UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GENERAL NATIONAL PARK

FILE No. 9832
PART 1

NATIONAL PARK
HARDWOOD AND HEMLOCK

IMPORTANT
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HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,
Director.
HARDWOOD AND HEMLOCK NATIONAL PARK, PA.

Location and area: Is near Sheffield which is in the southeast corner of Warren County, Pa. Contains approximately 17,000 acres.

History and remarks: It is claimed that the area contains first growth of hardwood and hemlock timber and is one of the few remaining stands of first growth timber in that part of the country.

Accessibility: Could be reached from Sheffield, Pa., which is on the Pa. R.R.

Persons interested: Mr. Lester W. Perrin, c/o Lazart Freres, 120 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

Status: No examination contemplated.
NEW YORK, March 3rd, 1931.

Horace M. Albright, Esq.,
Director of the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The writer recently sought advice of Mr. R. Y. Stuart, Forester, U.S. Forest Service, about certain aspects of the lumbering operations now being carried on by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company of Williamsport, Pa. Mr. Stuart suggested that a letter be written to you bringing the matter briefly before you and this letter is written with that purpose.

The operations of the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company involve a tract of approximately 17,000 acres of first growth hardwood and hemlock timber in the vicinity of Sheffield. It is one of the comparatively few remaining stands of first growth timber in this part of the country. The Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the United States Leather Company and the timber was originally acquired as a source of supply of bark for tanning purposes. Since that time tanning extracts have been developed which make the use of so much bark unnecessary, and this tract of timber is therefore no longer essential in the parent company's plans.

If left standing, it would represent of course an entirely unproductive asset, and the management of the company would not be justified in permitting such a situation to continue. Accordingly lumbering operations were commenced some years ago and are being conducted now with a view to the eventual lumbering off of the entire tract. This seems to be the only way by which the original investment can be recovered.

To all who are familiar with this stand of timber, however, it seems both unwise and unfortunate that lumbering operations should proceed further, and the writer would very much appreciate your general view of the situation and any suggestion you care to make as to alternative procedure to consider. A potential magnificent state or national park is in process of being lumbered off, and, if anything can be done to make this unnecessary, the management of the company would welcome it.
To: Horace M. Albright, Esq.

March 3, 1951.

The writer is concerned in the matter as a Director of the United States Leather Company and would very much appreciate any suggestion or indication which you may care to make. The writer would naturally be delighted to come to your office and would endeavor to bring one of the officers of the company if you feel that a personal discussion of the matter would be helpful.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

LWP:M
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON
March 24, 1931.

Mr. Lester W. Parrin,
Lazard Freres,
120 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Parrin:

I should have acknowledged earlier your letter of March 5, in regard to 17,000 acres of fir-growth hardwood and hemlock timber in the vicinity of Sheffield, Pennsylvania, which you thought might be suitable for a national park. The delay has been occasioned by our hoping that we might find it possible to detail one of our men to go up there and look at the property, and the further hope that I might be able to promise you that this would be done in the near future. I am afraid, however, that I am not going to be able to promise an early inspection because all of our men are occupied in the West on projects that have higher priority because of their long standing before our bureau. It is only during the past few years that we have had funds to investigate new park projects.

In accordance with established Federal policies, national parks 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 created should be a unique example of its kind, and capable of broad comprehensive development for national use. It should include no private holdings.

All the national parks west of the Missisippi have been carved from the public domain. They were therefore established without cost to the Government. Where approved national park projects, as for instance the proposed Great Smokey Mountains National Park project in Tennessee and North Carolina, or the Shenandoah National Park project in Virginia, covered areas in private ownership, the Congress has prescribed that the parks could be established provided the States involved acquired the necessary land and turned it over to the United States without cost, for future administration and development from Federal funds. Of course, no project can be considered approved until it has been studied by national park experts to establish whether or not it measures up to established standards.
From the above you will readily see that we are in some perplexity as to what would be the possibility of our acquiring this magnificent stand of virgin timber even should it be determined that it ought to be given a national park status. Have you considered the possibility of the area being acquired by the State of Pennsylvania as a state park? California is engaged at the present time in acquiring some very large areas of virgin redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens) and that state's park plan might not be very far from the one being pursued by the State of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, I have not been keeping closely in touch with state park matters because of the heavy pressure of national park business.

I realize this letter is far from optimistic but under the policies governing our activities, I don't know what more I could write to you. I want to take this occasion to express my appreciation of the strong public spirit that directed your thoughts toward making a part of this fine piece of timberland. I hope that some way can be found to save it.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

Horace M. Albright
Director.

EIA-69
66 Mr. Cameron.

EIA-B16
EIA-69
Mr. Horace M. Albright, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Albright:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 24th and thank you for the helpful comments which you have made.

We intend to take up this question with the Pennsylvania State authorities as soon as possible, but, in the meantime, it would be much appreciated if the matter could remain in your files as an application for your attention when you are free to take it up.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

LWP: M