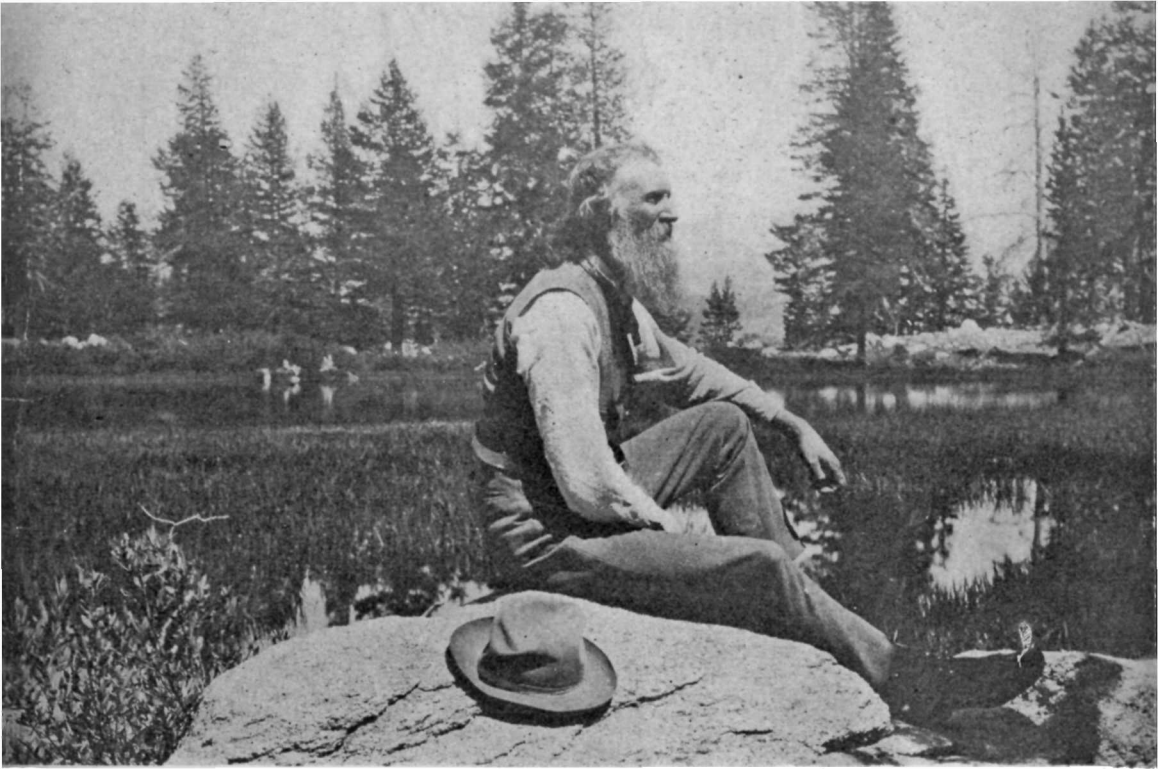


The Proposed
**JOHN MUIR-KINGS CANYON
NATIONAL PARK**

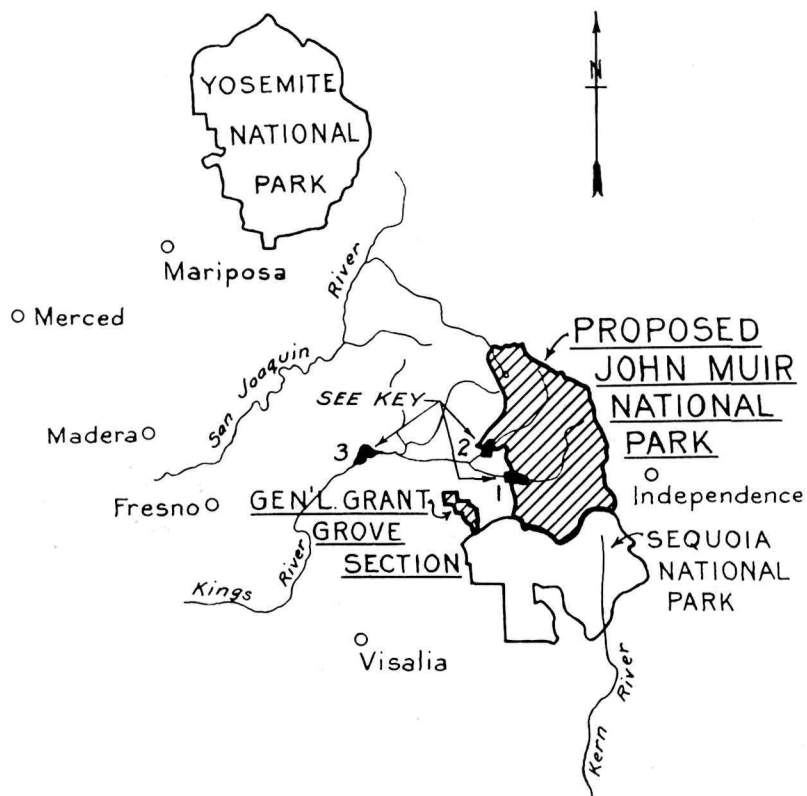


© Photographed by Helen Lukens Jones

JOHN MUIR
Father of the National Parks

NEW YORK
EMERGENCY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY, 1939

VICINITY MAP OF PROPOSED JOHN MUIR NATIONAL PARK CALIFORNIA

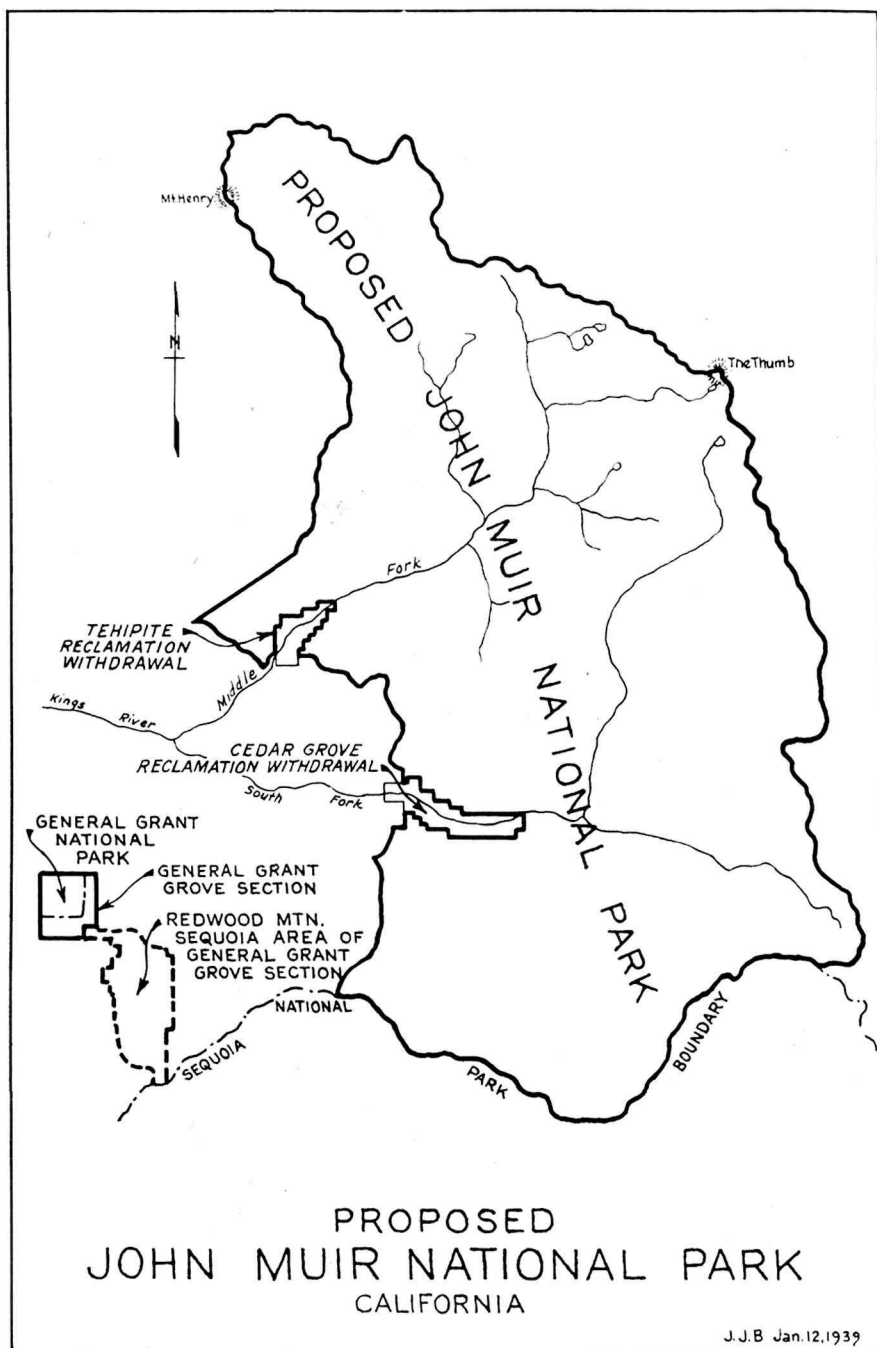


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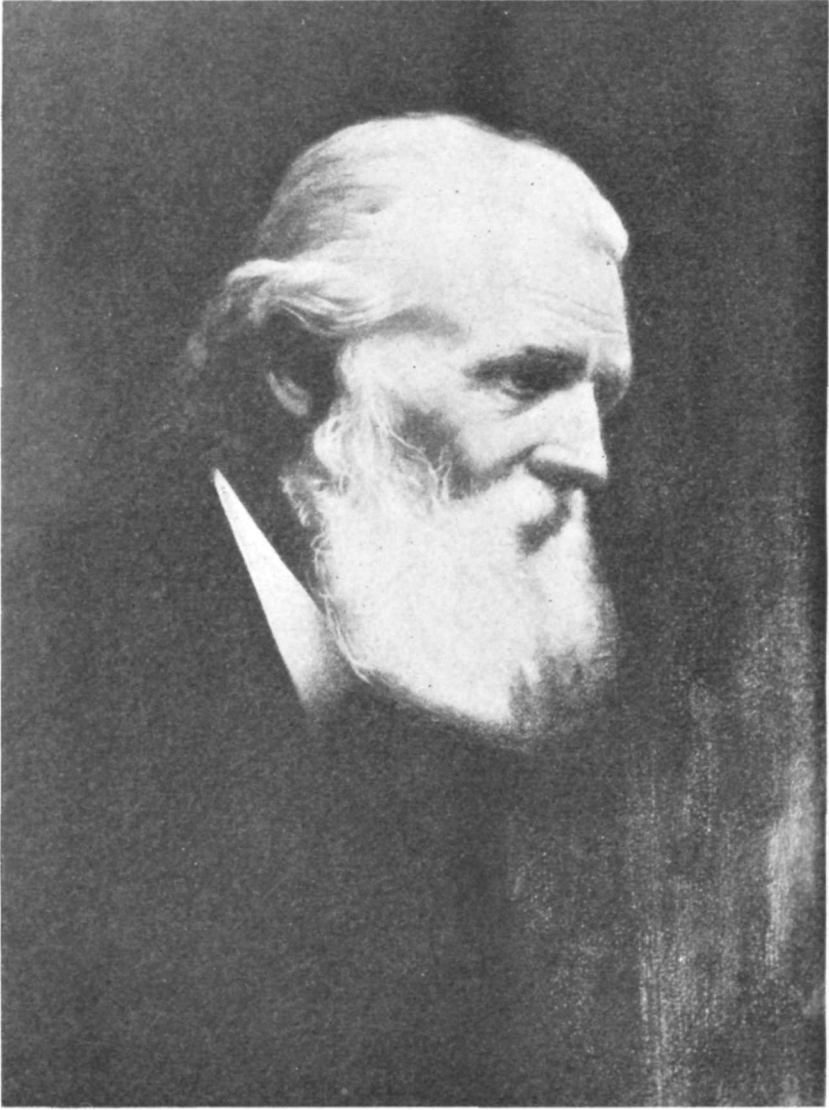
- 1 CEDAR GROVE RECLAMATION WITHDRAWAL
- 2 TEHIPITE RECLAMATION WITHDRAWAL
- 3 PINE FLAT RECLAMATION WITHDRAWAL

H.S.T. JAN. 12, 1939

Courtesy of the Department of the Interior



Courtesy of the Department of the Interior



Courtesy of Western Museum Laboratories; National Park Service

JOHN MUIR

Painting by Herbert A. Collins, Sr.

The Proposed John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park

A NATIONAL PARK project of the utmost importance will come before the session of Congress which opened on January 3rd, 1939, and should have the immediate attention of conservationists throughout the United States. It is really two projects combined.

