

10-23  
(May 1929)

6-7410

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HIGHLANDS FOREST NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-35

PART 1

*file*  
*ju*

PROPOSED MONUMENTS

HIGHLANDS FOREST

\*\*\*\*\*

LAST DATE ON TOP

\*\*\*\*\*

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*

October 29, 1934.

Mr. T. G. Harbison,  
Curator of the Herbarium,  
University of North Carolina,  
Chapel Hill, N. C.

*O-35  
Highlands Forest  
NM*

My dear Mr. Harbison:

Dr. Francis Harper of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, has called our attention to the existence of a forested area near Highlands, North Carolina, which he believes should be preserved from possible destruction. He has told us that you are familiar with this region. We would greatly appreciate it if you would send us whatever information you may have regarding it.

We are specially interested in learning what the dominant species may be; the excellence of this stand as an example of its kind, and a general idea of the wildlife species which are native there. We would also be glad to learn something of the ownership of the best portions of the area.

For the Director:

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Conrad L. Wirth,  
Assistant Director.

✓  
JLB-fmd

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHAPEL HILL, N. C.  
 DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

W. C. COKER  
 H. R. TOTTEN  
 J. N. COUCH

NATIONAL PAID

NOV - 5 1934

Nov. 1, 1934.

*W. C. Coker*  
~~Robson~~  
~~Thompson~~ ~~Regle~~ ~~Ed~~  
 ALMA HOLLAND  
 T. G. HARBISON  
~~W. C. Coker~~

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth,  
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wirth:

Your favor of Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> is received. I am glad to know that you are interested in the preservation of that fine primeval forest area near Highlands, N. C. I had the pleasure last spring of going through that forest with Dr. Francis Harper and one of his scientific friends.

This part of a larger tract of primeval forest was purchased (about 300 acres) by H. H. Richardson of Brookline, Mass. to preserve. Owing to his death and the depression Mrs. Richardson does not feel able to hold it; so it must be sold in the near future.

The dominant species of tree hemlock, black and yellow birch, tulip poplar, in the lower parts. There are <sup>5</sup> four species of oak, some white pine and other species. Rhododendron and Kalmia grow to a large size. One of the understubs is Leucothoe catesbaei. Parts of the forest have a semi-tropical appearance. In short it is too beautiful and picturesque to hand over to a saw-mill man.

Ruffed grouse, quail and other birds are there. At present no deer or bear. There are a number of small mammals - several species of mice.

The forest portion is owned by Mrs. Richardson, about 300 acres and she will see for \$10,000 to any one who will preserve it. Any further information gladly furnished.

Sincerely yours,  
 T. G. Harbison

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Matter  
Essex*

November 27, 1934.

*0-35  
Highlands*

Mr. T. G. Harbison,  
Department of Botany,  
University of North Carolina,  
Chapel Hill, N. C.

My dear Mr. Harbison:

We have received your interesting letter of November 21, in answer to ours of October 29, regarding the forest area near Highlands, North Carolina.

Our final study of this area should determine whether or not it represents a forest type of distinctly national interest. The information you have given us will aid considerably in this study.

In case its acquisition by this Service should prove desirable, some method should be developed whereby the land could be transferred to the Government without cost as there are no Federal funds available for its purchase. If you have any suggestions to make regarding this possibility, we shall be glad to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

~~CONRAD L. WIRTH~~  
*[Signature]*

Conrad L. Wirth,  
Assistant Director.

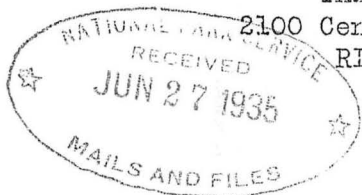
JLB:fmh  
RMW:ejw  
cc Mr. Lee Brown

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Handwritten:* ~~1000 North~~  
File?  
HFA

STATE PARK DIVISION  
THIRD REGIONAL OFFICE

2100 Central National Bank Bldg.  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



June 26, 1935

*Handwritten:* 0.3  
HFA

State Park ECW  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: Subject: Highlands Forest National Monument, North Carolina

Please refer to your memorandum to Regional Officers dated May 17th relative to areas which have been proposed for administration by this Service.

We append hereto a copy of a report from Inspector Sharpe concerning the above noted area, together with Form 100532 properly filled out although not in detail, in view of the recommendations in his memorandum. A copy of the highway map of North Carolina, showing the location of the area, is also appended.

Yours very truly,

H. E. Weatherwax  
Regional Officer  
Third Region

BY:

*Handwritten signature:* A. P. Bursley  
A. P. Bursley  
Assistant Regional Officer

*Handwritten note:* Inspector's letter & form report in Branch of Planning Bldg  
HFA

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CHAPEL HILL, N. C.  
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

W. C. COKER  
H. R. TOTTEN  
J. N. COUCH

Feb. 10, 1936.

ALMA HOLLAND  
T. G. HARBISON  
J. E. ADAMS

The Hon. Jos. W. Bailey  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A few days ago, Dr. H. C. Bryant, Assistant Director of the National Park Service, wrote me concerning conservation of animal and plant life. I have written him, urging the setting aside by the Government of two areas in North Carolina. At Highlands, N. C., at an elevation of about 4000 feet, there is an undisturbed primeval forest, representing in its perfection the most magnificent growth to be found in the United States, east of the Mississippi River. The area consists of two holdings, one called the "Primeval Forest", the other the "Richardson Woods". I have not at hand at the moment the acreage covered by these two tracts, but would guess it at considerably over a hundred acres. In these forests, which are adjacent, making one solid body, are found the largest hemlock, the largest cherry, <sup>the largest birch</sup> and the largest Fraser's Magnolia in the United States so far as the records go. These are not exceptions, the whole forest is made up of magnificent

The Hon. Jos. W. Bailey - p. 2.

specimens and never fails to make a deep impression on a visitor. Botanically and Zoologically speaking, this area is unparalled in its advantages. We have at Highlands a biological laboratory already well established and supported by several universities, including our own, where professors and advanced students go in the summer for research work, not only from our own and adjoining states but from northern states and from Washington. Without any exception everybody who has been there declares that there is no place in the country equal to it in its fauna and flora.

