



Yosemite National Park

Docket Number: 28

BIG CREEK [INACTIVE]

Preliminary Docket Information

DOCKET INFORMATION FORM

Compiled by: Alexa Kreiling Date: 8/28/2025
 Initial Docket Information Form ☒ Amendment # (1,2,3 ...)
 Includes Confidential Content ☐

Park Unit: YOSE Docket #: 028 Docket Title Big Creek [INACTIVE]

Docket Type:

Select all applicable: ☐ PC/V (pre-code/vested) ☒ APP (appropriative) ☐ RIP (riparian)
☐ FRR (federal reserved right) ☐ PWR (public water reserve) ☐ ACQ (acquired)
☐ GW (groundwater) ☐ Own (ownership) ☐ Other

Region:

☐ NER & NCR ☐ IMR
☐ SER ☐ MWR
☐ IMR ☒ PWR
☐ AKR

Source:

☐ Groundwater ☐ Spring (When recognized by the State as separate from groundwater and surface water)
☒ Surface Water
☐ Direct Diversion ☐ Diversion to Storage ☐ Instream Flow
 Name: Big Creek

State: CACounty: Mariposa

Owner: US National Park Service (As listed by the State)

Application #: Date:

Permit #: Date Issued:

License / Certificate #: Priority Date:

Ruling/Order/Decree #: Date Issued:

Quantity: Rate: Duty:
 Units: ☐ cfs ☐ gpm ☐ afy ☐ other Units: ☐ cfs ☐ gpm ☐ afy ☐ other

Use(s): ☐ Domestic ☐ Livestock ☐ Irrigation ☐ Municipal ☐ Industrial/Commercial ☐ Wildlife ☐ Instream ☐ other

POD Name / Location: ☐ Multiple PODs (see water right)

Qtr: Qtr: Sec: T: R: PM:

Latitude: Longitude:

UTM , Datum:

POU Name / Location: ☐ Multiple POU's (see water right)

Qtr: Qtr: Sec: T: R: PM:

Latitude: Longitude:

UTM , Datum:

Narrative / Remarks: Enter short narrative in the space below, attach additional page(s) as needed.

Yosemite Dockets for Wawona Area:

Docket 003 Washburn Ditch and papers common to Dockets 003, and 026-030

Docket 026 Rush Creek

Docket 027 Alder Creek

YOSE Docket 028 Big Creek, ^{Wawona} INACTIVE, TYPE: APP

Docket 029 Wawona Springs

Docket 030 Chilnualna Creek

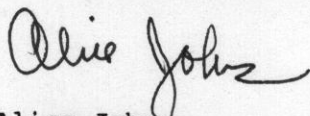
NOTES TO THE FILE

YOSE

Docket 003 Washburn Ditch, Wawona
Docket 026 Rush Creek, Wawona
Docket 027 Alder Creek, Wawona
Docket 028 Big Creek, Wawona
Docket 029 Chilnualna Creek, Wawona

July 3, 1996

The primary water supply for Wawona is from the South Fork Merced River, via pipeline. Pre-1914 appropriative rights may apply to the NPS's current diversion. These are documented in YOSE Docket 003. The NPS may or may not have acquired additional appropriative rights in the Wawona area. These are documented in YOSE Dockets 26-29. Papers common to Dockets 003 and 026-029 are filed in Docket 003.



Alice Johns
Hydrologist
Water Rights Branch
Water Resources Division

02 STATE

Yosemite National Park

BIG CREEK [INACTIVE]

State Water Rights Documentation

January 3, 1950

Statement Concerning Claims to Waters of Big Creek

The claims to divert 20,000 inches, which were recorded on pages 253-254 and page 256, on November 4, 1905, seem to be records of two postings of the same claim at the upper and lower portions of the storage reservoir for which claims were recorded at pages 197-198, 204-205, 214-215, and 235-236. The claim to 20,000 inches, as recorded on pages 224, 236, and 237, between February and May of 1905, do not describe the point at which the notice is posted, but are probably earlier postings of the same notice, since they claim the same quantity of water. The claim for 20,000 miner's inches under a 4-inch head is equivalent to a claim for 400 second-feet.