One renews under favorable circumstances the long effort to make Kings River Canyon a national park of the wilderness variety.

The other is to bring Redwood Mountain and Redwood Canyon into the National Park system, and thus avert the threatened destruction of the largest of all the stands of giant sequoia. (It should be noted that despite the name of this grove, it consists of Big Trees, *Sequoia gigantea*, not Coast Redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*.)

Both of these conservation projects are now urgent. A state road, built by the

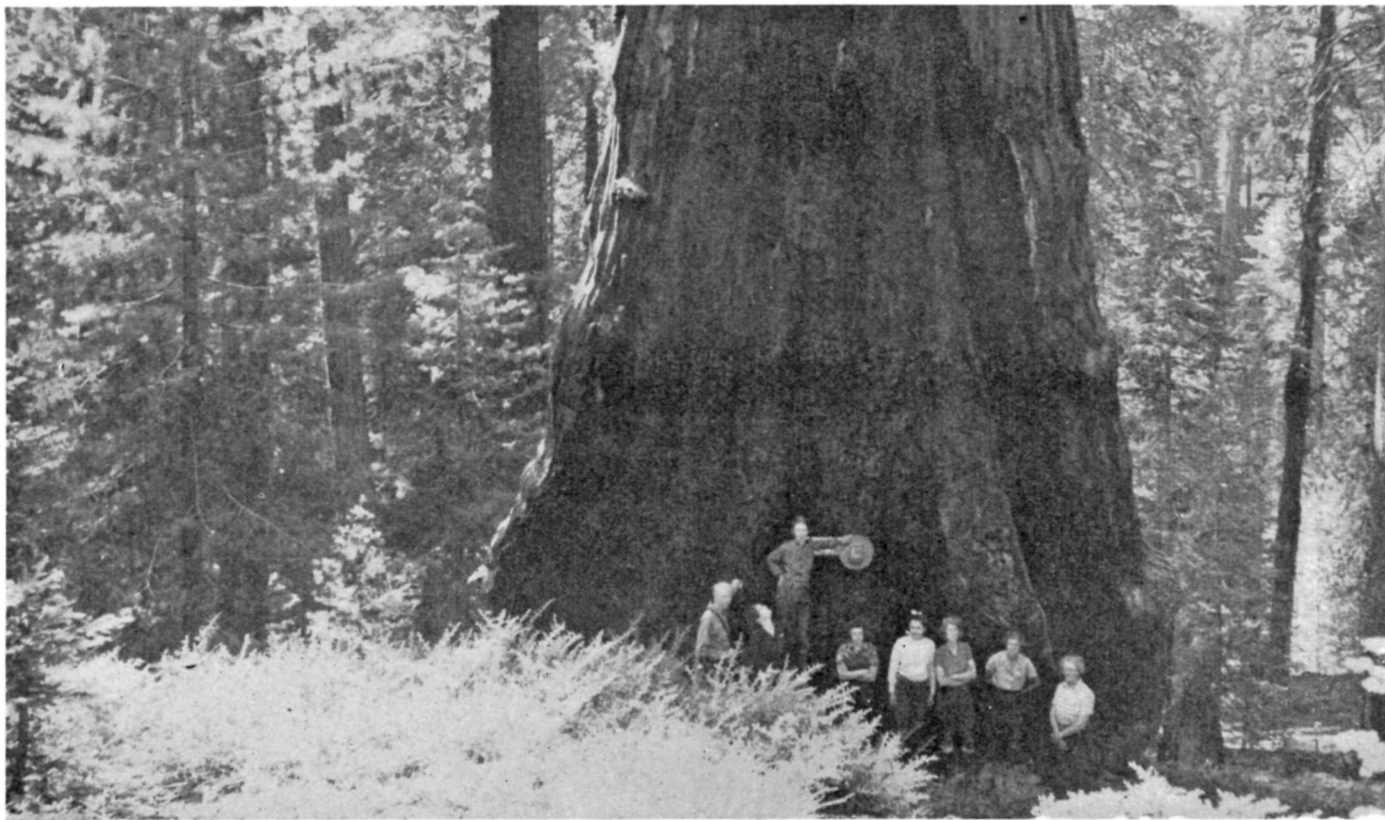
Forest Service and the State of California, up the South Fork of the Kings River to Cedar Grove, is about to be opened, and brings a change of conditions that threatens to destroy the wilderness character of Kings Canyon. The Redwood Mountain sequoia grove, long held by private owners who do not want to cut the Big Trees, is now menaced by sale for defaulted taxes, and the only alternatives are government purchase, or destruction.