The other area mentioned above is a southern third of Smith Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. Here we have a remarkable extension of simitropical flora. One finds a vegetation reminiscent of Florida -- large Palmettoes, Magnolia grandiflora, American Olives, Carolina Laurel Cherry, and several species of Cactus. In the Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, Vol. 34, September, 1918, I have a short, illustrated article on this island. Two or three years ago, our state forester, Mr. Holmes, and our university president, Dr. Frank Graham, and myself, made an effort to raise \$5000.00 to buy the most important part of Smith Island. The occasion for our interest at the time

The Hon. J. S. W. Bailey - p. 3.

was that this part was to be sold for taxes and we could have gotten it probably for about what the taxes were. Not only North Carolinians are interested in the preservation of Smith Island, but your Washington botanists also. Dr. Diehl of the Bureau of Plant Industry has been down several times to study the flora and has talked to me, urging some kind of joint action in having it set aside as a reservation. You know how hard it is to get states to do anything like this, and so far we have not succeeded in getting ours to set aside either of these two areas mentioned above.

Knowing of your enlightened interest in all civilizing influences in our state, I look forward to strong influence from you to accomplish preservation of these two remarkable areas.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. S. W. Bailey".



25332

MORRIS SHEPPARD, TEX., CHAIRMAN  
 DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, FLA.  
 HUGG L. BLACK, ALA.  
 J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.  
 MARCUS A. COOLIDGE, MASS.  
 M. M. LOGAN, KY.  
 ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.  
 NATHAN L. BACHMAN, TENN.  
 F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.  
 ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH  
 SHERMAN MINTON, IND.  
 LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.

ROBERT D. CAREY, WYO.  
 L. J. DICKINSON, IOWA  
 WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.  
 W. WARREN BARBOUR, N. J.  
 GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.

VICTOR RUSSELL, CLERK  
 C. H. TOLBERT, ASST. CLERK

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

Feb. 11, 1936

INTERIOR DEPT.  
 RECEIVED  
 FEB 12 1936  
 OFFICE OF  
 THE SECRETARY.

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
 RECEIVED  
 FEB 12 1936  
 TO NAT'L PARKS  
 SECY'S OFF.  
 MAIL & FILES  
 PREPARE REPLY  
 FEB 12 1936  
 FOR SECY'S SIGNATURE  
 MAIL & FILES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 RECEIVED  
 FEB 12 1936  
 MAILS AND FILES

Hon. Harold L. Ickes,  
 Secretary of the Interior,  
 Department of the Interior,  
 Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

With further reference to my letter addressed to you under date of January 31, with reference to the establishment of primeval monuments throughout the United States, I now send you another communication which I have today received from Mr. W. C. Coker, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

This is for your information.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert R. Reynolds*  
 Robert R. Reynolds, U. S. S.

l-mp

P. S. - PLEASE ENCLOSE CARBON COPY  
 OF YOUR REPLY FOR MY FILES.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1936.

Memorandum for  
MR. WIRTH: *[Signature]*

A few days ago I had a talk with Dr. Diehl of the Bureau of Plant Industry relative to the possibility of setting aside two important vegetation areas in North Carolina for permanent preservation.

One of these areas is two hundred acres of primeval forest near the town of Highlands, in which is stationed the Biological Laboratory supported by several neighboring universities. Within this undisturbed woodland are some of the largest and finest species of hemlock, birch, cherry, and Fraser's magnolia, and also an abundance of flowering plants, fungi, lichens, and other cryptogams.

The other region is Smith Island, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, which is a remarkable extension of semi-tropical flora similar to that of Florida. The island is about five by three miles square.

Dr. Diehl gave me the enclosed pictures which are illustrative of the characteristic growth of Smith Island.

It is probable that you will wish to investigate the possibilities of these two areas which come so highly recommended as being outstanding examples of a notable flora.

*H. C. Bryant*  
H. C. Bryant,  
Assistant Director.

Enclosure 576368  
CC Great Smokies

10-39

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

2/14/36

To: ~~Mr. Preece~~ *lp*  
~~Mr. Arnold~~ *me*  
~~Mr. Bagley~~ *816*

to note

*and returns*

*to Brown, 4109 Antenor.*

JOSIAH WILLIAM BAILEY, N. C., CHAIRMAN	ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
PARK TRAMMELL, FLA.	JOHN G. TOWNSEND, JR., DEL.
HUGO L. BLACK, ALA.	WALLACE H. WHITE, JR., MAINE
MARGUS A. COOLIDGE, MASS.	ERNEST W. GIBSON, VT.
M. M. LOGAN, KY.	
EDWARD R. BURKE, NEBR.	
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.	
ELMER A. BENSON, MINN.	

S. J. PARHAM, JR., CLERK

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS

*Hes*  
*Walt*



February 17, 1936

Dr. H. C. Bryant,  
Assistant Director of the National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bryant:

You will find attached hereto a letter from Dr. W. C. Coker of our University.

In this letter he calls attention to two remarkable areas in North Carolina and solicits my influence in having the Park Service to take them over. The contents of the letter speak so much more intelligently of these areas than I can, I am laying the letter before you. Please be assured that I will very greatly appreciate your interest in the matter and would like to have your views. If there is anything I may do to bring about the taking over of these areas, please command me.

With all good wishes,

Very truly yours,

JWB/s

Signed at the direction of  
Senator Bailey in his absence

2/17/36

Note for the Files:

Mr. Clark Foreman of this Department informed me by telephone that the most desirable tract of primeval forest is owned by a man named Ravenel, who is desirous of having it preserved, and who would sell it at a reasonable figure. He states the tract owned by Mrs. H. H. Richardson, of Brookline, Mass., and on which a report has been received, is less desirable, but is adjacent and that the two might be combined in a single reserve for research purposes.

*Brown*

J. Lee Brown.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*Filed  
Holmes*

*Summary*

PRS 25332



WASHINGTON

FEB 20 1936

*0-35  
Referred  
Highlands  
ELLOWS NOTED*

Hon. Robert R. Reynolds,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Reynolds:

Secretary Ickes has asked me to reply to your letter of February 11, regarding the establishment of primeval monuments throughout the United States, with particular reference to primeval forest tracts near Highlands, North Carolina, referred to in a letter of February 10 to you from Dr. W. C. Coker of the University of North Carolina.

This matter has been referred to the Director of the National Park Service, with a request that these areas be investigated. When a report is received from its field division, that Service will be able to reach a decision regarding the above-mentioned tracts.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HARRY SLATTERY

HARRY SLATTERY  
Personal Assistant  
To the Secretary.

