



**MOUNT RAINIER IN WINTER
FROM SKY-LINE RIDGE**

This picture was taken on a sunny day. The wind-blown trees and the fleecy clouds give an effect of storm.

Norman Huber

Greetings

From
Stephen Mather
Director of National Parks
Department of the Interior



I SEND greetings to a club of red-blooded, public-spirited men and women in a State of majestic mountains and big opportunities. I learned the quality of your men and women when they offered to graze sheep on their own lawns if it should become necessary to save the wild flower gardens of Rainier National Park during the stress of war. I learned the quality of your mountains when I stood on Rainier's summit fifteen years ago. It was that climb which made a mountain man of me forever.

Let me say a word of your opportunities.

Your State has some of the noblest forests in America, but they are passing fast, as those who have seen the devastation between Tacoma and the national park boundary know only too well. But there are still sections of forests on the northwest side of the park which can be saved. Denver has acquired a series of mountain parks which afford continuous forested highways to the Mount Evans region which we hope will speedily become an addition to the Rocky Mountain National Park. There is still the opportunity for Seattle and Tacoma to secure the forest borders of their highways to their national park. And such forest borders!

But there is even a greater opportunity, one of the greatest in the scenic world today!

That is the preservation of the timber along the beautiful passes which carry the Eastern tourists over the Cascades to your wonderful west side slopes. Through these passes the future will bring endless processions of motorists to see the famed beauty of the Cascades and the Olympics. Let them always come, as now, by grandly scenic highways through forests saved from the ax. There are open stands of timber today of relatively small lumber value, as compared with the Douglas fir on the west slopes of the Cascades, but invaluable scenically. An instance in point is the beautiful Wenatchee Country just east of Blewett Pass which crosses the divide between Wenatchee and Yakima Valleys. Already these forests are invaded. I personally know that some of these lumbermen realize their scenic value; one at least is using old fashioned hauling methods which do not disturb the soil for forest recuperation as other methods do. But remember that the dryer east side slopes do not recover as readily as the western slopes with their moisture do.

Now is the time, while these forests still stand, to save your passes for the future beauty of your entering highways. A society is being organized in your own State to save the timber. Get behind it. Give it your moral and your personal support.

Again! The east slope of the Cascades is the dry side; it drops off into wonderful irrigated valleys. High up these slopes are lakes of wonderful beauty, lakes which are gems, lakes whose future value as scenic lures is inestimable. Fate has it that these lakes shall supply the water to make the deserts bloom. Good! Already Yakima Valley has a fine irrigation development.

But it is not necessary that the scenic value of these lakes be destroyed, that dams be erected which shall raise their waters and turn miles of lake-side forest into the ghastly cemeteries of what today is loveliness and what tomorrow will lure the tourists of two-score states.

Is it not possible to preserve these lakes, to build reservoirs well below them, to impound storage waters, and so conserve the water and their beauty, too, to have two great commercial assets instead of one? It may cost communities more to store their waters in reservoirs below the lakes, but on the whole it will a better asset, not only for the State, but for the communities themselves which receive the increased water supplies.

Go to it, Mountaineers! There is still time. You will find the lumbermen human beings like yourselves whose public-spirit may be easily reached. And you will find a public quickly responsive to the call of the State's greater good.

I have been anxious to join you on some of your camping trips, but my duties have so far prevented it; although I am looking forward with great anticipation to the days when I can camp out with you on the slopes of the great white mountain.

Stephen J. Mathes