Logically, both these areas should be dealt with in a single piece of legislation. Kings River Canyon and Redwood Mountain are but a few miles apart, lying on opposite sides of the miniature General Grant National Park. The natural action, therefore, is to combine all three into one national park, in which the Kings River section would be held as a primitive wilderness.

The Gearhart Bill for the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park

Congressman Bertrand W. Gearhart has introduced in Congress a bill, H.R. 3794, to unite in one splendid park Kings Canyon, Redwood Mountain and General Grant National Park. Its name includes the name of the father of the national park system, John Muir, uniting it with Kings Canyon which he so greatly loved.

John Muir's appeal to the American people resulted in the creation of Yosemite, Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, and he inspired the conservation policies of Theodore Roosevelt. He was the first to describe the wonderful Redwood Mountain sequoia grove, and he called Kings Canyon more majes-



Courtesy of the Department of the Interior

THE HART TREE - - - REDWOOD CANYON

Already 2,000 years old when Christ was born, shall this mightiest of living things be cut down and made into fence posts? NO. Write your Senators urging the establishment of the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park.

tic than Yosemite. His appeal to save these areas is part of the unfinished business of the nation.

It was nearly half a century ago that John Muir started the movement to make the Kings River country a national park, and called the attention of nature lovers and conservationists to the magnificent grove of Big Trees which cover Redwood Mountain and extend down into the depths of Redwood Canyon. One tree in this canyon is twenty feet in diameter at a height of 160 feet above the ground—

the largest tree in the world, measured by board feet content. Its fate, if this grove is not preserved, is to be cut into fence posts and grape stakes.

Let nobody think that such trees are preserved automatically, by providence or private owners. The most magnificent of all the sequoia groves in private ownership, near Hume, was cut down, and the trees blown to bits with dynamite, for grape stakes. Of its natural wonders, America saves only what it determines to save.

Redwood Mountain Must be Saved

No controversy exists concerning Redwood Mountain. Everybody, including the owners, who are familiar with the beauty of that sequoia grove want protective action. This is not an instance, like that of the Yosemite Sugar Pines, of a government purchase in order to check the avarice of lumbermen. The owners of this grove have held it for many years at a financial sacrifice, hoping that it would never have to be cut. But taxes are now in default. In an effort to meet the taxes, fallen trees, and some that were felled by former owners more than 100 years ago, are now being cut into fence posts and stakes—but the revenue is trifling. And this cutting of down timber is a serious injury to the forest. The work is unsightly, a desecration of a place of untold beauty. The standing trees need the nourishment provided by the slow decay of the fallen trees, and the old logs lying on the ground, many of them more than twenty feet in diameter, moss-covered and venerable, are of great beauty and interest.

The cutting now going on is a portent, a grim warning, of the tragedy that lies ahead. The owners must sell the living trees or lose their property by tax sale. The only question is: Shall these giant sequoias be acquired by the government, for permanent preservation, or shall they be sold for fence posts and grape stakes?

Redwood Mountain Grove not only is rated as the largest stand of giant sequoias in existence, but it is the only one that covers a mountain top with an almost solid stand of Big Trees. In the Redwood Canyon portion of the grove, the giant trees stand in great clusters, mixed with firs and pines. Innumerable trees exceed twenty feet in diameter at the base. The largest of them, known as the Hart Tree, is 32 feet in diameter. The famous Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, because of its thick buttresses, is a trifle broader at the base and is a few feet taller, but the Hart Tree, owing to its remarkably straight shaft, is seven feet thicker than the Sherman Tree at a point half way to the crown. It is the largest living

thing in the world; it has been living for 4,000 years.

Since the wood of the giant sequoia is not of great commercial value, being too brittle for use as lumber, the cost of acquiring this grove of 2,680 acres is low.

Seventy-five per cent of the timber in this acreage is sequoia. Redwood Mountain and Canyon were under indirect option to the government less than ten years ago for \$350,000. At that time, however, destruction of the forest was not imminent, and no action was taken.

Kings Canyon for a Wilderness Park

Kings Canyon already belongs to the people, and can be included in a national park without purchase. All that is needed is for the people to realize the necessity for such action, a necessity which now becomes critical.

The problem is to *keep it a wilderness*. This problem has led to a proposal of the first importance by Secretary of the Interior Ickes. He asks that Congress "define and set standards for wilderness national parks", and that Congress shall set particular standards for the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park which shall make it impossible for any government bureau to break down its wilderness status by building roads and hotels. His proposal is broad enough to cover the Olympic National Park and other portions of the national park system for which wilderness status is desired.

The statement by Secretary Ickes, issued on December 29, 1938, opened with a reaffirmation of a statement by him in 1935, pledging administration of the region along wilderness lines, and advocating boundaries that would take account of the economic needs of the San Joaquin Valley. Then he said:

"Since 1935, the Olympic National Park has been established, and most of the lands have been acquired

for the authorized Isle Royale National Park. Both will be maintained as wilderness areas. The problems of administration arising in connection therewith, and the questions arising in connection with the proposed Kings Canyon* National Park, point to the need for a greater stability of policy than can be insured by administrative orders. Areas dedicated as wilderness national parks should be protected forever by provisions of law designed for that purpose. This in addition to the protection all national parks receive by law against commercial activities.

"I shall welcome it if the Congress of the United States will define and set standards for wilderness national parks, as well as provide for wilderness areas to be proclaimed and similarly protected by law in other national parks. I suggest the following statutory safeguards for the Kings Canyon National Park if and when it is established:

"1. Prohibit by law the building of any roads or truck trails in the park, except on the floor of the val-

* The proposed John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park. (A separate bill has been introduced for wilderness areas in all national parks.)

ley of the South Fork of the Kings River, below its junction with Roaring River.

"2. Require that all buildings in the park shall be erected with government funds.

"3. Exclude all public housing structures, except trailside shelters, from the park, except in the valley of the South Fork of the Kings River below Roaring River,* allowing in that area simple cabins which may be rented to visitors but not leased.

"4. Permit public and private packers to use the park without discrimination, subject to general regulations.