Bryant  
Jackson  
Thompson  
Rumery

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1936.

0-35  
Highland

Hon. Josiah William Bailey,

United States Senate.

My dear Senator Bailey:

The National Park Service has received your letter of February 17 transmitting a letter from Dr. N. C. Coker relative to important biological areas in North Carolina.

The areas which are suggested for preservation are being investigated to determine their national significance and fitness as biological reservations. We are always glad to have such areas called to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Arno B. Cammerer,  
Director.

HCB:cvc



WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD  
6TH DIST. NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBER OF  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

NINA GOODWIN  
SECRETARY

*HCB*  
*For answer*  
*HCB*



February 22, 1936

Dr. H. C. Bryant, Assistant Director  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bryant:

I understand that the government is considering the acquisition of certain land at Highlands, North Carolina, which area consists of the "Primeval Forest" and "Richardson Woods". I understand that this area is an undisturbed primeval forest. There is at Highlands, North Carolina, a biological laboratory, which I understand is rendering a very splendid service.

I also understand that the government has under consideration the acquisition of a tract of land on Smith Island, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and that this particular tract has a remarkable growth of semi-tropical flora.

I am very much interested in the acquisition by the government of the two areas above mentioned, and I urge that your department conduct a very careful investigation in connection with said areas and that you arrange, if possible, for the acquisition of this land by the federal government. I shall be glad to hear from you if and when you have investigated these matters.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

I am

Sincerely yours,

*William Umstead*  
William B. Umstead.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FEB 26 1936

8-35  
Highlands

Third Regional Officer,  
National Park Service,  
2100 Central National Bank Bldg.,  
Richmond, Virginia.

Subject: Land for proposed Highlands  
National Monument, North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are copies of correspondence with Senator Robert Reynolds of North Carolina, and with Mr. W. C. Coker, Department of Botany, University of North Carolina, regarding tracts of primeval forests, one near Highlands, North Carolina, and another on Smith Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, which are being proposed for inclusion in the National Park system.

By letter of June 26, 1935, you submitted a form report on the proposed Highlands National Monument. The land referred to was a part of the estate of Mr. H. H. Richardson. Information recently received indicates that the tract referred to is owned by a Mr. Ravenel, who is interested in its preservation. It has been suggested that the Ravenel tract is of greater value as a primeval area than the other, but that both together might be desirable.

It is requested that you investigate these sites, or have them investigated by someone from your office who is capable of judging their possible value as primeval reserves, and submit a report as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Conrad L. Wirth,  
Assistant Director.

Encl. 892606  
CC: Third Regional Office  
Dr. Bryant

JLB-fmd  
mcs

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Will Johnson*

MAR - 4 1938

Hon. William B. Umstead,  
House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Umstead:

Your letter of February 22 to Dr. Harold C. Bryant of this Service, regarding two tracts of primeval forest near Highlands, North Carolina, and another tract on Smith Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, has been received.

In response to a recent request from Senator Robert R. Reynolds, this Service requested a field investigation of these two areas. As soon as reports are received, we shall be glad to inform you.

Your cooperation in calling this matter to our attention is appreciated.

Cordially yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

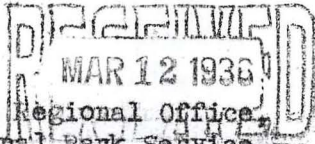
A. E. Demaray.  
Acting Director.

*WLB*  
WLB-fmd  
*WLB*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR *Mails & Files*  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE PARK DIVISION

REGIONAL OFFICE March 9th, 1936



Third Regional Office,  
National Park Service,  
2100 Central Nat'l. Bank Bldg.,  
Richmond, Virginia.

Subject: Proposed Highlands National  
Monument, Highlands, N. C.

Gentlemen:-

When the writer was first shown over the area to be investigated for the proposed Highlands National Monument in June 1935, the only area to which he was taken or of which any mention was made, was the Richardson Tract of 300 acres. My recommendation of June 23, 1935 was based on a survey of this property only.

Accompanying Mr. O. B. Taylor, Wildlife Technician, Third Region, an inspection of the Ravenel Tract was made March 8th, 1936.

The recommendation of this Inspector is favorable, after seeing the magnificent forest growth on the Ravenel Tract. For a complete project, the Richardson Tract should be included, even though it does not measure up to the fine quality of the Ravenel Tract.

The Richardson Tract is part of the estate of the late H. H. Richardson and the writer is informed, is for sale. There has been some cutting on this tract and more has been done, since the death of Professor T. G. Harbison, former curator of the Herbarium, University of North Carolina. Professor Harbison was a close friend of the late Mr. Richardson and was connected with the handling of his estate after Mr. Richardson's death.

The Ravenel Tract is owned by Mr. S. P. Ravenel of Charleston, South Carolina. There is no evidence that cutting has ever been done or that fire has run over the property. It is as unspoiled as an area could possibly be. Only a foot-trail, fairly well cleared, leads through the area. The forest floor, where there are evergreens, is a tangle of mammoth laurel, rhododendron and leucothoe, azaleas and other shrubs.

-2-

The fact that the area is almost surrounded by the Nantahala National Forest, has prevented fire from running through it.

The owner, Mr. S. P. Ravenel, seems to be interested in the absolute preservation of the area. It is reported that the Forest Service attempted to acquire the tract, but could or would not give Mr. Ravenel the assurance that no timber would be cut for some long period of years. It is also reported that Mr. Ravenel might be willing to sell at a most reasonable figure, if he were to receive assurance that the area would not be disturbed in any way. These are only reports, of course, and could only be verified by further investigation.

It is the opinion of the writer that the area should include, in addition to the Richardson and Ravenel holdings, all of Whiteside Mountain, which is the outstanding geological formation in this section and very much a part of the primitive scene. That part of Whiteside Mountain not in the Ravenel Tract is controlled by the U. S. Forest Service, Nantahala National Forest.

Form 100532 in triplicate for this area is enclosed. It is suggested that Regional Wildlife Technician Taylor cover the biological features of this area in a separate report. Photographs and additional maps will be submitted as soon as they can be printed or secured.

