UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS
FEATHER RIVER

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT
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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.
Mr. A. E. Schwabacher
665 Market Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

We are advised that you are interested in public parks and playgrounds throughout the State, and we would like to present to you briefly, the scenic and recreational value of the outstanding natural beauty spot in our portion of the State which probably ranks second only to the Lassen Volcanic National Park in Northern California. This is Feather Falls and Bald Rock mountain district.

Feather Falls is located near the mouth of Fall River, which empties into the middle fork of the Feather River, 20 miles distance east of Oroville. It has a sheer drop of 640 feet, and is continuous throughout the year, surrounded by most wonderful country from a scenic standpoint. Its own streams and the streams of the surrounding country for miles, are abounding in rainbow trout, also its surrounding country is full of wild game of all classes. We are enclosing a photograph of the Falls which will show the Falls proper but let me say that it is hard to get a photograph of the Falls that fully describes it.

Within a mile or a mile and a half of Feather Falls on the South fork of the Feather River is Bald Rock Mountain, where wonderful rock formation can be seen in addition to the mountain itself and this locality is abounding in fish and game. Many people have said that the rock formations around Bald Rock Mountain runs a close rival to the Garden of the Gods.

To combine these two wonderful districts into one large National or State park, preserving the natural beauties of its surroundings by conserving the forests and water shed, would be one of the greatest assets of the State. It has been said that in the Feather River Country of which the section mentioned above is a part the things are found that are found singly elsewhere. The Quinc Highway runs near the north and west side of the Canyon and if
Feather River Pine Mills grade could be secured, would give a fine road to within about a mile of the Falls on its south side, it would then be possible by the construction of only six to ten miles of road to connect with the Quincy highway or even to the new Feather River Highway, taking in the Bald Rock section, thus giving a complete loop road on both sides of the middle fork.

The elevation of this district will run from 3000 feet to approximately 6500 feet, when taking in the surrounding country, the Falls and Bald Rock, being around 3 to 4 thousand feet, thus making its climatic conditions desirable at all times of the year. A most wonderful spot for winter sports and of course unequalled for the warmer seasons, and with the addition of good roads, easily accessible throughout the year, and by reason of the fact that it is only 20 miles distance from Oroville, or from the floor of the valley, will be a great attraction to sight-seers, tourists, and vacationists. It has been the dream of our community here for some years to have this section taken into the State Park system and considerable work has been done along this line by this Chamber, but so far without complete result.

We are also enclosing some photographs taken around Bald Rock.

We greatly appreciate the interest you have always taken in public parks and playgrounds.

Yours very truly

[Signature]

RCR:BM

The Oroville District,
Agricultural Diversification
Fresh Fruits All the Year "Round"
"Heart of the Trails of 'Ferry-Nine"
Where Recreation and Industry Blend

LAND OF EARLIEST NAVAL ORANGES AND PREMIER OLIVE DISTRICT
IRRIGATION WATER IN ABUNDANCE
Mr. Horace Albright  
Director of National Parks  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:

A very good friend of mine, Mr. A. H. Land, is interested in a large tract of timber land consisting of some forty thousand acres comprising nearly all of the territory between the South and the Middle Fork of the Feather River above Mooretown. The property is bounded by the South and Middle Forks of the Feather.

Having in mind the program that you discussed with me of creating extensions to our national parks and thinking that perhaps you may be interested in creating a new national park or wilderness reserve, I am calling this particular property to your attention.

I am enclosing herewith a letter which I received from the Secretary of the Oroville and Allied Communities Chamber of Commerce which is self-explanatory. I am also enclosing under separate cover some photographs of some falls in this district which will perhaps give you a better idea than any written description I might give you of this country.

If you think there is any possibility that the fund which Mr. Rockefeller has provided could be used for the purpose of acquiring such a property and, if these moneys could be used for that purpose, and you would be interested in receiving more information about the property, I would be glad to send you additional data.