"5. On account of the relative absence of automobile roads, provide that the existing Sequoia-General Grant automobile fee shall admit to Kings Canyon.

"By these policies, written into law, the Kings River wilderness can be maintained forever in its present grandeur, and dedicated to recreational use consistent with its wilderness aspect."

* The Gearhart Bill specifies Copper Creek, two miles above Roaring River, but still on the valley floor.

The importance of this proposal by Secretary Ickes is increased by the fact that the California office of the Forest Service, which now administers the Kings River region, has within the past few months announced the virtual abandonment of its own past policy of preserving the Kings River country as a primitive wilderness by administrative order.

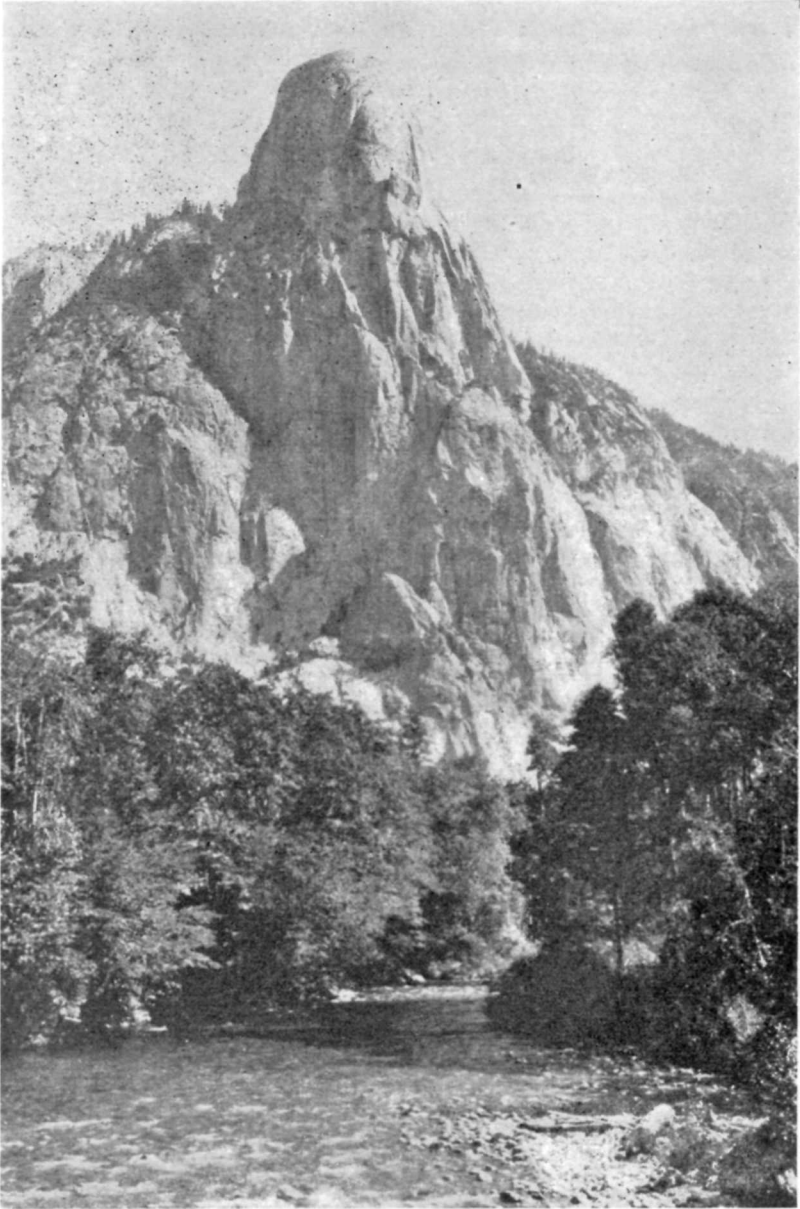
With the day approaching for the opening of the new road to Cedar Grove, up the South Fork of the Kings, the regional office of the Forest Service has declared for a system of reservoirs throughout the mountains, and has declared that the publicly owned timber in this area must be held available for lumbering, although it has practically no commercial value. This cannot be called an official declaration of Forest Service policy, for it is contrary to the publicly declared position of all chiefs of the Forest Service who have spoken on the subject, and runs counter to the official orders of the Secretary of Agriculture making this a primitive area. But it shows plainly that the only sure way to preserve this mountain wilderness is to make it a wilderness national park, protected not merely by administrative orders of a government bureau or department but by an Act of Congress.

Unsurpassed Beauty of the Kings Canyon Wilderness

No area in the United States, in the whole world, perhaps, better deserves protection. Almost fifty years ago, in 1891, John Muir wrote as follows in the Century Magazine:

"All this wonderful Kings River country should be comprehended in one grand national park. The re-

gion contains no mines of consequence; it is too high and too rocky for agriculture, and even the lumber industry need suffer no unreasonable restriction. Let our law-givers then make haste, before it is too late, to save this surpassingly glorious region for the recreation and well-



Courtesy of the Department of the Interior

TEHIPITE DOME - - - GIANT RIVAL OF HALF DOME IN YOSEMITE

being of humanity, and the world will rise up and call them blessed."

The Kings River country is a sort of combination of "Yosemite Valleys" and highlands as wild as the Himalayas. It contains five valleys that rival Yosemite in the height of sheer walls rising from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above the canyon floor. Higher up, the crest of the Sierra Nevada range is a tumbled array of mountains, unequalled on the North American continent for the mass effect of the peaks, palisades, minarets and glacial cirques. Scattered all through them are high mountain lakes, summer snowfields, and the beginnings of creeks which in the deep canyons become clear mountain rivers breaking continually into waterfalls and cascades.

Though there is no commercially available timber in important quantities, the mountain slopes are picturesquely wooded, and the valley floors present beautiful vistas of western yellow pine and incense cedar, with Jeffrey pine and Alaska cedar at higher levels, and, close to timberline, the rarer foxtail pine. These forests, with the flowers of the alpine meadows, and the beautiful streams, serve to soften the wild grandeur of the granite mountains, and provide the warm touch of Nature's companionship.

It is no wonder, then, that ever since the Kings River country became known to white men, it has been the loved resort of mountaineers, and that bill after bill has been introduced in Congress to make it a national park.

One of the Greatest Mountain Panoramas in the World

Time and again, noted American statesmen, scientists, writers and naturalists have called upon Congress to bring this region into the national park system. Dr. David Starr Jordan, then president of Leland Stanford University, raised his voice for such a movement in 1899:

"I have never seen a more magnificent mountain panorama," he said in that year. "I have seen the mountains of this continent from Alaska to Mexico, and I have tramped many mountain miles in the Alps, but such a comprehensive view of mountain masses and peaks and amphitheaters and canyons, of all the details of mountain sculpture on the tremendous scale. . . . I have never before seen."

Emerson Hough, world-travelled nature writer, declared that "there is no

country on the face of the earth that compares with the country in this proposed park."

Repeatedly, the Sierra Club of the Pacific coast, whose membership includes leading mountaineers, professional men and business men, has proposed or endorsed legislation to make the Kings River region a national park. Testimony is universal, not merely that it measures up to the highest ideals of what a national park should be, but that it would rank at once with the most magnificent parks in the world. Gilbert Grosvenor, editor of the *National Geographic Magazine*, declared that he had seen in this region "at least 100 waterfalls that if they were in Switzerland would have become celebrities."

These enthusiastic descriptions relate to the canyons, ranging in elevation from 5,000 to 9,000 feet, and to the high coun-

try above the canyons, rising up to 14,000 feet. In these areas, there is practically no commercially accessible timber.

