

A FAVORABLE REPORT
ON
THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT
ON THE
SITE OF THE PINNACLES ROCKS
CALIFORNIA

BY
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ON THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT ON THE SITE OF THE
PINNACLES ROCKS

By George W. Peavy
Forest Inspector

The natural formation, known as the Pinnacles Rocks, lies within the limits of the Pinnacles National Forest. The fact of their existence was doubtless the principal reason for the creation of the Forest. There are two groups of the so-called Pinnacles Rocks, known locally as the "Big Pinnacles" and "Little Pinnacles". The general characteristics of the two groups are similar. Each group covers an area of about 160 acres, very irregular in outline.

The name is derived from the spire-like formations rising from 600 to 1,000 feet from the floor of the canyon, forming a landmark visible many miles in every direction. Many of the rocks are so precipitous that they cannot be scaled. A series of caves, opening one into the other, lie under each of the groups of rock. These caves vary greatly in size, one in particular, known as the "Banquet Hall" being about one hundred feet square with a ceiling thirty feet high. The caves are entered through narrow canyons, with perpendicular rock walls and overhanging boulders. One huge stone, called

the "Temple Rock" is almost cubical in form. It stands alone in the bottom of the canyon and its walls rise perpendicularly to a height of over two hundred feet. There are also several specimens of "balancing rocks" in each of the groups.

Photographs No. 58372 to 58378 and 58380 to 58383 were taken to illustrate the various features of these rocks.

If the objects described in this report were located in Yellowstone National Park they would excite but little comment, but by virtue of their position, remote from other natural objects of interest, they are peculiarly striking and should be preserved from private control, for the benefit of the people.

A few scattered digger pines and a sparse stand of chaparral, between the rocks, furnishes the only cover worthy of note.

In the area recommended to be set aside as a monument there are 160 acres of patented land, the NE 1/2 NW 1/4, SW 1/4 NW 1/4 and the NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 34, T 16 S., R 7 E, M.D.M. As nearly as could be determined from the local survey there are a number of copper claims in the east part of Sec. 33, of the same township and range, covering an area which should form a part of this monument. In my judgment these claims are fraudulent, being held for speculative purposes. There are no producing mines of any sort in this locality, and prospecting has been done here for over thirty-five years. These claims should be examined and reported on by an expert from the Geological Survey.

From the nature of the case there will be but little expense connected with the preservation of the Monument. The area should be properly posted with the notices usually displayed in National Parks. Aside from an occasional visit from some government official, to let it be known that the area is under supervision no other control will be needed.

Recommendations. It is recommended:

1. That the area inclosed by a red line as shown on the map accompanying this report be set aside as a National Monument as provided in the Act of June 8, 1906. This action should be taken before the National Forest is abolished.
2. That an expert mineralogist from the Geological Survey be detailed to report in the mineral claims within the enclosed area, and, if possible, secure their cancellation.