I hope that when you are in California you will pay me another visit.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Schwabacher

Enc.
In reference to Mr. Cammerer's request for the status of the lands mentioned by Mr. Schwabacher around Feather Falls and Bald Rock, the attached plats show where Fall River empties into the Middle Fork of Feather River. It will be noted that this is in Section 27, Township 21 North, Range 6 East. This section is in the Plumas National Forest and is also shown to be patented by the records of the General Land Office. It was patented to the Central Pacific Railroad Company on July 30, 1894. I have put Bald Rock on the attached plats which is shown in Section 30 of the same township. This is also within the Plumas National Forest.

Mr. Schwabacher states that Bald Rock is on the South Fork of Feather River. I can find no mountain, peak or rock of that name near South Fork. Also attached is a topographic map of the Geological Survey showing Bald Rock as practically where I have placed it on the plat. Also I have attached a copy of Forest Service map of the Plumas National Forest which shows at the same place. The plats attached also show the status of the land between the Middle and South Forks of the Feather River.

Do you think this will answer what Mr. Cammerer wants? Yes

Inclosure No. 37658
Mr. A. E. Schwabacher,
665 Market Street,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Schwabacher:

My staff and I have gone over quite thoroughly the various types of exhibits you transmit with your letter to me of February 14, bearing on the possible availability for national park purposes of an area comprising some 40,000 acres lying between the South and Middle Fork of the Feather River above Moorstone, California.

It is not generally understood that, in accordance with established Federal policies, national park areas must contain scenery of distinguished quality or some natural features so extraordinary or unique as to be of national interest and importance as contradistinguished from merely local interest. Each national park when created constitutes a unique example of its kind, and must be capable of broad comprehensive development for national use. It should include no private holdings. All new national park projects are predicated upon these fundamentals.

I am sorry that we have had to come to the unanimous conclusion here that the area to which your friends call attention would not meet the prescribed standards for the national parks that would place it in a class with Yosemite, Sequoia, Yellowstone, or Grand Canyon, or the other members of the present system. It should have fine possibilities for a State park, however, thereby possibly meeting the purposes of conservation which you and your friends have in mind for its preservation. I suggest you write the State Park Department of California with regard to it.

Furthermore, there are no Rockefeller funds available for such work, since his interest in California parks thus far has lain only in assisting the Government to buy some of the Yosemite timber lands.

I was particularly pleased at your thoughtfulness in writing to me, and to learn that you had in mind our conversation in regard to the desired extension of several of our California parks. We are still working on
My dear Horace:

This is a business letter. I want your advice, and perhaps your hand on the tiller if this seems a worthwhile objective. I am enclosing a description of these natural features which seem to us rather worth preserving.

You probably know something of these places. Would the Nat. Park Dept. be at all interested in saving them? I think there is no park and only one monument in No. Calif. except Lassen.

My niece, Margaret Everett Clemo owns three hundred acres which I believe includes the dome or part of it. She feels she must sell soon while good prices prevail. She is alone, and must get all she can for it. I am anxious to see it in the hands of conservationists if it is possible and if it is a feature worth preserving. I felt you could give us information if anyone could.

I am sending this to New York although I have a feeling that with the coal shortage, and the probability that the young folks are out here, you and Grace may be out here.

All good wishes for a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year clear around the calendar, from us both.

Although we have a home in Oroville we are living out in this woody and very delightful place twenty-three miles from town, most of the year. We are only three miles from the canyon, on a rural mail route.

Very forest-mindedly yours,

/s/ Elizabeth A. Everett

Note in pencil by Mr. Albright:

"One of my first high school teachers. There were only two teachers in the school. HMA"
The main part of the Feather River (called the Middle Fork) has the third highest river bluff in the United States. It is surpassed only by the Colorado and the Snake. Brush Creek comes into the Feather a little below this in a series of falls and rapids which are very picturesque.

The Dome, as the bluff is called, on the land side is somewhat like Half-Dome at Yosemite in formation. It, however, is not very high on the side away from the river.

On the other side of the river and not far away, Fall River drops in one sheer fall of around six hundred feet. In height it is next to Yosemite Falls, I believe. It is on land owned by the state. The Sierra Trail is planned to come through so it will give a view of the falls.

All this country has an excellent stand of sugar pine, some very fine trees. Also fir, cedar, knob-cone pine and yellow pine. The course of the river for a number of miles is through a very wild and rugged canyon. It was traversed by a party from the University of California about six years ago. That is the only successful passage on record. The Dome has never been scaled (at least there is no record of it). Two young GI's went down over it last August, the first recorded descent.