Opportunity to Save Wonderful Forests

Before the park boundaries are finally drawn, careful surveys should be made to see how much protection can be given to sequoia groves which still lie outside the national park system. Redwood Mountain Grove, which most needs protection, lies on the other side of General Grant National Park. Along the South Fork of the Kings, below Cedar Grove, are several small groves of Big Trees, with beau-

tiful stands of western yellow pine, incense cedar and other conifers. None of this timber, which lies in the national forest, can be logged without ruining the approach to the park. Its commercial value is trivial. No sound reason exists why these forested slopes, on the south side of the South Fork should not be brought into the park.

No Interference with Present Recreational Developments

However, even though Kings Canyon, Redwood Mountain and General Grant National Park are made one national park, there is no reason to establish a continuous park from General Grant to Kings. In fact, that is undesirable. First, a physical separation would emphasize

the primitive character of the Kings Canyon country. Secondly, the Forest Service has developed the region of Hume Lake as a summer resort, with summer home sites leased to residents of the San Joaquin Valley. A development of this type does not belong in a national park.

Power Companies Fought Park

Why is it that with such transcendent qualifications, Kings Canyon has not yet been made a national park? Primarily, it is the old story of commercial opposition.

The Forest Service has, in the past, strongly supported the proposal to make the Kings River country a national park. Three chiefs of the Forest Service, in succession, have declared that this beautiful part of the High Sierras has no important

value except for recreation, and should be put into the national park system. But California regional employees of the Forest Service have taken an opposite position. Thus a controversy has grown up where there is no reason for one.

The fight against the Kings River park was originally a power company fight. The big electrical utilities believed that they could develop an abundance of cheap electricity on the Kings. They made en-

tries on easily reached locations at Cedar Grove and Tehipite, and threw their influence against a national park.

Experience taught the power companies, however, that power generated on steep mountain rivers with a low summer flow and no storage capacity was expensive. Output was governed by the minimum flow. Such power was far more costly and uncertain than power produced from a single dam and a huge reservoir on a river with a heavy flow, like Boulder Dam. So the big power companies dropped their entries on the Kings River.

That should have paved the way for the park, but a needless obstacle arose. San Joaquin Valley farmers use the waters of the Kings River for irrigation, and they buy electric power for pumping supplemental water from shallow wells in late summer. The irrigation interests are now seeking an irrigation dam at Pine Flat, far below the proposed park, to impound the whole flow of the river, and they have also make power entries at Cedar Grove and Tehipite, following abandonment of those sites by the public utilities.

The impression developed that there was a conflict between the irrigation interests and the park. There need be none. The Reclamation Service is now making, for the first time, a power survey of all three forks of the Kings River. It is known that, on the basis of water storage, there are better power sites on the North Fork of the Kings, well outside the park area, than at Cedar Grove or Tehipite. If the survey shows rock conditions favorable to dam building, power interests will naturally shift to the North Fork.

These two reclamation withdrawals, however, are excluded from the park, by

the Gearhart bill, with a provision that they may be added by presidential proclamation if the reclamation plans are abandoned, and that lands above high water shall be added if the dams are built.

A 150-foot dam at Cedar Grove would not flood the beautiful Cedar Grove Valley, and if built, no higher dam should be permitted. Conservationists need to be on their guard here, and they must also be on their guard against the stirring-up of needless antagonisms. To destroy Cedar Grove and Tehipite would be criminal sacrilege. To create a national park centering in these two spots of supreme beauty, and at the same time destroy them, would be a shocking travesty. It would repeat and magnify "the crime of Hetch Hetchy."

The residents of the San Joaquin Valley are entitled to all of the Kings River water for irrigation (for they need it all), and to all they need for power. Since power development is flexible, this problem should be worked out to satisfy the needs of the valley in full, and at the same time make no needless sacrifices of the beauty of the region.

This is a problem which can be settled after the Reclamation Service completes its survey. Park advocates are putting no legal impediments in the way of power development at sites now entered upon. On that basis, and because the people of the San Joaquin Valley realize the great value of national park status for the Kings River highlands, the Kings River Water Association has withdrawn its recent opposition to the park.

One would suppose that this understanding would end the fight against the park. It has gone a long way toward



Reproduced by permission of Mrs. Wanda Muir Hanna

Drawing by John Muir

General view up the South Fork of the Kings River, from near the head of the trail. "By no work of words, however great, may the tremendous impressiveness of these mountain sculptures be made manifest."—JOHN MUIR (Unpublished journals)

ending it, for it has enabled many supporters of the park to speak out, who formerly were forced to be silent sym-

pathizers. The opposition has dwindled to four minor but extremely vocal elements, as follows:

The Four Opposing Groups

1. *A few farmers*—possibly a dozen—who graze several hundred head of cattle in the summer time in the little alpine meadows which are scattered through the granite mountains, at high elevation. The exact number of cattle likely to be affected is only 993, which is about one to each 460 acres in the park area. It was formerly many times greater. Elimination of grazing, by gradual reduction, would work no more hardship on these farmers than the routine removal of cattle from over-grazed mountain meadows which occurs regularly through cancellation of Forest Service permits. But the Gearhart bill specifically allows present permittees to renew grazing permits during their lifetime, subject to regulation for the protection of the land.

2. *Sportsmen*. Many deer-hunters object to turning this high country into a game sanctuary. This is partly due to sentiment, certain hunters liking to hunt in special areas with which they are familiar, but is more largely due to misunderstanding. Forest Service statistics show that only five per cent of the deer killed in the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, which include the Kings water-

shed, are killed within the area proposed for the park. Many sportsmen, moreover, do not realize that if the high country is made a wild life sanctuary, the breeding-stock will increase, and game will be more plentiful outside the park.

3. *Summer home owners*. San Joaquin Valley residents have heard the false report that this is part of a move to place all the High Sierra from Sequoia National Park to Yosemite, and down to the foothills, in a national park. This is based on a mis-statement of a recommendation of the National Resources Committee. Park boundaries are expressly drawn to exclude all parts of the national forest open to summer home building.

4. *Regional office of the Forest Service*. The last and most important element of opposition has come from the regional office of the Forest Service at San Francisco, and the forest supervisor's office at Porterville, California. Opposition from this source is the only one that really counts at present. It stimulates and directs the other three groups, and it is seeking again to turn the irrigation interests against the park.

Chiefs of Forest Service Favor National Park

There is no reason to believe that the hostility of the San Francisco and Porterville offices of the Forest Service represents the view of the Forest Service at Washington, or of the Department of Agriculture.[§] Owing to the policy of decentralized administration of the national forests, regional offices frequently adopt policies, and pursue them for a long time, contrary to the policies of the Department to which they belong.

For instance, the regional office of the Forest Service at Portland, and the forest supervisor at Port Angeles, Washington, conducted exactly the same kind of a fight against the Olympic National Park that is being conducted against Kings Canyon; but the Forest Service at Washington helped in a friendly way to draw the boundaries of the Olympic park, and the Secretary of Agriculture made a report to Congress which aided in the passage of the bill.

The proposal to create a Kings Canyon National Park has been before Congress several times, and chiefs of the Forest Service have been among its strongest indorsers. William B. Greeley, when chief

of the Forest Service, testified as follows before a committee of Congress in 1924:

"I am quite familiar with this area personally, having been a local forest officer in that section for a number of years. When you consider all that is involved in this tract, the fact that the entire country is above 5,000 feet in elevation, with the exception possibly of a few of the canyon bottoms; that it contains ten peaks with an elevation in excess of 14,000 feet; and that it contains three of the outstanding canyons of the West, the Tehipite on one fork of Kings River, the South Fork of Kings River, and the Kern River Canyon,* combined with a wonderful region of lakes and Alpine forests, the combination has fixed this area in my mind for a good many years as one of the places which should be established and administered as a national park."

Henry S. Graves, who preceded Mr. Greeley as chief of the Forest Service, also publicly indorsed the proposal to make the Kings Canyon a national park. Mr. Greeley's successor, Chief Forester Robert Stuart, publicly announced that there had been no change in the Forest Service indorsement of the region as park.