The related claims for the storage of 300,000,000 gallons, like the repetition of claims for the diversion, seem to be duplicated periodically between September 1, 1904, and May 24, 1905. This need for reposting was doubtless due to failure to start construction. The 300,000,000 gallons converts to 920 $\frac{1}{4}$ acre-feet.

There is a reference to water location at the storage dam, in the storage claim of September 1, 1904, but the first recorded claim to divert 20,000 inches is that of February 8, 1905, at page 224 of Book 2 of Water Rights. However, Mr. Washburn had made two postings as recorded at pages 167 and 193 of said Book 2, for 100 second-feet at an undefined point, which I have assumed to be claims on record and posted when the reservoir was planned.

Apparently no storage was ever provided on Big Creek, and any diversion of the creek flow has terminated. It is to be assumed that these claims have been abandoned.

(SGD.) A. VAN V. DUNN.

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Branch

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 167

Notice of Appropriation of Water

The Undersigned Hereby Gives Notice to all Whom it May Concern: 1. That I claim the water flowing here to the extent of 100 cubic feet per second.

2. That the purposes for which I claim it are (a) for irrigation and all household and domestic purposes, and for electrical appliances, and for all power purposes and public uses, and the place of intended use of said water is at Wawona intersection of Big Creek and South Fork of Merced River and in that immediate neighborhood, in the county of Mariposa, State of California.

3. That I intend to divert it by (c) flumes, pipes, ditches, and aqueducts, and the size of same will be of sufficient capacity to divert and conduct said water.

Dated July 17, 1903.

State of California)
County of Mariposa) ss

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

John S. Washburn, being duly sworn says: I am a white male citizen of the United States and of the State of California, and am over the age of twenty-one years. On the 17th day of July 1903, I posted in a conspicuous place on the banks of Big Creek, to wit: At the point of diversion mentioned in the notice attached hereto, a true copy of said notice.

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 17th day of July 1903.

John S. Washburn.

B. M. Leitch,

Justice of the Peace Twp. 5

Mariposa County, State of California.

Filed for Record at the Request of John S. Washburn
July 22 A. D. 1903 at 5 min. past 9 o'clock A.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 193

Notice of Appropriation of Water

The Undersigned Hereby Gives Notice to All Whom it may Concern:

1. That I claim the water flowing here to the extent of 100 cubic feet per second.
2. That the purposes for which I claim it are (a) for irrigation and all household and domestic purposes, and for electrical appliances, and for all power purposes and public uses, and the place of intended use of said water is at Wawona; intersection of Big Creek and south fork of Merced River, and in that immediate neighborhood, in the County of Mariposa, State of California.
3. That I intend to divert it by flumes, pipes, ditches and aqueducts, and the size of same will be of sufficient capacity to divert and conduct said water.

Dated July 30th, 1904.

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

State of California)
County of Mariposa) ss.

John S. Washburn, being duly sworn, says: I am a white male citizen of the United States, and of the State of California, and am over the age of twenty-one years.

On the 30th day of July 1904, I posted in a conspicuous place on the banks of Big Creek, to wit: At the point of diversion mentioned in the notice attached hereto, a true copy of said notice.

John S. Washburn.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 30th day of July 1904.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 202

Notice of Appropriation of Water

The Undersigned Hereby Gives Notice to all Whom it may Concern:

1. That I claim the water flowing here to the extent of 100 cubic feet per second.

2. That the purposes for which I claim it are (a) for irrigation and all household and domestic purposes, and for electrical appliances, and for all power purposes and public uses, and the place of intended use of said water is at Wawona, intersection of Big Creek and South Fork of Merced River, and in that immediate neighborhood, in the County of Mariposa, State of California.

3. That I intend to divert it by (c) flumes, pipes, ditches and aqueducts, and the size of same will be of sufficient capacity to divert and conduct said water.

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Dated Sept. 30, 1904.

Filed for Record at the Request of J. H.
Corcoran, Sept. 30 A. D. 1904 at 52 min. past
8 o'clock A.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

By M. M. Barry, Deputy Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 210

Notice of Appropriation of Water

The Undersigned hereby gives notice to all whom it may concern:

1. That I claim the water flowing here to the extent of 20,000 inches measured under a four inch pressure.
2. That the purposes for which I claim it are for irrigation and all household and domestic purposes, also for electrical appliances, and for all power purposes and public uses. And the place of intended use of said water is at Wawona, at the intersection of Big Creek and South Fork of the Merced River and in that immediate neighborhood in the County of Mariposa, State of California.
3. That I intend to divert it by a flumes, pipes and ditches and size of same will be of sufficient capacity to divert and conduct said water.