Bald rock which is about three miles this side of the canyon is another interesting feature. It ought at least to make a Monument. It is what its name suggests, about 3000 feet elevation with a circumference of perhaps several miles. Quite an area of huge tumbled rocks with some caves among them. I think it has never been explored. At least part of this is on state land, I believe.

The Dome is several miles above where the Bidwell Bar Dam is planned on the Feather River. That will endanger any conservation of these sites.
Miss Elizabeth A. Everett,  
Berry Creek,  
California.

Dear Miss Everett:

Horace Albright has referred to me your letter of December 16 regarding 300 acres of land your niece owns on the Feather River. From your description of the area it must indeed be a very picturesque and beautiful place. The National Park Service probably would be interested in a program for saving this and other similar areas on the Feather River since such areas have come to mean so much to the people of California and the Nation. Just how such preservation can be accomplished is a question. There is little likelihood that the National Park Service could acquire it for national monument purposes, first because there are no funds available to the Service for the purchase of land and second, there is considerable opposition at present to the Federal Government's acquiring additional national monuments which remove private holdings from county tax rolls.

There is this possibility, however. The Bureau of Reclamation has in its California Central Valley program the construction of a dam at Bidwell Bar. This will create a lake of considerable size. As yet we have no way of knowing where this lake will be in relation to your niece's property.

The National Park Service is responsible for making investigations of the recreational, historical and archeological resources of the Bureau of Reclamation water control projects. This makes it possible to recommend outstanding areas adjacent to reservoirs for inclusion in a public park system, whether it be Federal, State or county.

At present it cannot be determined just what the Congress may do in the matter of appropriating funds for irrigation and power development and, therefore, we are unable to predict the time when investigations and planning may start on the Feather River. As mentioned before, this appears to be the only possibility.

W.B.D.
In the meantime it would be well for you to inquire of the State Park Commission what its land acquisition program is for the Feather River country. The State Legislature has appropriated $15,000,000 for the acquisition of lands for park and recreation purposes, but the State funds must be matched by private funds. In other words, someone would have to donate half the cost of your niece's property before the State could legally spend its funds for the other half to create a State park. If you care to investigate this possibility, the person to whom to address your letter is Mr. A. E. Henning, Chief, California Division of Beaches and Parks, L and 15th Street, Sacramento, California.

If you will give me a little more complete detail as to the boundaries of your niece's property, perhaps indicating its location on a highway map, I know that one of our park planners would be pleased to visit the area and give you an opinion as to its potential park values. He could also suggest its qualifications for Federal or State park status.

You may be assured that this matter will be kept in mind by this office and that you will be informed of any possibilities of acquisition for park purposes. We deeply regret that we are not in a position at this time to proceed with definite plans for the preservation of this outstanding area. We appreciate Mr. Albright's kindness in calling this to our attention.

All good wishes for a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

(SED) O. A. TOMLINSON

O. A. Tomlinson,
Regional Director.

cc Mr. Albright.

Director (Chicago).

Director (Washington).

Note penned by Mr. Drury on a copy of this letter to Miss Everett: "The State should preserve some of the Feather River Canyon. Very spectacular."

N.B.D.
MEMORANDUM for Mr. Richey.

On the copy of the letter written by Regional Director Tomlinson to Miss Elizabeth A. Everett, dated January 21, concerning lands on the Feather River, the Director penned the following note: "The State should preserve some of the Feather River Canyon. Very spectacular." Inasmuch as this was written on the Washington copy of that letter I thought perhaps you did not have that notation in your files and, further, you might care to transmit it to Region Four.

Wirth
Chief of Lands.
February 12, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Four.

On one of the copies of your letter of January 21 for Miss Elizabeth A. Everett, Berry Creek, California, concerning lands on the Feather River, the Director penned the following note: "The State should preserve some of the Feather River Canyon. Very spectacular." We believe that you would like to have this notation for your files.

(SGD) CHARLES A. RICHEY

Acting Chief of Lands.

cc: Mr. Wirth (Washington).
Mr. Kennedy.