Very truly yours,

L. S. Sharpe,  
Regional Inspector.

IAS/mj



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE PARK DIVISION

THIRD REGIONAL OFFICE  
2100 Central National Bank Bldg.  
Richmond, Virginia

*Wirth*  
*file*

March 31, 1936

National Park Service  
Branch of Planning and State Cooperation  
Washington, D. C.



Attention Mr. Conrad L. Wirth  
Assistant Director

Subject: Land for Proposed Highlands  
National Monument  
North Carolina

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your letter of February 26 on the above subject.

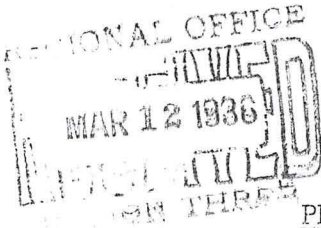
We submit herewith two copies of Form 100532, Proposed National Parks & Monuments, one map showing location, one copy of a letter from Inspector Sharpe and one copy of a letter from Mr. O. B. Taylor, Regional Wildlife Technician.

We trust that this is the information desired.

Yours very truly  
*H. K. Roberts*  
H. K. Roberts  
Acting Regional Officer  
Third Region

*0-3 51*  
*Highland Forest*

100532



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BRANCH OF PLANNING  
EXTENSION DIVISION

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

(Form of report from Regional Officers)  
To be typed throughout.

Letter of transmittal: To be attached (summary and recommendation)  
Name of Project: Highlands Forest National Monument  
Location -(state, county, distance and direction from known city)  
North Carolina, Macon County, 4 miles east Highlands N. C.

Area - Total 20001 - Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached)  
To include the tracts known as the Richardson (300 A)  
and Ravenel (1300 to 1700 A) also known as the Primeval  
~~Forest~~: Forest.

Recommended: Should include all of Whiteside Mountain

Accessibility:

Railway: Southern R.R. to Lake Toxaway, N. C. 36 miles from Highlands,  
Highway: U. S. No. 64 runs past property ( N C)  
Airline: Asheville, N. C.  
Waterway: None

Major characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and  
attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features - (topography, elevation, plant cover,  
water, etc.): Topography - typical of the  
Blue Ridge; Elevation 4000-5000 feet; plant cover unsurpassed; water  
excellent with one good waterfall.
2. Historical or prehistoric features: Interesting from a biological  
point of view particularly.
3. Geological features: Whiteside Mountain, one of the outstanding  
formations in this section is partly on the area.

## 4. Recreational Possibilities (if compatible with project)

National: This area regarded as a wilderness area which should not be spoiled by inclusion of much active recreational development.

Local:

Estimated population within a radius of 50 miles: 100,000  
 100 " 500,000  
 200 " 1,000,000

## 5. Biological features:

Vegetative: See report Regional Wildlife Technician.

Wildlife: As above

Need for conservation: Contains an extremely fine stand of hemlock, oak, Frazers Magnolia, cherry and should be preserved.

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar nature elsewhere: To the best of the writer's knowledge cannot be duplicated in eastern United States.

Possible development -

Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):

Utilities -

Water supply:

Parking space, capacity: Suggest parking space on edge of area.

Campground sites, capacity: Hotel facilities easily available at moderate cost in Highlands.

Light and power facilities:



Sewerage disposal facilities: Must be provided at edge or within the area.

Capacity for handling of visitors: Must be determined.

Practicability of administration and protection: Could easily be administered and protected as it is almost entirely surrounded by the Nantahala National Forest.

Other land uses - Not compatible with project.

Mining resources:

Agricultural resources:

Grazing:

Cultivated crops:

Timber:

Hunting & Fishing uses:

Power Resources:

Irrigation Resources:

100532

Ownership:

Railways:	_____
State:	_____
Municipalities:	_____
Private:	2000 1-
Total alienated lands	2000 1 -
Mining claims:	None
Grazing permits and withdrawals:	None
Power permits:	None
Total permit acreage	None
National forest lands:	None
Public domain:	None
Reclamation projects:	None
Indian lands:	None
Total public lands	None
Total acreage	2000AA 1-

\*Land Values: Richardson Tract 35.00 per acre. Ravenel Tract about 50.00 to 75.00 per acre

\*Probable asking prices.

History of project: See letter of transmittal.

Local attitude: Very favorable

Persons interested: U.S. Senator R. R. Reynolds; Dr. W. C. Cooker, University of N. C.; S. P. Ravenel, Charleston, S. C.; Richardson Estate, Highlands, N. C.

Itinerary (Sheet to be attached)

Visited on March 8th, 1936.

Bibliography:

List of photographs, maps and printed information submitted:

(Sheet to be attached)

North Carolina Highway map showing location is attached.

Note: All maps which are specially prepared by the Regional Offices should conform to one of the following standard sizes:

Letter size - 18" x 24" - 24" x 36"

*NAB*  
*Butterfield*

4/7/36

- 4 ~~Mr. Winth~~ *ETH*
- 3 ~~Mr. Bryant~~ *Don't look like national calibration*
- 1 ~~Mr. Cahalano~~ *HCS*
- 2 ~~Mr. Bagley~~ *BNS*

The Regional Office has submitted the attached favorable report on the proposed Highlands National Monument.

*0-35  
Highlands  
Forest*

Do you consider further field investigation advisable at this time?

*Butterfield*

N. A. Butterfield.



*APR 21 10 30 AM*

*Better put this on a special field investigation  
ETH*

*Noted*

10-39

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

4/10/36

Mr. Butterfield:

Probably not sufficiently  
different from portions of Great  
Smokies to make the area  
valuable from standpoint  
of the National Park Service.

Cahalane

10-39

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*File*

*mab*

April 13, 1936

Memo to: ~~Mr. Butterfield~~

The data submitted herewith does not justify consideration of the area as a National Monument. It has no outstanding biological features to be preserved, nor are there any geological characters worthy of consideration. The principal interest is scenic. It might justly be a fine State area.

*G.F.B.*  
George F. Bagley  
Wildlife Supervisor.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1936.

Third Regional Officer,  
National Park Service,  
2100 Central Natl. Bank Building,  
Richmond, Virginia.

*0-35  
Highlands*

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Acting Regional Officer H. K. Roberts' letter of March 31, transmitting a favorable report on the proposed Highlands National Monument.

