February 18, 1947.

Hon. Sheridan Downey,

United States Senate.

My dear Senator Downey:

We have received your letter of February 13, addressed to Director Drury, in Washington, D.C., enclosing Mr. Rufus Ogilvie's letter of February 7 in which the suggestion is made that the Buckeye Creek Canyon area, near Bridgeport, California, be declared a national monument.

The Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), empowers the President in his discretion to establish national monuments for the purpose of preserving historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government. In exercising this authority, the successive Presidents of the United States have been mindful of the fact that the Federal Government can afford to maintain and administer only a small number of national monuments, and the areas thus far set aside have been restricted to places of outstanding historical or scientific importance. The Federal Government has followed this same policy in designating historic sites under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666).

We regret that as no funds have been appropriated for the active resumption of the historic sites survey authorized by the Act approved August 21, 1935, and as personnel and funds for the investigation of proposed national monuments are quite limited, it will not be possible for this Service to give immediate attention to Mr. Ogilvie's proposal. However, we shall be glad to list the pioneer relic and the Buckeye Creek Canyon area for early consideration when studies of this character can go forward.

Your courtesy in sending us Mr. Ogilvie’s suggestion is appreciated. We have made copies of his letter and are returning the original, herewith, for your files.

Sincerely yours,

HILLODY A. TOLSON

Hilary A. Tolson,
Acting Director.

Enclosure 905.