Dated Dec. 8th, 1904.
J. S. Washburn, Claimant.

Filed for record at request of John S. Washburn, Dec. 27th, 1904, at 20 min. past 2 P.M.

F. A. Bondshu, Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 224

Notice of Appropriation of Water

The undersigned hereby gives notice to all whom it may concern:

1. That I claim the water flowing here to the extent of 20,000 inches measured under a four inch pressure.

2. That the purpose for which I claim it are for irrigation and all household and domestic purposes, also for electrical appliances and for all power purposes and public uses.

And the place of intended use of said water is at Wawona, at the intersection of Big Creek and South Fork of the Merced River and in that immediate neighborhood in the County of Mariposa, State of California.

That I intend to divert it by a flume, pipe and ditch in size of sufficient capacity to divert and conduct said water.

Dated Feby. 8th 1905.

J. S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Filed for record at request of J. S. Washburn, Feb. 24th, 1905,
at 4 min. past 2 P.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 236

Notice of Appropriation of Water

The Undersigned hereby Gives Notice to All Whom it May Concern:

1. That I claim the water flowing here to the extent of 20,000 inches measured under a four-inch pressure.
 2. That the purposes for which I claim it are for irrigation and all household and domestic purposes, also for electrical appliances and for all power purposes and public uses.
- And the place of intended use of said water is at Wawona at the intersection of Big Creek and South Fork of the Merced River and in that immediate neighborhood in the County of Mariposa, State of California.
3. That I intend to divert it by a flume pipe and ditch in size of sufficient capacity to divert and conduct said water.

Dated May 24th, 1905.

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Filed for Record at the Request of John S. Washburn, May 29
A. D. 1905, at 6 min. past 9 A.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Pages 253 and 254

Notice of Water Appropriation

Notice is hereby given that the Undersigned, John S. Washburn, of Mariposa County, Calif., does hereby claim 20,000 inches of the water flowing at this intended point of diversion measured under a 4 inch pressure, which said point of intended diversion is within and is a part of Sierra Forest Reserve.

That the said intended point of diversion and the place where this notice is posted is described as follows: on a cotton wood tree on the bank of Big Creek, near the bridge on the Mariposa Road, in Section 10 Township 5 S. R. 21 E. M.D.M. County of Mariposa, State of California.

That the purposes for which the undersigned claim said water is for the purpose of developing power to be used in the generation of electricity or for any other mechanical purpose, for applying the same to mechanical devices for the generation of electric power and other power, and all other mechanical purposes.

That the place of intended use is at the power house to be located at or near the intersection of Big Creek and the South Fork of the Merced River, in the County of Mariposa, State of California.

That the means by which he intends to divert said water is by means of a dam, tunnels, ditches, flumes, conduits and pipe line; the size of said ditches, flumes, conduits and pipe line to be of capacity sufficient to carry said 20,000 inches of water conducted from the said plant of diversion to said power house location; the route of intended conveyance of the water so claimed lies wholly within the Sierra Forest Reserve.

Dated Fourth Day of November 1905.

Witnessed by
F. W. Schlageter.

John S. Washburn,
Appropriator.

State of California)
County of Mariposa) ss

F. W. Schlageter being duly sworn deposes and says: That he is a citizen of the United States and is now and was during all the times hereinafter mentioned over the age of twenty-one years and a resident of the County of Tulare, State of California, and is the person whose name is subscribed to the notice hereto annexed as a witness.

Page 254 (Cont.)

That on the fourth day of November 1905, he posted in a conspicuous place at the point of intended diversion a notice in writing of which the annexed is a true copy, which said notice was posted on the said date at and on a cotton wood tree on the bank of Big Creek near the bridge on the Mariposa Road in Section 10 Township 5 S. R. 21 E. M.D.M. County of Mariposa, State of California.

That said notice was posted in a conspicuous place at said point and said place where the quantity of water claimed by said claimant, the appropriator in said notice, is obtained and is proposed to be diverted.