Mr. Neal A. Butterfield, of this office, is planning to make a further investigation of this area. It is requested that you make arrangements to have a man accompany Mr. Butterfield on his investigation of this area. He plans to leave Washington on May 7 by Government car, and spend the day in Richmond. He will leave for the Highlands area on the morning of May 8.

Your cooperation regarding this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth B. Simmons.  
Deputy Assistant Director.

cc: Third Reg. Officer

✓  
NAB-fnd

*John [unclear]*  
*MAB.*  
*File*  
*By*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Branch of Planning and State Cooperation  
THIRD REGIONAL OFFICE  
2100 Central National Bank Bldg.  
Richmond, Virginia

May 4, 1936

National Park Service  
Branch of Planning and State Cooperation  
Washington, D. C.



*0-35*  
*Highlands*  
*on 7.*

Attention: Mr. K. B. Simmons

Subject: Proposed Highlands National Monument

Gentlemen:

We refer to your letter of May 1 on the above subject.

Mr. O. B. Taylor of this office will be ready to accompany Mr. Butterfield on May 8. Mr. Taylor is the present Regional Wildlife Technician and has previously been over this area.

Very truly yours,

*H. K. Roberts.*  
H. K. Roberts  
Regional Officer  
Third Region

Branch of Research and Education  
MAY 6 1936  
RECEIVED  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PLANT DISEASE SURVEY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY  
WASHINGTON

May 15/36

AND  
PATHOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

Dr. H. C. Bryant  
Nat. Park Service  
City

Dear Dr. Bryant: I understand Dr. Coker and others are trying to have the Virginia forest area at Highland N.C. preserved. I am much interested in this project and should like to know its present status and prospects. If you can spare the time may I call on you for a few minutes at your convenience at any time you may designate?  
Very truly yours  
C. R. Shear



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1930.

*0.35  
Highlands Forest*

Mr. C. L. Shear,  
Bureau of Plant Industry,  
United States Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Shear:

I expect to be in my office all this week and shall be very glad to talk over with you the Highland, North Carolina, project.

As has perhaps been indicated to you, the National Park Service is rather skeptical as to whether this area is of sufficient national significance to be included in the monument system; rather does it seem to us that some local agency should continue its preservation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) H. C. BRYANT

H. C. Bryant,  
Assistant Director.

HCB:evc

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1936.

Memorandum to Dr. Bryant:

Reference is made to the attached copy of your letter of May 19 to Mr. C. L. Shear, regarding the proposed Highlands National Monument.

Did you discuss this proposal with Mr. Shear? If so, what were the results of your discussion?

Mr. Butterfield, of this office, visited the area recently, and will be glad to have any information you may have on it.



K. B. Simmons.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1936

*Map  
Southfield*

*6-95  
Highlands  
Forest*

*Lee Brown  
attach to original  
Data & take up  
with me. KPS*

Memorandum for Mr. ~~Simmons~~

*File nos*

*Forest, N.C.*

I had a talk with Dr. Shear regarding the Highlands project. He has worked in the area as a botanist and assured me that there is an unspoiled, primitive, forest area which cannot be duplicated. He stated that the trees are very large and luxuriant and should be preserved. I picked up the idea that near at hand the Forest Service was buying lands to establish a national forest.

*H. C. Bryant*  
H. C. Bryant,  
Assistant Director.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Handwritten:*  
MAB  
File  
0-205  
Highlands



Securities Building  
Richmond, Virginia

June 10, 1936

National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C

Subject: Highlands National Monument,  
Proposed, Highlands, N. C.

Gentlemen:

The attached report has been prepared as a result of the study of Highlands area May 11, in company with Mr. Neal A. Butterfield. The appearance of the forest has changed since his first study of the forest. A severe storm destroyed many of the aged hemlocks.

Very truly yours,

Herbert Evison  
Regional Officer  
Region One

By *O. B. Taylor*  
O. B. Taylor  
Wildlife Technician

HIGHLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT - PROPOSED

Highlands, North Carolina

A supplementary study of the proposed Highland National Monument was made in company with Mr. Neal A. Butterfield of the National Park Service, May 11, 1936.

A severe storm has blown down numerous hemlocks since our first study there, March 8, 1936. Since hemlocks were the principal trees affected, a study was made of areas less affected, which indicated that this is rather a common occurrence. They have a tendency to develop dry-rot in old age that, together with their characteristic low tensile strength, leaves them susceptible to breaking during a severe storm. In a forest of dominant trees reaching maturity and possessing the character of hemlocks, this situation may be anticipated from time to time.

A knowledge of the southeastern flora is essential to grasp the significance of a primeval forest in this location. The widest range of plants on the North American Continent is found in the southeastern portion. In this area, they are nowhere more abundant than in the vicinity of the proposed monument. Further, certain trees and shrubs attain their maximum size there. This is true of black cherry, tulip poplar, Frazier's magnolia, hemlock, rhododendron and mountain laurel. In studying the vegetation, one realizes that white pines, oaks, black birch, and other species attain a tremendous size. While the soil and the climate are important factors, the abnormal amount of precipitation is largely responsible for the phenomenal growth.

No less unique than the vegetation is the singular fact that evidence of fire is totally lacking. An examination of large hemlocks which broke near the ground revealed no indication of fire scars. They held a clue to fire hazards for three centuries.

It is difficult to secure an accurate conception of the fauna without spending several days in the forest. The dense vegetation renders it difficult to observe small birds and mammals. We were able to record several species of perching birds, more often by note than sight. Land forms leave few tracks in

- 2 -


the forest litter. There was no lack of songs in any section visited and little evidence of mammals, although they might have been near us.

In a small stream where the water trickled between moss-covered rocks we identified species of caddis, stone and may flies; salamanders and cray fish. The streams are ideal habitats for aquatic life. They show a minimum fluctuation in waterflow.

Herbaceous wildflowers at this season contribute a wealth of beauty to the forest. Large beds of bluets were scattered generally in the upland hardwoods, and violets, seen in moist, shady places, were in the same area. Robins plantain, or "blue spring daisy," the earliest member of the Composite family, were blooming in profusion in the more arid locations. Ladies slippers were not flowering, but the tall, shapely leaves attest to the fortune of visitors in early June. Probably no flowers added more charm than the procession of trilliums. In June, the azalea, laurel and rhododendron will provide the choicest floral offering that may be found in the range of these plants.

