountains. The report is exceedingly interesting and its submission is appreciated.

As I wrote you recently, the area is located entirely within a National Forest, so the question of its establishment as a National Monument is a matter for recommendation by the Forest Service. Undoubtedly Mr. Galkins has forwarded a copy of his report to the Forest Service.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER
Acting Director.

Mr. Walter P. Taylor,
President,
Tucson Natural History Society,
Box 412, University Station,
Tucson, Arizona.

AMB/2
THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Legislative Committee
526-528 Woodward Building,
Washington, D.C.

April 2, 1924.

Hon. Henry F. Ashurst
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

The National Executive Committee of the American Legion recently adopted a resolution advocating that the Chiricahua National Memorial in Arizona be designated by Act of Congress, the American Legion Memorial National Monument.

This project is strongly urged by the Posts of the American Legion in Arizona, and the following memorandum from Celora M. Stoddard, on the subject, was incorporated by the National Executive Committee in the resolution it adopted:

"Recommendation by National Executive Committee of creation and designation of the American Legion Memorial National Monument.

"Location. State of Arizona, thirty miles south of Wilcox, fifty miles east of Bisbee, sixty-two miles north of Douglas.

"Size. Contains approximately 12 square miles.

"Value. Of no value for any other purpose than sightseeing. The accompanying pictures will bear out my statement that it is one of the wonders of the world.

"There area is sure to be created and designated as a national monument regardless of the name to be selected. However, it is due to the activities of the three Posts of the American Legion located at Wilcox, Bisbee and Douglas that this monument is to be created, and it would be a compliment to the American Legion to have it named as above indicated.

"I have personally investigated the matter. The creation of the monument has the support of this Department of the American Legion, the Governor of Arizona, the two United States Senators and the Representatives in Congress from the State of Arizona, and many others. The District Forester has stated that in reply to the
Assistant Secretary of the Interior he intends to recommend the creation of the monument.

"I am positive that the monument will be created. It is locally desired that it bear the name of our organization, and a recommendation by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion is requested as follows:

"First, urging the creation and designation of this national monument;
"Second, urging that this national monument when created be named and known as the American Legion Memorial National Monument."

If not inconsistent with your views on the subject, I shall appreciate your introducing legislation looking toward the fulfillment of this resolution. With kind personal regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) John Thomas Taylor
National Legislative Committee.
(C O P Y)

UNITED STATES SENATE.

April 7, 1924.

Hon. Hubert Work
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Hereewith I hand you a letter from Hon. John Thomas Taylor of the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion, who urges establishment of the Chiricahua National Memorial in Arizona. This project is also highly endorsed by the American Legion of Arizona.

Kindly advise me what, if any, action your Department contemplates taking with respect to this subject.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Henry F. Ashurst.
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 12 1924

Hon. Henry F. Ashurst,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Ashurst:

I have your letter of April 7 enclosing one from Honorable John Thomas Taylor of the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion urging the establishment and designation of the American Legion Memorial National Monument in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona.

This proposal was brought to the attention of this Department in July, 1923, and through correspondence with proponents of the project it was determined that the area proposed for reservation was located entirely within the Coronado National Forest. As a monument, if established in this section, would come under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, copies of the correspondence relating thereto were referred to that Service September 22, 1923, and your letter together with its enclosure is being forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture for further reply.

Very truly yours,

a/e Secretary Wallace

(Sgd.) HUBERT WORK.
The Honorable,

The Secretary of Agriculture.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am transmitting herewith letter from Senator Ashurst and its enclosure having reference to a proposed national monument in the Chiricahua Mountains within the Coronado National Forest, Arizona. Copies of correspondence relating to this proposal were transmitted to the Forest Service by the National Park Service of this Department in September, 1923. I have advised Senator Ashurst of this reference.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) HUBERT WORK.

Enclosure 55130

AD/R

Copy to Senator Ashurst