F. W. Schlageter.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 8th day of Nov. 1905.

J. A. Adair

(Seal) Notary Public in and for said County
of Fresno, State of California.

Filed for record at the request of F. W. Schlageter,
Nov. 8 A. D. 1905, at 50 min. past 11 o'clock A.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Page 256

Notice of Water Appropriation

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, John S. Washburn, of Mariposa County, Calif., does hereby claim 20,000 inches of the water flowing at this intended point of diversion measured under a 4 inch pressure, which said point of intended diversion is within and is a part of Sierra Forest Reserve.

That the said intended point of diversion and place where this notice is posted is described as follows: On a Pine Tree on the bank of Big Creek, in the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, Township 5 S. R. 21 E. near the Four Mile Station.

That the purpose for which the undersigned claims said water is for the purpose of developing power to be used in the generation of electricity or for any other mechanical purposes for applying the same to mechanical devices for the generation of electric power and other power, and all other mechanical purposes.

That the place of intended use is at the power house to be located at or near the intersection of Big Creek and the South Fork of the Merced River in the County of Mariposa, State of Calif.

That the means by which he intends to divert said water is by means of a dam, tunnels, ditches, flumes, conduits and pipe line; the size of said ditches, flumes, conduits and pipe line to be of capacity sufficient to carry said 20,000 inches of water conducted from the said plant of diversion to said power house location; the route of intended conveyance of the water so claimed lies wholly within the Sierra Forest Reserve.

Dated Fourth Day of November 1905.

Witnessed by
F. W. Schlageter.

John S. Washburn,
Appropriator.

State of California)
County of Mariposa) ss

F. W. Schlageter being duly sworn deposes and says: That he is a citizen of the United States, and is now and was during all the times hereinafter mentioned over the age of twenty-one years and a resident of the County of Mariposa, State of California, and is the person whose name is subscribed to the notice hereto annexed as a witness;

That on the fourth day of November 1905, he posted in a conspicuous place at the point of intended diversion a notice in writing of which the annexed is a true copy, which said notice was posted on said date at and on a pine tree on the banks of Big Creek, in the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Pages 197 and 198

Notice of Location of Reservoir Site

Notice is hereby given to All Whom It May Concern that I, John S. Washburn, a citizen of the United States, in compliance with the revised Statutes of the United States, have this day located as a Dam Site the following described land, situate, lying and being in the County of Mariposa, State of California, and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point $1/4$ mile south of the corner post that marks sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Township 5, S. R. 21 E., thence in a southeasterly direction a distance of 2 and $1/2$ miles to a point where the Y. S. and T. Company's road crosses Big Creek, thence in a westerly direction from said point 2640 feet to a post or monument of stone, thence following and paralleling said Big Creek along its natural course for a distance of 5 miles on the westerly bank of said Big Creek to a point where the appropriator of this Dam Site has a water location, thence across said Big Creek in an easterly direction a distance of 2640 feet to a monument of stone, thence in a southeasterly direction to the point that marks the point of commencement. The proposed Dam to be erected at a point to be hereafter determined by practical Engineers, at the most desirable point that may be determined in the N. E. $1/4$ of Section 14, or thereabout, Township 5, S. R. 21 E.

This proposed reservoir is about 5 miles in length, and from $1/2$ to $3/4$ of a mile in width. The average height of said Dam will be about 200 feet from the bed of Big Creek; the width of said Dam, on the top, will be about 300 feet.

This is intended as a location of the basin of Big Creek from the points designated, and covering approximately 300 acres of land, for the purpose of storing the Flood Waters of Big Creek, to the extent of 300,000,000 gallons.

The object of this appropriation is to keep the supply of said water more constant and for the purpose of generating power, and for agricultural and domestic uses to be applied at and near Wawona in Mariposa County, California.

Dated September 1st, 1904.