Richardson's Forest is no longer a pristine forest. But insofar as I can determine the Ravenel is primeval. It is sufficiently impressive that the writer wishes it were possible for those who are primarily concerned with the final disposition of the project to make an inspection before definitely deciding to discredit the quality of a forest that is representative of the vast empire of Smoky Mountain trees.

Respectfully submitted,

  
O. E. Taylor  
Wildlife Technician

Cahalane

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 10, 1939.

Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region I:

We have recently had reason to refer to the files in an attempt to find information on the forest near Highland, North Carolina, which was the subject of a memorandum from you to the Wildlife Division under date of January 27, 1939. This led to a check of a list of special reports from Region I which are not available in the Washington Office. A copy of this list is enclosed for your information. Therein is listed a report by Wildlife Technician O. B. Taylor, dated March 25, 1936, entitled "Report on Study of Proposed Highland National Monument." We would like to obtain as soon as possible a copy of this report.

In reviewing the very lengthy list of special reports from your region that are not available here, it appears to us that there is an immense amount of information that should be at all times available for use in this office. It is suggested and urged, therefore, that two copies of each of these special reports be made as soon as possible and sent to the Washington Office. It is realized that perhaps this cannot be done immediately with your regular personnel but it seems that this would be an ideal relief project that should be set up immediately.

(SGD) C. P. Russell

Supervisor of Research and Information.

Enclosure 1794921.

cc Wildlife Division - San Francisco

vhc:mmm

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 10, 1939.

Memorandum for Mr. J. West:

With the approval of Mr. Brill and Mr. Jennings I have lent the report, "Highland Forest National Monument", by L. A. Sharpe to Mr. Clark Foreman, Director, Power Division, Public Works Administration.

I will be responsible for the return of this item to your files.

(SGD) C. P. Russell

Supervisor of  
Research and Information.

epr:mkr



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 10, 1939.

*Noted  
B. S. Sharpe  
3/10/39*

Memorandum for Mr. Brill:

In accordance with our telephone conversation of this morning and with the approval of Mr. Jennings, I have removed from the file O-35 Part 1, "Proposed Monuments - Highlands Forest", the following items:

Report on "Land for Proposed Highland National Monument" by L. S. Sharpe, March 9, 1936.

"Proposed Highland National Monument, Highland, North Carolina" by O. B. Taylor, March 23, 1936, (illustrations, maps).

These items have been lent to Mr. Clark Foreman, Director of the Power Division, Public Works Administration. I shall be responsible for their return to the Service files when they have served Mr. Foreman.

I shall, with your approval, place Mr. Taylor's report in the files of the Wildlife Division. Mr. Sharpe's report will be returned to your office.

*C. Russell*  
Supervisor of  
Research and Information.

*orig sent 3/10/39  
File #*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*0-35  
Highland Forest*

March 10, 1939.

Memorandum for Mr. Foreman,  
Director, Power Division, P.W.A.

I have located the following reports made by technicians in our Service in connection with their studies of the proposed Highland Forest National Monument in North Carolina:

"Land for Proposed Highland National Monument",  
L. S. Sharpe, March 9, 1936.

"Proposed Highland National Monument, Highland,  
North Carolina", O. B. Taylor, March 23, 1936,  
(Maps).

"Highland National Monument Proposed", a supplementary  
report by O. B. Taylor, no date.

"Report on Highland Forest National Monument", L. A.  
Sharpe, June 23, 1935, (Map).

These reports are made available for your use with the understanding that they will be returned to the undersigned in the near future.

Supervisor of  
Research and Information.

Enclosure 1044949  
opr:mlr

*COPIES ONLY RECEIVED BY MAIL ROOM*

*File #*

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION  
OF PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 11, 1939

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

Power-cf/lp



*File # 3/29*  
Memorandum for Dr. C. P. Russell,  
National Park Service:

Thank you very much for allowing me to see the reports by technicians in the Park Service in connection with the proposed Highland Forest National Monument in North Carolina. I am returning to you herewith "Report on Highland Forest National Monument", by L. A. Sharpe, June 23, 1935, with map. With the permission which you gave me verbally on the telephone this morning, I am submitting the other reports to the Forest Service but will see that they are returned to you in the very near future.

*Clark Foreman*

Clark Foreman  
Director, Power Division

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 13, 1939.

*0-35  
Highland Forest*

Memorandum for Mr. James West, Room 5214:

There is returned herewith the report on the proposed Highland Forest National Monument, North Carolina, by Inspector L. A. Sharpe, which you so kindly loaned this office recently.

(SGD) O. P. Russell

Supervisor of  
Research and Information.

Enclosure 1920789

MH

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION ONE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



March 14, 1939.

*J. Thompson*  
*Mrs. Sager*  
*H. H. Cahalane*  
*Bentley*  
*P. J. Taylor*  
*Report filed in wildlife div*  
*file*

Memorandum for the Director:

In accordance with Dr. Russell's request of March 10 we are enclosing a copy of a "Report on Proposed Highland National Monument, North Carolina," prepared by O. B. Taylor, Acting Regional Wildlife Technician.

We are planning to have the other reports copied from time to time when the pressure of current work will allow, and around July 1 we will try to set up an ERA "white collar" project which will provide for employment of stenographers to take care of this type of work.

*E. M. Lisle*

E. M. Lisle,  
Acting Regional Director.

Enclosure  
1590331  
CC:  
Mr. Bahlman

*0-3-39*  
*Highland*  
*Forest*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON  
March 22, 1939.

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

0-35  
Highland Forest

Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region I:

Reference is made to your memorandum of March 14 transmitting a copy of a "Report on Proposed Highland National Monument, North Carolina" prepared by O. B. Taylor, Acting Regional Wildlife Technician.

The report has been routed through this Branch and the Branch of Recreation, Land Planning and State Cooperation. I shall hope to visit the area with Mr. Taylor in a few weeks.

Victor H. Cahalane,  
Acting Chief, Wildlife Division,  
Branch of Research and Information.

cc Wildlife Division - San Francisco

✓  
dbb:mmm

✓  
S.P.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION  
OF PUBLIC WORKS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File  
17

March 27, 1939

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

cf/lp

Memorandum for Dr. C. P. Russell,  
National Park Service:

I am returning to you herewith your folder with reference to the proposed Highlands Forest National Monument in North Carolina, containing photographs, maps, and the following reports:

"Land for Proposed Highland National Monument",  
L. S. Sharpe, March 9, 1936;

"Proposed Highland National Monument, Highland,  
North Carolina", O. B. Taylor, March 23, 1936;

"Highland National Monument Proposed", a supplementary report by O. B. Taylor, no date.