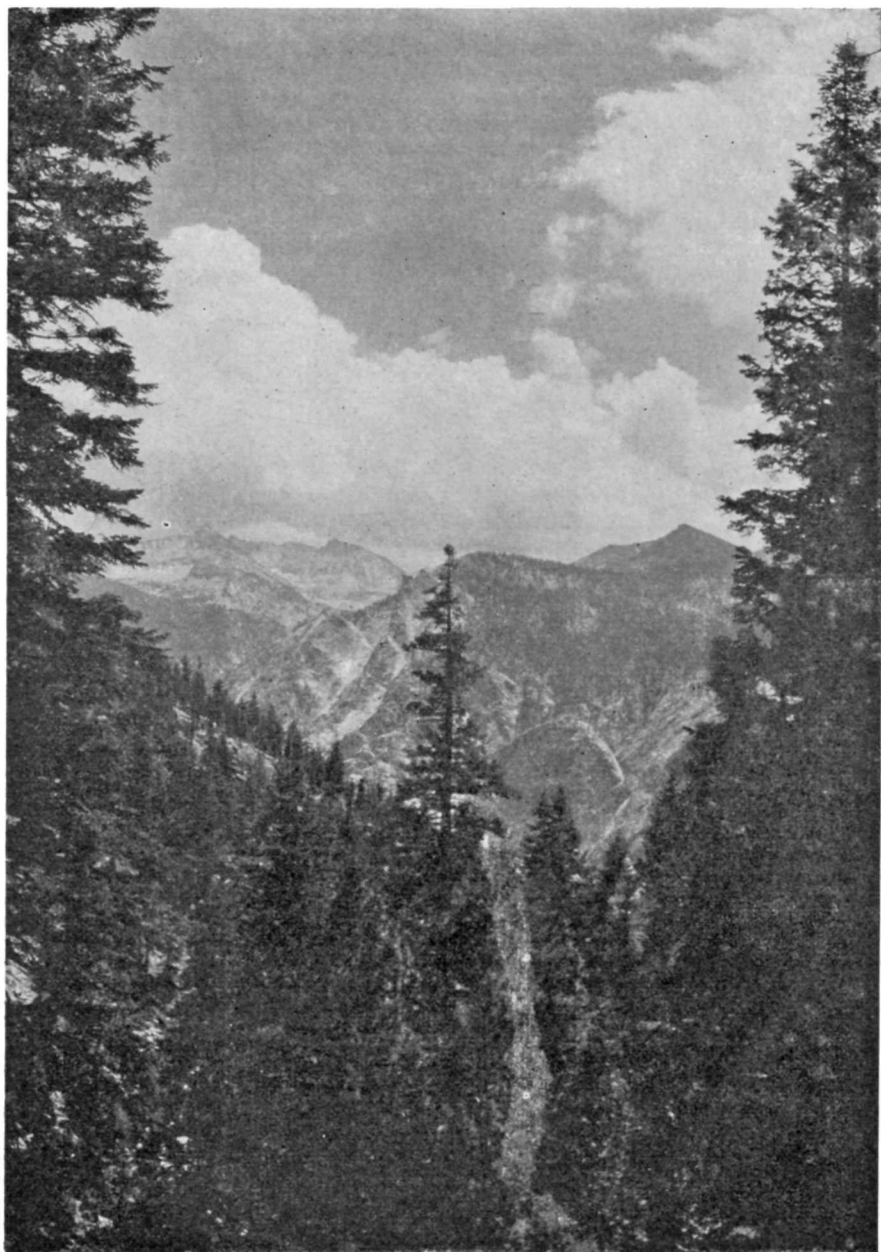
* The Kern River Canyon has since been added to Sequoia National Park.

[§] Just as this pamphlet goes to press, word comes that Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has written a letter to Secretary Ickes (February 8, 1939), indorsing the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park, which means that the Forest Service will support it. This ought to wipe out most of the opposition to the park.

Opposition of California Forest Service Officers is Unwarranted

Indications are that the forest officers in California are acting on their own initiative, without authority, and this is made more probable by the inconsistency of their position.

In 1936, they announced a policy of strict wilderness protection for all of the Kings River region east of the Cedar Grove valley, with roads and all forms of commercialism totally excluded.



Courtesy of the Department of the Interior

VISTA FROM COPPER CREEK TRAIL, KINGS RIVER CANYON

On October 11, 1938, they reaffirmed this policy of wilderness protection, and at the same time announced that the entire Kings River drainage area, which would include the wilderness, should be

developed with a great series of power, flood control and irrigation reservoirs. Thus they went the limit in both directions.

California Forest Service Officers Abandon Wilderness Policy

To show how completely changed is the position of the California Office of the Forest Service, it is only necessary to quote from their statement of October 11, 1938:

"A large Wilderness Area has been set aside, and is fully protected. . . . It preserves the priceless High Sierra as a wilderness."

On December 2, 1938, they abandoned the wilderness policy altogether, and declared that "the proposed Kings Canyon National Park in the high Sierra would lock up national forest resources vital to the welfare and prosperity of California."

What was it that, between October 11 and December 2, changed the Kings

River High Sierra from "a priceless wilderness" to a region with "resources vital to the welfare and prosperity of California?" The answer is not difficult to find. During the months of October and November, sentiment for a wilderness national park gained extensive headway in California. If the wilderness protectors were going to ask Congress to establish a national park, local Forest Service officials, always jealous of national parks and in opposition to the creation of any new park, would have to get their support at the other extreme, by advocating commercial exploitation. This they have done, even though they had to conjure the commercial resources out of thin air, and eat their own past pledges.

"California Mountaineers"—and Lobbyist Dunwoody

In this connection, it is important to consider the attitude of an organization called California Mountaineers Incorporated. It was formed in the summer of 1938, with a membership of San Joaquin Valley sportsmen and business men. Most of its members, probably, are against a national park solely because hunting would not be allowed in it. However, that is not indicated as the main motive, nor does it appear to be the motive of the leaders.

California Mountaineers, in opposing the Kings Canyon park proposal, adopted as their slogan the "preservation of the wilderness." The Forest Service, they said, would preserve the wilderness, while as a national park, it would be overrun with roads and hotels.

When the Forest Service regional office abandoned its policy of wilderness protection, and Secretary Ickes asked that roads and hotels be excluded by law,

California Mountaineers Incorporated should logically have joined the movement for a wilderness national park.

Instead, it shifted the emphasis in its propaganda to follow the change in Forest Service policy. By the end of 1938, this organization of wilderness defenders was saying that the Kings River *wilderness* must not be made into a national park because it was needed for *lumbering, power, irrigation and grazing*.

This is mystifying, until you know who are back of California Mountaineers, Inc. Its secretary and principal organizer is Ernest Dudley, of Exeter, California, banker and former employee of the Forest Service. Co-organizer with Dudley is Parker Friselle, of Fresno, California, another former employee of the Forest Service. These two men practically ARE California Mountaineers, Inc. So far as its policies are concerned, it is an offshoot of the California regional office of the Forest Service.

Dudley and Friselle also hold key positions in the State Chamber of Commerce, and have a further tie-up with Charles G. Dunwoody, the chamber's professional lobbyist. The three of them control the conservation committee of the chamber, and regularly use it to fight any national park proposal. Dunwoody is being sent to Washington, D. C., to fight the park project in Congress. His propaganda facilities in California are causing a flood of letters against the plan to go to California congressmen.

Dudley and Friselle represent the working management of the opposition to Kings Canyon National Park. They are strategically situated to create the appearance of a widespread, spontaneous oppo-

sition, though in reality an overwhelming majority of San Joaquin Valley organizations support the park, and many of its strongest supporters are in the State Chamber of Commerce.