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Filed for record at the request of J. H. Corcoran, Sept. 3
A. D. 1904 at 20 min. past 4 o'clock P.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Pages 204 and 205

Reservoir Site

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that I, John S. Washburn, a citizen of the United States, in compliance with the revised Statutes of the United States, have this day located as a dam site the following described land, situate, lying and being in the County of Mariposa, State of California, and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the corner post that marks sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 in Township 5 S. R. 21 E. thence in a southeasterly direction a distance of 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to a point where the Y. S. & T. Company's road crosses Big Creek, thence in a westerly direction from said point 2640 feet to a post or monument of stone, thence following and paralleling said Big Creek along its natural course a distance of 5 miles on the westerly bank of said Big Creek to a point where the appropriator of this Dam Site has a water location, thence across said Big Creek in an easterly direction a distance of 2640 feet to a monument of stone, thence in a southeasterly direction to the point that marks the point of commencement. The proposed Dam to be erected at a point to be hereafter determined by practical Engineers, at the most desirable point that may be determined in the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 or thereabouts, Township 5 South Range 21 East.

This proposed reservoir is about 5 miles in length and from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in width. The average height of said dam will be about 200 feet from the bed of Big Creek; the width of said Dam on the top will be about 300 feet.

This is intended as a location of the basin of Big Creek from the points designated and covering approximately 300 acres of land, for the purpose of storing the Flood Waters of Big Creek to the extent of 300,000,000 gallons.

The object of this appropriation is to keep the supply of said water more constant and for the purpose of generating power, and for agricultural and domestic uses, to be applied at and near Wawona in Mariposa County, California.

Dated November 3, 1904.

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Filed for Record at the Request of John S. Washburn,
Nov. 7th A. D. 1904, at 30 min. past 3 o'clock P.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Pages 214 and 215

Reservoir Site

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that I, John S. Washburn, a citizen of the United States, in compliance with the revised Statutes of the United States, have this day located as a dam site the following described land, situate, lying and being in the County of Mariposa, State of California, and more particularly described as follows; to wit: Commencing at a point $1/4$ mile south of the corner post that marks sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 in Township 5 S. R. 21 E. thence in a southeasterly direction a distance of 2 and $1/2$ miles to a point where the Y. S. & T. Company's road crosses Big Creek, thence in a westerly direction from said point 2640 feet to a post or monument of stone, thence following and paralleling said Big Creek along its natural course a distance of 5 miles on the westerly bank of said Big Creek to a point where the appropriator of this Dam Site has a water location thence across said Big Creek in an easterly direction a distance of 2640 feet to a monument of stone thence in a southeasterly direction to the point that marks the point of commencement.

The proposed Dam to be erected at a point to be hereafter determined by practical Engineers, at the most desirable point that may be determined in the N. E. $1/4$ of Section 14 or thereabouts Township 5 South Range 21, East.

This proposed reservoir is about 5 miles in length and from $1/2$ to $3/4$ of a mile in width. The average height of said dam will be about 200 feet from the bed of Big Creek; the width of said Dam on the top will be about 800 feet.

This is intended as a location of the basin of Big Creek from the points designated and covering approximately 300 acres of land, for the purpose of storing the Flood Waters of Big Creek to the extent of 300,000,000 gallons.

The object of this appropriation is to keep the supply of said water more constant and for the purpose of generating power and for agriculture and domestic uses, to be applied at and near Wawona in Mariposa County, California.

Dated January 3rd, 1905.

John S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Filed for Record at the Request of John S. Washburn, Jan. 3d
A. D. 1905 at 30 min. past 1 o'clock P.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

Book 2 of Water Rights - Mariposa County
Pages 235 and 236

Reservoir Site

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern that John S. Washburn, a citizen of the United States in compliance with the revised Statutes of the United States has this day located as a Dam Site the following described land, situate, lying and being in the County of Mariposa, State of California and more particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point $1/4$ mile south of the corner post that marks sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 in Township 5 S. R. 21 E. thence in a southeasterly direction a distance of two and one-half miles to a point where the Y. S. & T. Company's road crosses Big Creek, thence in a westerly direction from said point 2640 feet to a post or monument of stone, thence following and paralleling said Big Creek along its natural course a distance of five miles on the westerly bank of said Big Creek to a point where the appropriator of this Dam Site has a water location, thence across said Big Creek in an easterly direction a distance of 2640 feet to a monument of stone, thence in a southeasterly direction to the point that marks the point of commencement.

The proposed Dam to be erected at a point to be hereafter determined by practical Engineers, at the most desirable point that may be determined in the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 14 or thereabouts, Township 5 South Range 21, East.

