

# 1888 National Park Proposal by John Muir

"Mount Shasta" by John Muir *in* Picturesque California : the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific slope : California, Oregon, Nevada, Washigton, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming. Edited by Muir, John. New York : J. Dewing, 1888, pp. 231-232. Below is a brief excerpt from a longer article about Mount Shasta.

The great wilds of our country once held to be boundless and inexhaustible are being rapidly invaded and overrun in every direction, and everything destructible in them is being destroyed. How far destruction may go it is not easy to guess. Every landscape low and high seems doomed to be trampled and harried. Even the sky is not safe from scath--blurred and blackened whole summers together with the smoke of fires that devour the woods.

The Shasta region is still a fresh unspoiled wilderness, accessible and available for travelers of every kind and degree. Would it not then be a fine thing to set it apart like the Yellowstone and Yosemite as a National Park for the welfare and benefit of all mankind, preserving its fountains and forests and all its glad life in primeval beauty? Very little of the region can ever be more valuable for any other use--certainly not for gold nor for grain. No private right or interest need suffer, and thousands yet unborn would come from far and near and bless the country for its wise and benevolent forethought.