

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION FOUR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

October 26, 1938

Memorandum for the Director:

This refers to your memorandum of September 10 enclosing a copy of a letter of August 19 from the Superintendent of the Department of Playgrounds and Recreation, Los Angeles, California, concerning Point Dume in Los Angeles County and requesting this office to investigate the matter and report to you what action, if any, should be taken.

We requested Inspector P.T. Primm to visit the area when it was convenient for him to do so. This has now been done and we quote the following as his report:

"In accordance with a request from the Regional Director, the writer has visited and investigated the Point Dume area in Los Angeles County, which has been recommended by interested parties for consideration as a national park or monument.

This area is located in the northwest part of Los Angeles County, about half-way between the cities of Santa Monica and Ventura, or perhaps thirty miles from either of these two cities. The area under consideration consists of some 1,200 acres, lying west of and between the Roosevelt Highway (which is one of the main north-and-south highways in the State of California) and the Pacific Ocean. The shoreline bordering the Point Dume area is approximately three miles long and on clear days, from any point along the shore may be seen the outlines of one or more of the channel islands, portions of which have been recently acquired by the National Park Service.

The area itself is still covered with native vegetation which, however, is low-growing and forms very little protection from the prevailing winds which detract largely from the value of the beach for recreational purposes. During the summer time a sharp wind usually arises early in the afternoon in this locality, which makes it rather unpleasant. Beach houses which have been built even farther south have found it necessary to build artificial windbreaks, sometimes of glass but more often of wood, for protection from the wind.

The area is of course easily accessible to a large portion of the population of Los Angeles County and Ventura County and is adjacent to the famous Malibu Rancho which consists of well over 100,000 acres and stretches along the coast line from a short distance north of Santa Monica to and including Point Dume.



If this entire ranch could in any way be acquired by the Park Service the writer feels that more serious consideration might be given to this acquisition, as the ranch has many miles of beach frontage together with many interesting canyons and precipitous and scenic mountain areas.

The State of California has had this area under consideration for some time and it is thought that, should it be acquired as a park, it could be more adequately and properly be administered as a state park area than as a national park or monument.

As previously stated in this memorandum, the cover on this area is low-growing and offers practically no protection or inducement to any considerable amount of wildlife; neither are there any swamps or marshes to attract sea-fowl, wild ducks, etc.

The writer of course is not familiar with the details of the delinquent taxes but is under the impression that a large amount of the overdue taxes are collectible by the State of California.

Due to the rather unpleasant climatic conditions which we have referred to in this memorandum, the small size of the area, the absence of any unusual scenic attractions, the fact that the area is unsuited as a bird sanctuary or wildlife refuge, and with the thought in mind that should it be desirable for any kind of park purposes it could be much better administered by the State of California, the writer recommends against the acquisition of the property for a national park or national monument<sup>2</sup>.

We concur in Mr. Prim's recommendation that the area under consideration is unsuited for national administration; however, that it does have potentialities as a recreational area to be administered either by the State of California or the County of Los Angeles.

The file will be referred to the Recreational Study Committee for California for consideration as a potential area.

Frank A. Kittredge  
Regional Director

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