

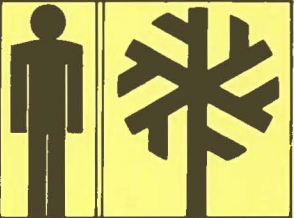
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IN
STORAGE

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT

ON MICROFILM

Devils Postpile



NATIONAL MONUMENT - CALIFORNIA

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u.s. department of the interior

national park service

For Immediate Release

Hank Jones (209) 565-3341

MANAGEMENT STATEMENT ON DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT AVAILABLE

The Statement for Management for Devils Postpile National Monument that outlines management directions for the Monument over the next few years is now available for public review and comment.

Keep enc. w/perm. cy.

David D. Thompson Jr., superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, who also administers Devils Postpile, said copies of the document have been mailed to individuals and organizations who had previously indicated their interest in the management of the Monument.

The 800-acre Monument was set aside in 1918 to preserve "the natural formations known as the Devil Postpile and Rainbow Falls." The Postpile is formed from basalt (lava flow material) that cooled into geometric columns. Rainbow Falls, on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, drops 101 feet over an andesite cliff at the south end of the Monument. A rainbow can be seen in the spray below the falls, thus the name.

Thompson said there are 16 objectives that will be used to guide management decisions concerning the Monument in the coming years. Of these, three provide a change in management direction.

One provides for management of the Monument as a day-use facility only with eventual elimination of overnight camping.

The second objective is to consider relocating employee housing outside the Monument and the third is to hold backpacker parking at the current level in the Monument while attempting to arrange with Inyo National Forest for additional parking space, outside the Monument.

The other objectives generally provide for protection and interpretation of the Monument's resources and call for working closely with neighboring agencies and jurisdictions.

"We would like to have the public's ideas, criticism and comments on this policy statement," Thompson said. "Your views will help us chart the future of Devils Postpile."

Thompson said a limited number of copies of the Statement for Management are available and can be obtained by writing to the Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

over

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Three Rivers, California 93271

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT
DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Recommended: Walter W. Thompson 3-13-78
Superintendent Date

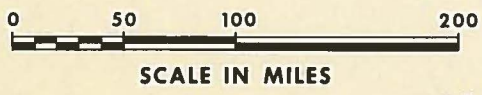
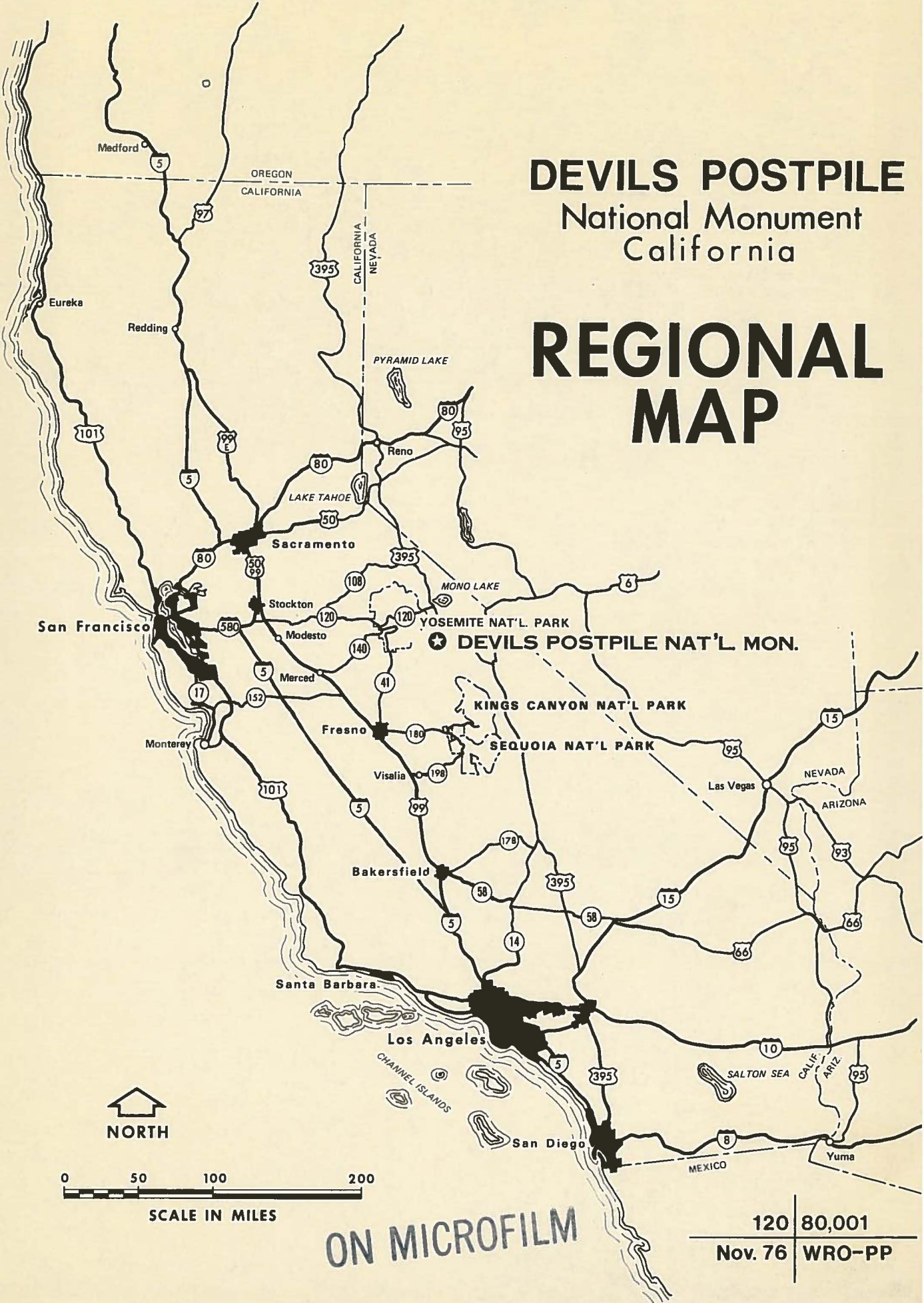
Concurred: Howard H. Chapman 3-24-78
Regional Director,
Western Region Date