One of the recent coups of the Dudley-Friselle organization was a free trip through the Kings River country, in which the guests were twenty-one California newspaper publishers, writers, and others, who also attended a banquet at the Porterville office of the Forest Service, with a program of addresses against the national park. Afterwards, articles appeared in California newspapers which seemed to indicate a belief that national parks, which bring millions of dollars of tourist money into California every year, are harmful to the state.

Many influential newspapers of the state are strong supporters of the Kings Canyon Park. Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, has expressed the belief that fully 1,000,000 of the population of California were drawn there originally by the national parks in the state. This is supported by the editor of John Muir's Journals (published as "John of the Mountains"), who says of Muir: "Lured by his incomparable description of Big Trees and Yosemite wonders, the tide of tourist travel began to pour westward to the Sierra. Someone has said California made John Muir. In that sense, it is equally true John Muir 'made' California."

S. B. Show, regional chief of the Forest Service in California, carried this campaign a step farther in an address in California on December 2, when he announced, to quote the San Francisco Examiner, that "the Service would fight 'any extension of national parks in the state'."



Courtesy of the Department of the Interior

MUIR PASS - - - ELEVATION 12,059 FEET



Courtesy of the Department of the Interior

SIMPSON MEADOWS - - - WAIST-HIGH WITH ALPINE FLOWERS

The real significance of that statement is not in its hostility to national parks, but in its irresponsible assumption of authority. A regional employee of a government bureau is making policy for the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Nor does he even confine himself to public lands.

Mr. Show complains that there are already four national parks in the state, containing 1,246,366 acres, which he considers too many and too much. It might be said, in reply, that there are eighteen national forests in California, containing 19,423,135 acres, covering one-fifth of the land surface of the state. This is not too many, and not too much, provided the land is best suited for administration under national forest law—but some of it is not. Portions of this land would be

better administered if placed in national parks.

The regional forest director objects to creating a national park in the Kings River country because, he says, it would divide the national forest "by an illogical boundary." Nearly every national park in the United States has a similar "illogical boundary"—that is, it adjoins a national forest. Are we then to abolish the national parks system, even when national parks are older than the national forests? Sequoia National Park is older than the adjoining Sequoia National Forest, which puts the argument in reverse,—and right in the Kings River country.

The whole argument is in conflict with the interests of California. *John Muir's name, attached to a national park of the first order, is probably the greatest undeveloped resource California possesses.*

This Is Not a Conflict Between Bureaus

The unfortunate effect of such a campaign as the San Francisco regional office of the Forest Service is conducting is to give an impression that the creation of a national park must be made a contest between two government bureaus, to see which shall administer an area. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is a choice *for the people to make* between two systems of administration, two methods of use, two concepts of protection, under radically different sets of national law.

If it is true, as the regional office of the Forest Service stated in the Porterville, California, *Recorder* of October 11, 1938, that the waters of the Kings River "must be impounded back in the mountains," with "many reservoirs" for irriga-

tion, power dams throughout the wilderness, and "a comprehensive series of (flood control) reservoirs throughout the drainage"; that the area is vitally needed for grazing; that lumbering must be permitted on these public lands; then Kings Canyon should not be made into a national park.

But if, as three chiefs of the Forest Service have testified, and as any competent engineer would testify, none of these things is true, and the region is what they say it is—a scenic wilderness of unexampled beauty—it should be made into a wilderness national park.†

† The idea of flood-control dams in the upper Kings drainage is a weird one indeed. Dams built in narrow canyons, pitching sharply downward, have no storage capacity either for flood-control or for irrigation.

On the basis of merit, these claims of economic value may be disregarded. But they cannot be disregarded as a threat to

the destruction of this mighty wilderness; as a notice that no area of magnificent grandeur is safe until it is safeguarded by law.

The Forest Service Cannot Guarantee Protection of the Wilderness

Even if the principle of wilderness protection had not been abandoned by the regional office of the Forest Service, there would be no assurance of continued protection. A declaration for reservoirs in the wilderness is a declaration for roads, thus, in effect, over-ruling the previous promise of the Forest Service, that it would build no roads above Zumwalt Meadow, near Cedar Grove. The value of any departmental rule against roads may be judged by the recent statement of a national forest supervisor in the state of Washington. When appealed to for a road into the wilderness area of the Olympic National Forest, Supervisor Bruckart replied, as quoted in the Mason County Journal, Shelton, Washington, of September 15, 1938:

"It already lies within the primitive area, so we cannot build roads under the primitive area regulations. If it is kept out of the national park, however, the primitive area regulations could be relaxed with a little pushing of the Secretary of Agriculture, as he controls all primitive areas."

Compare that with the proposal of a wilderness national park, in which the preservation of the wilderness would be written into law.

What about hotels, which Secretary Ickes has asked Congress to exclude by law from Kings Canyon National Park,

if a park is created? Would they be equally certain to be excluded by national forest regulations? One may judge of that, possibly, by reading a letter which Forest Supervisor Frank R. Cunningham, of Porterville, California, wrote to J. A. Cecil, of Woodlake, California, April 6, 1932, outlining Forest Service plans for development of Kings River Valley at Cedar Grove:

"I believe that accommodations should be provided that will fit the desires and purses of all classes of people. My present idea is that there shall be two hotels, one near the upper end of the valley and one near the lower end. A close study may determine that there will be sufficient business to justify more. One of them should be prepared to cater to the class that has plenty of money, and wants to spend it; the other to those who wish to enjoy themselves with comfortable, but not over-expensive accommodations."

Since another man is now in charge at Porterville, this plan may no longer be in vogue. Assume that it is not. What protection is there for the Kings River wilderness when a local

* The Gearhart bill, in the clause limiting housing to the valley of the South Fork of the Kings, does not specifically exclude hotels from the type of housing to be built. The bill can and should be amended to limit the housing to cabins, which would harmonize with the wilderness character of the rest of the Kings River region.

forest supervisor can rule its destinies in the manner denoted by the words: "My present idea is that there should be two hotels"?

The National Park Service has been justly criticized for the park hotels built under Director Mather in the 1920's, and for the concessionaire system of which they are a part. Secretary Ickes, in his 1938 report just submitted to Congress, has asked for legislation which would make it possible to get rid of this system, and he is asking Congress to forbid the construction of hotels in national

park wilderness areas. In contrast to this attitude of the Park Service, the Forest Service has just opened a palatial new hotel, costing over a million dollars, in the Mt. Hood wilderness. The past position of these two branches of the government—National Park Service and Forest Service—is obviously reversed. But that is not enough. There must be protection by law, and that is what Secretary Ickes is asking in behalf of the Park Service—protection against the insidious pressures that come from outside, and against the effect of changing government personnel.

A National Park Should Guarantee Protection to Kings Canyon and Redwood Mountain

There is a place on the public lands of the United States for activities of practically all kinds—mining, grazing, lumbering, reservoir building, hunting, the operation of hotels, lodges and camps, as well as open-air camping.

