

10-23

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

---GENERAL--- NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0 - 51

PARKS GENERAL

PROPOSED PARKS

MEXICAN NATIONAL PARK

.....

LAST DATE ON TOP

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THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1927.

*P. G.  
P. R.  
Mexican Natl  
Parks.*Memorandum for Files.

Re proposed park in Lower California (Mexico).

While in Los Angeles on August 12th, Mr. Harry Chandler called my attention to the fact that Governor General Abelardo L. Rodriguez of the Northern District of Lower California was desirous of seeing me to discuss plans he had for a Mexican National Park in the mountains of Lower California, which he claims is of great scenic value. I intend to get in touch with Governor Rodriguez, possibly in October, to discuss this matter with him, and if possible make an investigation of the area, as a matter of courtesy to them. As per the map attached, the highway is now being built down through Lower California, which would presumably make this area more or less accessible. It might be possible to loan one of our Superintendents to the Mexican Government to inaugurate the development of this first of the Mexican National Parks, the expense being borne by the Mexican Government. Furthermore, it might stimulate the development of National Parks in other sections of Mexico, and this cooperation on our part would, I believe, be of considerable value in cementing the feeling of friendship between the two nations.

The attached is an article from the Los Angeles Times of July 24th showing the location of the new highway, which will tap this National Park area.

*Stephen D. Mather*

Director.

*Holmes  
ad*

*Copy*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*P.H.  
P.P.*

August 22nd, 1927.

*Mexican Natl. Ch.*

Mr. Harry Chandler,  
Los Angeles Times,  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Harry:

I have just seen a very interesting editorial in regard to the Hetch Hetchy situation in the Stockton Record, entitled "Who Drove a Hard Bargain," and which answers to a certain extent the Chronicle editorial which you showed me. I have asked Mr. Reynolds to send a copy of this editorial to you, and it might be useful to you in following up the matter further, in view of the memorandum which you dictated to one of your editorial staff.

As I wired you from Chicago, I feel that the proposed National Park in Lower California has wonderful possibilities, if properly handled. I hope I can work it out so I can have the time to actually see the area when I am on the Coast again in October.

I am enclosing copy of letter I have just received from Dan E. Williams, Member of the Assembly in California Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stephen T. Mather.

Enc. 6244.

*original file - Geo. S. Mather - Hetchy*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

November 12, 1927.

had in view this proposal for the gorilla sanctuary developed into and for a great national park. It is possible that this is the Gorilla Park to which you refer, and it is suggested that you communicate with the Belgian Ambassador in this city, who may be able to furnish you information regarding the park.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East 15th Street,  
New York City.

(Sgd) STEPHEN T. MAHER

Director.

Dear Mr. Grinnell:

Upon my return to Washington this morning, I find your letter of the 9th instant, requesting information about a proposed national park which the Republic of Mexico is said to be contemplating in Lower California, and also about certain new and proposed national parks in Africa, one of which is called or to be called the Gorilla Park.

I am sorry that we have no detailed information to furnish you about the proposed national park in lower California. The setting aside of an area in that state for such a park is under contemplation, and I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Governor General of Lower California in Washington this past summer. I understand that the proposed area includes a very beautiful sierra, but for information regarding it I suggest that you write to Hon. A. L. Rodriguez, Governor General of Lower California, Mexicali, B. C., Mexico. You will find a great deal of general information on Lower California in "Lower California and Its Natural Resources", by Dr. Edward W. Nelson, former Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, published as Volume XVI, First Memoir of the National Academy of Sciences, and procurable from the Government Printing Office.

We have received no information in this office in reference to the proposed national parks in Africa. We have information of a bill coming before the union government of South Africa for the permanent establishment of a great national park and sanctuary for wild animals to be established in the Transvaal, which, if passed, it is said would give South Africa one of the greatest reserves in the world, but we have no information that this bill has become a law.

Several years ago, at the request of the Belgian Ambassador to the United States, Professor Carl Akeley of the American Museum of Natural History, collected data from the National Park Service to be used in connection with the formation of a great National Park and Gorilla Sanctuary to be projected by the Government of Belgium in the Belgian Congo. It is understood that Professor Akeley visited the Belgian Congo to collect information on gorillas and found a situation suggesting the necessity of establishing a sanctuary and research station. The latest information we have

*Copy filed in 0-50-Africa*

JOHN GRINNELL  
100 EAST 13TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

NOV 10 1927

had is that this proposal for the gorilla sanctuary developed into one for a great national park, said to comprise the most beautiful scenic region in Africa and some splendid game fields. It is possible that this is the Gorilla Park to which you refer, and it is suggested that you communicate with the Belgian Ambassador in this city, who may be able to furnish you information regarding the park.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) STEPHEN T. MATHER

Director.

TEB

Yours sincerely,

*John Grinnell*

Mr. Grinnell -  
The following action, of  
October, and I had  
General of Lower  
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General of Lower  
great deal of con-  
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History of Biological  
National Academy of  
Office.

Reference to the  
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Ambassador to the  
Department of the Interior of the American Museum of Natural  
History, collected from the National Park Service to be used in con-  
nection with the formation of a great National Park and Gorilla Sanctuary  
to be established by the Government of Belgium in the Belgian Congo. It is  
understood that Ambassador Mather visited the Belgian Congo to collect infor-  
mation on gorillas and other animals in connection with the proposed  
National Park and Gorilla Sanctuary. The latest information we have