



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1907-09-16

Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to John Muir, 1907 Sep 16.

Theodore Roosevelt

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Oyster Bay, N.Y.,
September 16, 1907.

My dear Mr. Muir:

I gather that Garfield and Pinchot are rather favorable to the Hetch Hetchy plan, but not definitely so. I have sent them your letter with a request for a report upon it. I will do everything in my power to protect not only the Yosemite, which we have already protected, but other similar great natural beauties of this country; but you must remember that it is out of the question permanently to protect them unless we have a certain degree of friendliness toward them on the part of the people of the State in which they are situated; and if they are used so as to interfere with the permanent material development of the State instead of helping the permanent material development, the result will be bad. I would not have any difficulty

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at all if, as you say, nine-tenths of the citizens
took ground against the Hetch Hetchy project; but so
far everyone ^{that has appeared} has been for it and I have been in the
disagreeable position of seeming to interfere with
the development of the State for the sake of keeping
a valley, which apparently hardly anyone wanted to have
kept, under national control.

I wish I could see you in person; and how I do wish
I were again with you camping out under those great
sequoias, or in the snow under the silver firs!

Faithfully yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

Mr. John Muir,
Martinez, California.