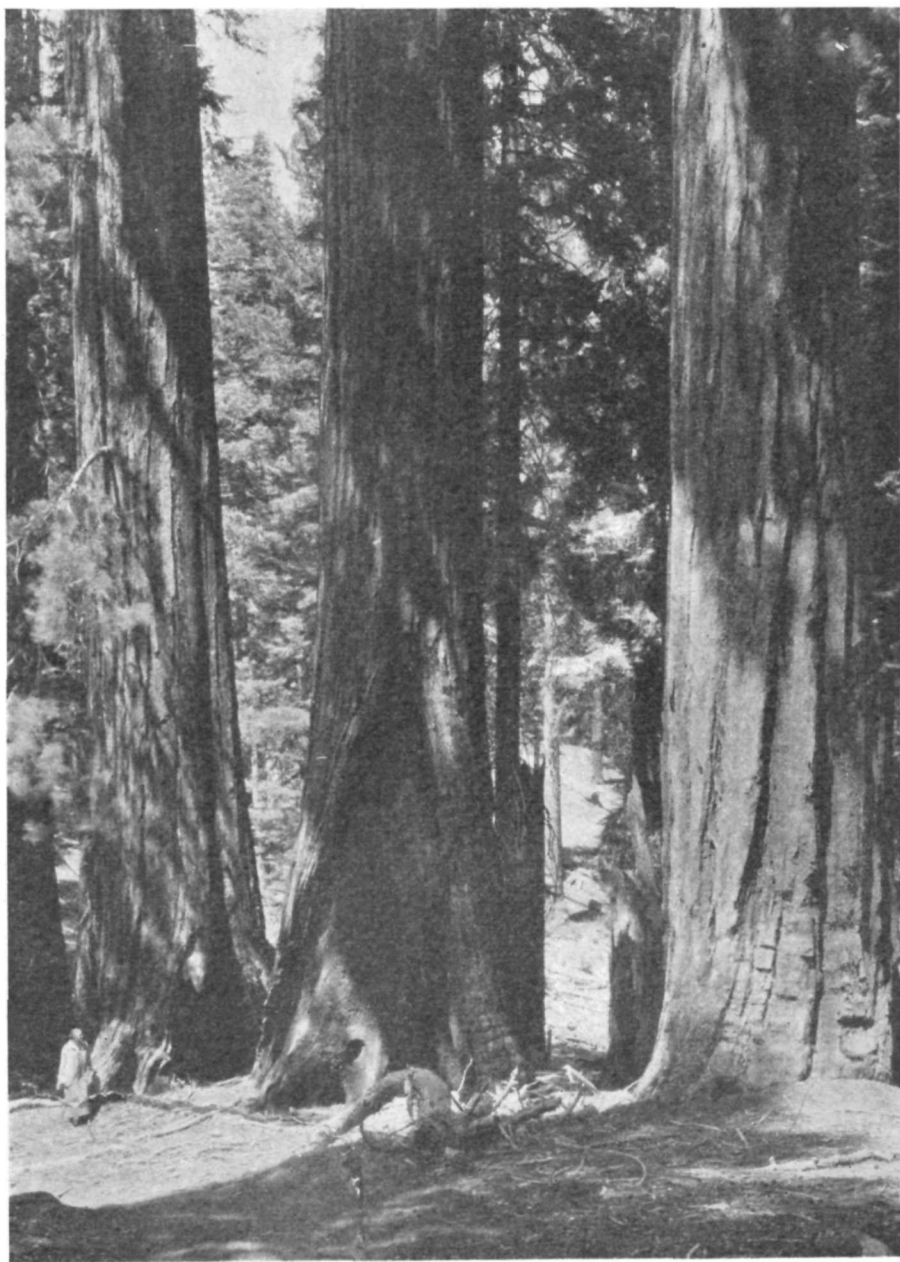
But there is no place for any non-recreational commercial activities in any area that deserves, because of its surpassing beauty, to be in the national park system, and no place for elaborate recreational facilities in a national park of the wilderness variety.

It is not a question whether one government bureau or another shall have charge of an area, except in relation to the difference between the functions of the two bureaus, i.e., the difference in their methods of administration. Public lands belong to the nation, no matter what bureau controls them. Decisions

must be made on the basis of national policy.

The theories of the Forest Service are perfectly proper when applied to lands that are primarily of commercial value, with incidental value for recreation. They are destructive when applied to lands of the highest scenic quality, including scenic forests.

If there is a reason for having a national park system at all, there is reason for having a national park in the Kings Canyon country, and in the nearby sequoia groves which still remain outside the protection of federal law. Of all the lands to be found in the United States, no region exists that surpasses Kings Canyon and Redwood Mountain for supreme magnificence in all the qualities that go to make up a national park.



Photograph by Willard G. Van Name

BIG TREES (*Sequoia gigantea*) OF REDWOOD MOUNTAIN

Kings Canyon and Redwood Mountain for a Memorial to John Muir

Let this Park be established as a memorial to John Muir, the great student and lover of our western mountains, the father of the national park system. Let it not be said that fifty years after John Muir uttered his appeal "to save this surpassingly glorious region for the preser-

vation and well-being of humanity" it has not yet been done. The fifty years will be up in 1941. The park can and will be established in 1939, if the American people respond, and carry to Congress the power of their determination.

CONSERVATIONISTS—Please Help the Campaign for the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park

We beg you to:

Write short simple letters to your two senators and to your representative, telling them that you approve the project to establish the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park.

Ask organizations to pass resolutions. Send these resolutions to your senators and representatives. And send them to the newspapers.

Write letters to the newspapers, endorsing the proposed park. Mention especially that it is supported by the Department of Agriculture, as well as by the Department of the Interior.

Ask the editors of newspapers and magazines to publish articles and editorials favorable to the proposed park. Send all such articles and editorials to your congressman.

Distribute this pamphlet, which is free while the supply lasts.

Send us the names of people interested.

Contribute money, which will go directly into our campaign—for printing, postage, etc.

Tell everyone you know of this opportunity to establish a national park of untold beauty.

NOTE. Bills have been introduced to authorize the President to establish perpetual wilderness areas in National Parks and National Monuments. They are Senate Bill 1188, introduced by Senator Adams of Colorado, and House of Representatives Bill No. 3648, introduced by Representative De Rouen of Louisiana. When writing letters of endorsement of the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park, please add a sentence, saying that you also favor these bills.

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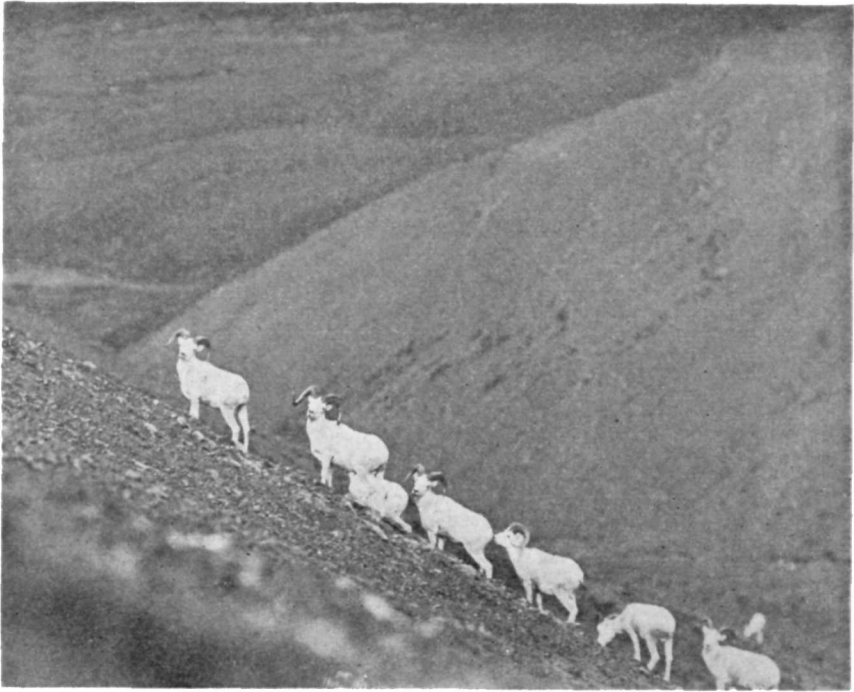
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**This material is suitable for teachers, and
for high school and college students.**



Courtesy of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

MOUNTAIN SHEEP

Mountain sheep have almost disappeared from the Kings Canyon area.
They may be brought back if this area is given park status.

Just as this pamphlet goes to press, word comes that Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has written a letter to Secretary Ickes (February 8, 1939), indorsing the John Muir-Kings Canyon National Park, which means that the Forest Service will support it. This ought to wipe out most of the opposition to the park.