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DEVILS POSTPILE
National Monument
California

**REGIONAL
MAP**



SCALE IN MILES

ON MICROFILM

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I. PURPOSE OF THE MONUMENT

Devils Postpile National Monument was set aside by Presidential Proclamation No. 1166, July 6, 1911, to preserve "the natural formations known as the Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls" for their scientific interest and for public inspiration and interpretation. In addition, the Act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service, provides for public use and enjoyment of the area.

The Monument is in a lodgepole pine-red fir climax forest between montane forest and subalpine forest plant communities. Fine examples of the indicator species of both communities are present. In some locations, Jeffrey pine and white fir flourish. Other species include western juniper, western white pine, mountain hemlock, quaking aspen, mountain alder, and black cottonwood.

A third plant community, the montane meadow, is in the Monument. Perennial grasses, sedges, and showy wildflowers grow in profusion. The meadow margins are lined with lodgepole pine, and young trees continue to invade the drier soils.

Large animals that frequent the Monument are black bears, Sierra mule deer, and coyotes. Martens and long-tailed weasels can be observed feeding on the large rodent population. Belding ground squirrels have the largest population within the meadow. Lodgepole chipmunks and golden-mantled ground squirrels are common in the campgrounds and can be found throughout the area. Other mammals observed on occasion include Douglas squirrels, mice, shrews, and raccoons.

The most common birds include the Stellar's jay, western tanager, Oregon junco, white-crowned sparrow, and American robin.

Earlier uses of the monument area were for trapping fox and marten; one trapper, Joseph Ivanhoe or "Postpile Joe," lived in a single-room log cabin at the base of the postpile from the late 1920's to the 1930's. The cabin collapsed from snow in the mid-1950's, and most of the decayed logs have been removed. A fallen field stone fireplace marks the location of this historic cabin. The present office, formerly a Ranger's residence cabin, was brought to the monument from Yosemite prior to World War II and has been evaluated by the Region. This evaluation determined that it did not qualify for the List of Classified Structures.