With the material which I returned to you on March 11, this is all the material you sent me. I am very grateful to you for letting me see this file.



Clark Foreman  
Director, Power Division

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 29, 1939.

Mr. Clark Foreman,  
Director, Power Division, PWA,  
Room 5024, North Interior Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Foreman:

This will acknowledge the return of the following reports which were loaned to you under date of March 10:

"Land for Proposed Highland National Monument," by  
L. S. Sharpe, March 9, 1936

"Proposed Highland National Monument, Highland,  
North Carolina," by O. B. Taylor, March 23, 1936

"Highlands National Monument Proposed," a supplementary report by O. B. Taylor, no date.

The fourth report on "Proposed Highland Forest National Monument, North Carolina," by Inspector L. A. Sharpe which was borrowed on March 10, was returned to this office on March 11. The prompt return of this material is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) C. P. Russell

Carl P. Russell,  
Supervisor of  
Research and Information.

MH



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 29, 1939.

Memorandum for Mr. Brill:

In accordance with my memorandum to you of March 10, there is returned herewith a two-page report on land for the proposed Highlands National Monument by L. S. Sharpe, dated March 9, 1936, which was removed from File O-35, Part 1, Proposed Monuments - Highlands Forest.

The report on "Proposed Highland National Monument, Highland, North Carolina," by O. B. Taylor, March 23, 1936, has been placed in the files of the Wildlife Division as agreed upon. (*Miss Haugen's telephone conversation with you.*)

*A. Russell*

Supervisor of  
Research and Information.

Enclosure 1218136

cc: Wildlife Division (detached)  
with Mr. Taylor's report

*Mr. Barry*  
*3/30/39*  
*Please note and file this memo.*  
*A. Russell*

*13/3/39*

1. ~~Mr. [unclear]~~ APR 21  
2. ~~Mr. [unclear]~~

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
APR 20 1939

MRS. AUGUSTUS H. EUSTIS  
1426 CANTON AVE., MILTON  
MASSACHUSETTS

INTERIOR DEPT  
APR 19 1939  
OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

April 13, 1939 APR 28

① ~~Mr. [unclear]~~  
~~Mr. [unclear]~~  
② Mr. Jager

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
APR 20 1939  
TO NATIONAL PARKS  
SECY'S OFF. - DIV. OF MAIL & FILES

The Honourable Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Secretary Ickes:

I am a citizen of Massachusetts but Mr. Eustis and I have gone frequently to the mountains of North Carolina, and have enjoyed the National Parks there very much indeed. For a number of years we have known about the so-called Primeval Forests near Highlands, N. C., owned by Mr. S. P. Ravenel of Highlands, N. C., and of Charleston, S. C. Mr. Ravenel told me that the hemlocks in that forest were the last stand of primeval hemlocks east of the Rockies. They are very beautiful, and among them are some pines, and a few spruces, and also some hard wood of large size. These woods are open to the public and are six miles out of Highlands on the road to Casheirs and Brevard. One of those trees had been cut down and we counted the rings of growth. We counted up to 350 and I should say there were about 50 more, showing that the tree must be over 350-400 years of age.

Next to this Ravenel stand of woods is the Richardson woods. My informant on this last item is Mrs. Professor Coker of Chapel Hill, N. C. Professor Coker is Professor of Botany at Chapel Hill. She tells me it is impossible to tell where the Ravenel and the Richardson line comes, the stand of trees merge one into the other. She also tells me the Richardsons are planning, or have sold their woods to one of the worst of the Lumber Companies who go in cutting everything, and leaving the branches and slash, which of course creates the worst kind of a fire hazard, and is equally bad for soil erosion. She and her husband, and others who live in Highlands, have been very much disturbed and have taken the matter up with F. A. Silcox of the South Building in the Department of Agriculture. He is particularly interested, I believe, in the question of soil erosion. They hoped to be able to raise enough money to make a counter offer for the Richardson woods and save them. How successful this has been I do not know. Mr. Ravenel is an old man, a hypochondriac in these days, and cares a great deal about these woods. He has not enough property to meet all his taxes. We are all very much afraid

page 2

MRS. AUGUSTUS H. EUSTIS  
1426 CANTON AVE., MILTON  
MASSACHUSETTS

that those woods will also go to a lumber company. In driving from Brevard towards Highlands this year I saw a sign "Nantahala National Forests". I have heard a great deal about Nantahala Forest Gorge and have driven through there. This is on the road from Bryson City to Andrews and because of its flora I have been very much pleased that it had been made a part of one of the National Parks.

Would it be possible for the National Parks to acquire the Ravenel and Richardson woods, as it seems to me to be almost a crime to lose those great trees of such great age and beauty. The undergrowth is full of luxuriant huge rhododendrons. I do not know of any other place in the East which has such fine growth and where so many people can so easily enjoy them. I believe a portion or all of Whiteside Mountain is also a part of the Ravenel holding.

Would you not make a more intimate investigation of this and see what could be done? I realize that the question of the Redwoods in California is a paramount interest at this moment, and if one had to chose between the two the Redwoods are of greater antiquity of course, and should come first, but can we not manage the two? It seems a tragedy to have those great trees go for the sake of the almighty dollar and newspapers and such like.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. William B. Wharton, President of the National Park Association at Washington.

Very truly yours,

*Elizabeth B. Eustis.*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 28, 1939.

*Dr. Russell* <sup>EAR 4/28</sup>  
*Mr. Coffman*  
*file*

*0-35  
Highland Forest*

Memorandum for the Files:

On the morning of April 18, in company with Wildlife Technician O. B. Taylor of Region I, I went through a portion of the Ravenel tract of primeval forest about three miles east of the village of Highlands, North Carolina. More adequate examinations and reports of the physical characteristics of the area have been made previously, so I will confine the following to my impressions of its natural values and national significance.