Historic Zone

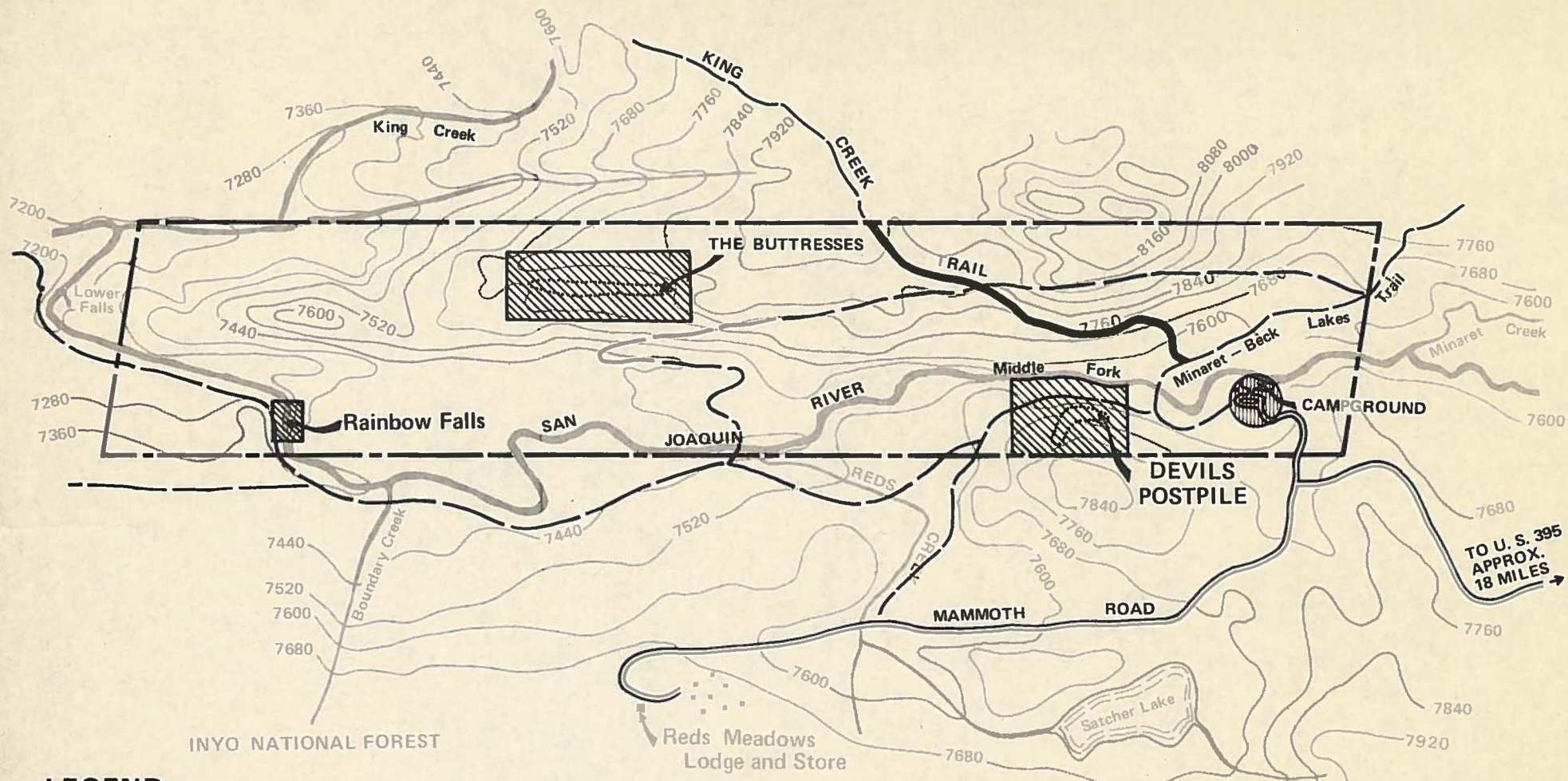
Includes portions of the old French Trail (King Creek Trail at present), managed to preserve the cultural resource site while allowing visitor use.

Acres: 1

Development Zone


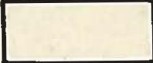
This includes the main visitor use area, parking lot, campground, picnic area, administrative facilities, and maintenance facilities. These areas are managed to provide recreational opportunities for visitors and an operation base for management and service.



Acres: 5






LEGEND

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE

Natural Environment Sub-zone (739 Acres)  

Outstanding Natural Feature Sub-zone (55 Acres)  

HISTORIC ZONE (1 Acre)  

DEVELOPMENT ZONE (5 Acres)  



ON MICROFILM

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LAND CLASSIFICATION
DEVILS POSTPILE - NATIONAL MONUMENT
CALIFORNIA

IV. INFLUENCES ON MANAGEMENT

Legislative-Administrative Constraints

There has been no legislation specifically associated with the Monument. The establishing Proclamation warns "...all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, remove, or destroy any feature of this National Monument, or to locate or settle upon any of the lands reserved by this proclamation."