With the exception of the intrusion of the trail, this tract appears to be entirely natural. It is not large but probably is of sufficient size to ensure fairly complete protection of environmental conditions and biota, with the exception of the larger animals which, however, have ample sanctuary in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The cove type represented is not exceptional when compared with forests I have seen in the Craggy Mountains north of Asheville, as the trees seen do not attain large size. Otherwise, however, the growth seems representative of the best in the southern Appalachians.

The outstanding plant species is the Carolina hemlock, which has never been found in the Smokies (but "is of barely possible occurrence": Jemison, ms). This species and the black cherry attain an impressive size. I have been told that the hemlock trees on the Ravenel tract, in the opinion of both Dr. W. C. Coker, Professor of Botany of the University of North Carolina, and Mr. J. S. Holmes, State Forester, are the largest in North Carolina and therefore probably in existence. Coker and Totten's "Trees of the Southeastern States", p. 38, says: "On ridges around Highlands, North Carolina, it (Carolina hemlock) is common and reaches its greatest size."

Fine views of typical Blue Ridge country can be obtained from the south side of the Ravenel tract. The bare smooth rock shoulders

of Whiteside and other mountains present a very different picture than any I have seen in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Because of the value of the forest for commercial purposes, obstacles to acquisition are great. For preservation for scientific and aesthetic purposes, however, it would appear suitable for inclusion in a system of biological national monuments.

*Victor H. Cahalane*

Victor H. Cahalane,  
Acting Chief, Wildlife Division,  
Branch of Research and Information.

cc Ben Thompson with attachment (detached)  
Region I ✓  
O. B. Taylor ✓  
Willis King ✓  
Wildlife Division - San Francisco ✓

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Agay  
Thompson  
Wirth*

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

May 3, 1939.

Mrs. Augustus H. Eustis,  
1426 Canton Avenue,  
Milton, Massachusetts.

*8-35  
Highland Forest*

Dear Mrs. Eustis:

By reference from Secretary Ickes we have received your letter of April 13, concerning the Ravenel tract of primeval forest east of the village of Highlands, North Carolina.

We have already made a preliminary study of this area. Although the tract is relatively small, it appears to be largely primeval in character. It is probably of sufficient size to ensure fairly complete protection of environmental conditions and biota with the exception of the larger animals which, however, have sanctuary in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The growth in the Revenel tract seems to be representative of the best in the Southern Appalachian region.

Because of the value of the forest for commercial purposes, the obstacles to its acquisition for the purpose of preservation are great. Unfortunately, this Service is without funds for the purchase of such lands. We agree that it is almost criminal to sacrifice these great trees for commercial purposes. It is noted that this matter has already been taken up with the Chief, U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. It is hoped that some means may be found for the acquisition of these lands by some public agency so that they will not be lost to future generations.

We are referring a copy of your letter to our Regional Office in Richmond, Virginia, for consideration in connection with the Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study authorized by the Act of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1894). This study, which is sponsored by the State of North Carolina, involves consideration of such areas as the Revenel tract for State or local administration. If it is not possible for the Federal Government to acquire the area, possibly the State of North Carolina or one of its civil divisions would be interested.

Sincerely yours,

*(SGD)* A. E. Demaray

A. E. Demaray,  
Acting Director.

cc: Region I  
cc: Mr. Little  
WEL-fmd

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION ONE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



May 8, 1939

~~2 Cahalane~~ ~~MAE~~  
~~set~~  
~~Ben Thompson~~  
~~Mr. Butterfield~~  
mab  
Fall ~~was~~

Memorandum for the Director:

This will acknowledge receipt of Mr. Victor H. Cahalane's memorandum for the files, dated April 28, regarding his observations of the primeval forest near the village of Highlands, North Carolina, which was made in company with Regional Wildlife Technician Taylor April 18. It is Mr. Taylor's belief that Mr. Cahalane has made a fair appraisal of the quality of the forest, and has suggested the probable difficulty of acquisition may be attributed, in part, to the value of the timber. Mr. Taylor has learned recently that Mr. J. S. Holmes, State Forester, North Carolina, is interested in having the land acquired by a Federal agency other than our Service and it is believed that definite action is being developed along that line.

In event we learn that Mr. Holmes' plan is successful, we shall advise you accordingly.

*Hubert E. Eason*

Acting Regional Director.

In duplicate

cc: Inspector Mackintosh  
Mr. King

2-35  
Highland Forest

*orig. signed +  
st. t.  
File  
in*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

February 9, 1940.

Dr. Clark Foreman,  
Director, Power Division, PWA,  
Federal Works Agency,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Foreman:

In compliance with a telephonic request received from your office this morning, there are enclosed the following reports on the proposed Highlands National Monument, North Carolina:

Communication of March 9, 1934, from L. S. Sharp. *(2 p. x 2.)*

Communication of March 23, 1936, from O. B. Taylor, *} Wildlife file,*  
with supplemental report attached.

We trust that these reports will be helpful to you and ask that they be returned to us as soon as they have served your needs.

Sincerely yours,

Carl P. Russell,  
Supervisor of Research and  
Information.

Enclosure 1778503  
cc: Wildlife Division (detached)

cvc



FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1940

*Mrs. Davis*  
*Please hold until*  
*reports have been*  
*returned.* *EPR 27*  
*13*

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

cf/lp

Dr. C. P. Russell,  
Supervisor of Research and Information,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Russell:

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of  
the following reports on the proposed Highlands  
National Monument, North Carolina:

Communication of March 9, 1936, from  
L. S. Sharp

Communication of March 23, 1936, from  
O. B. Taylor, with supplemental  
report attached.

I appreciate your letting me have these re-  
ports again, and will see that they are returned to  
you.

Yours sincerely,



Clark Foreman  
(Director, Power Division)

Extension 4111

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON  
June 3, 1940

*Files FBI*

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

cf/lp

*FBI 6/4/40*

Dr. C. P. Russell  
Supervisor of Research and Information,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Russell:

On February 9 of this year you were kind enough to let me borrow the following papers:

Communication of March 9, 1936, from  
L. S. Sharp

Communication of March 23, 1936, from  
O. B. Taylor, with supplemental  
report attached.

*attached to be filed  
returned  
to Wildlife Div  
6/4/40  
FBI*

These papers, on the proposed Highlands National Monument, North Carolina, are returned herewith. I very much appreciate your having let me use them.

Yours sincerely,

*Clark Foreman*

Clark Foreman  
Director, Power Division

*035  
Highlands  
Forest*