A special-use permit to conduct pack trips through the Monument has been issued to the Reds Meadow Resort, which is located on adjacent forest lands.

pleasant summer temperatures and the wilderness threshold to attract greater numbers of visitors. The ski trade has had a marked effect on visitation to the Monument.

3. Monoplan, a regional plan prepared for the Inyo-Mono Association of Governmental Entities, attempts to lay out an orderly course of action for future development and use of the Mammoth Lakes area. Devils Postpile lies within one of the subunits of the plan, the Red's Meadow subunit. It calls for continued moderate growth in the area, with a two-fold increase in user accessibility. To obtain the increase, it proposes a shuttle system to transport visitors from holding areas into the main area. Another proposal is that camping be eliminated in the Monument.

4. Access to the Monument is via the Minaret Summit-Red's Meadow Road from Mammoth, a 13-mile road, 7 miles of which are an unpaved mountain road located within Madera County. The dust, congestion, and roughness of the road is a serious distraction from visitor enjoyment and appreciation of the area. Inyo National Forest and the National Park Service have begun a feasibility study for a shuttle bus system for visitor transportation, as recommended in the Monoplan. If this is implemented, the impact on the Monument may be significant. Increased concentrations of day-use visitors may likely result. Conversely, overnight visitation may drop somewhat.

V. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Maintain and/or restore the natural ecosystems of the Monument as they were prior to the advent of human technology, with special attention to the outstanding geological phenomenon.

...Encourage and support an active research program designed to provide management with decision assistance in all aspects of planning, development and management.

...Restore meadows damaged by past visitor use.

...Encourage institutions of higher learning to use the resource in geologic education, research and field studies.

...Protect all wildlife populations from human abuse.

Provide the highest quality opportunities for visitor understanding, compatible use, and enjoyment of the Monument's resources.

...Interpret all the resources of the Monument, emphasizing two basic themes - "the works of volcanism" and "the work of glaciers" - as they relate to the formation and transformation of the major geological features of the Monument. Supplement this interpretation with sound biological explanations.

...Provide self-guiding orientation and interpretation of the main features, but support this with personal services at every opportunity.

...Rely on facilities nearby in Inyo National Forest to provide commercial visitor services rather than establishing a concession in the Monument.

...Consider relocating employee housing outside the Monument.

...Hold at current level the backpacker parking in the Monument, while attempting to arrange with Inyo National Forest additional space for parking outside the Monument.

...Build and operate a trail system in the Monument, providing safety around Rainbow Falls, adequate maintenance, and reduction of impact on natural resources.

...Provide for improvement of employee quarters and visitor contact station.

APPENDIX

24. Devil Postpile National Monument

Establishment: Proclamation (No. 1166) of July 6, 1911.....

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 1166—July 6, 1911—37 Stat. 1715]

WHEREAS the natural formations known as the Devil Postpile and Rainbow Falls, within the Sierra National Forest, in the State of California, are of scientific interest, and it appears that the public interests will be promoted by reserving said formations as a National Monument;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William H. Taft, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section two of the Act of Congress approved June eighth, nineteen hundred and six, entitled "An Act For the preservation of American antiquities," do proclaim that there are hereby reserved from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, subject to all prior valid adverse claims, and set apart as a National Monument, all the tracts of land in the State of California shown as the Devil Postpile National Monument on the diagram forming a part hereof.

The reservation made by this proclamation is not intended to prevent the use of the lands for Forest purposes under the proclamation establishing the Sierra National Forest. The two reservations shall both be effective on the land withdrawn, but the National Monument hereby established shall be the dominant reservation and any use of the land which interferes with its preservation or protection as a National Monument is hereby forbidden.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, remove, or destroy any feature of this National Monument, or to locate or settle upon any of the lands reserved by this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and of the [SEAL] Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-sixth.

WM. H. TAFT.

By the President:
P. C. KNOX,
Secretary of State.

Wilderness Cooperating Agencies in the California include the following:

1. Sequoia National Forest
2. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park
3. Inyo National Forest
4. Sierra National Forest
5. Bureau of Land Management
6. Yosemite National Park
7. Stanislaus National Forest
8. Toiyabe National Forest
9. Eldorado National Forest
10. Tahoe National Forest
11. Plumes National Forest
12. Lassen National Park
13. Lassen National Forest