This proposed reservoir is about 5 miles in length and from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $3/4$ of a mile in width. The average height of said Dam will be about 200 feet from the bed of said Big Creek, the width of said Dam on the top will be about 300 feet.

This is intended as a location of the basin of Big Creek from the point designated and covering approximately 300 acres of land, for the purpose of storing the flood waters of Big Creek to the extent of 300,000,000 gallons.

The object of this appropriation is to keep the supply of said water more constant and for the purpose of generating power and for agriculture and domestic uses, to be applied at and near Wawona in Mariposa County, State of California.

Dated May 24th 1905.

J. S. Washburn,
Claimant.

Filed for Record at the Request of John S. Washburn, May 29
A. D. 1905, at 5 min. past 9 o'clock A.M.

F. A. Bondshu,
Recorder.

07 OTHER

Yosemite National Park

BIG CREEK [INACTIVE]

Other Supporting Information

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yosemite National Park
California

June 20, 1950 cc Director 6/20/50
HSC

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Right to use waters of Big Creek on land acquired by the United States from E. M. Schneider through Wawona Hotel Company, Wawona Area, Yosemite National Park

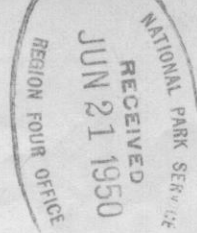
We have not been able to make a positive determination regarding the Snyder diversion referred to in Mr. Dunn's memorandum of February 17. We consulted some old time residents of this locality and are passing on the information we have been able to secure from them.

Mr. Bruce worked at the Wawona fish hatchery about 1901. He helped build a small flume diverting water from Big Creek to the hatchery. Diversion was accomplished by a simple loose rock dam that washed out each year and had to be rebuilt prior to each hatchery season.

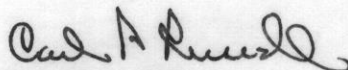
He recalls no other water development on Big Creek within the park boundary. He has lived in this area his entire life and has been up Big Creek many times fishing; he feels sure that there has never been any development except the one at the fish hatchery.

Messrs. Henry and Al Skelton and Mr. Jack Davis were consulted and they were of the same opinion that there were no developments on Big Creek except the hatchery developments.

It appears, therefore, that from the information obtained from these old time residents and from a search of the county records, Mrs. Snyder did not make any water developments on Big Creek. It appears from the meager information we have been able to secure that Mrs. Snyder is related to the Stoddards and was not related to John S. Washburn.



We regret that more conclusive evidence regarding the conditions existing at Wawona could not be obtained for Mr. Dunn. If there is any further investigating that we can do to provide Mr. Dunn with clues as to the water development in this area, we will be pleased to cooperate in any way we can.



Carl P. Russell
Superintendent

*Yosemite
660-06*

UNITED STATES In reply refer to:
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR 154 YOSE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION FOUR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
/
180 New Montgomery Street

Hohl *RAH*
Manbey
BFm
RAH

February 28, 1950

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Yosemite
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Right to use waters of Big Creek on land acquired by
 U. S. from E. M. Schneider through Wawona Hotel Company,
 Wawona Area, Yosemite National Park

Attached is copy of Mr. Dunn's memorandum of February 17 relating to the above subject. Your attention is called particularly to the third paragraph. As is convenient will you please attempt to secure the information requested by Mr. Dunn.

Herbert Maier
Acting Regional Director

Attachment

Copy to: The Director

BManbey/ew

FILE COPY
FILE COPY





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Holt 2/28
Mantley 2/28
In reply refer to:
L54 YOSE

Write Supt BFM 2/28

February 17, 1950

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Four

From: Chief, Water Resources Branch

Subject: Right to use waters of Big Creek on land acquired by
United States from Emma M. Schneider through Wawona
Hotel Company, Wawona Area, Yosemite National Park

The above-mentioned Mrs. Schneider conveyed a large part of Section 3, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, M. D. M., to the Wawona Hotel Company who, in turn, conveyed it to the United States with the Wawona Hotel area. The deed from Mrs. Schneider included appurtenant water rights on Big Creek.

I have copies of nine recorded water claims for diversions from Big Creek where it was crossed by the Wawona Road in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, M. D. M., when the claims were filed between 1903 and 1905. I also have copies of four recorded claims for storage in a reservoir to have extended for five miles up the creek from the point of diversion, also dated between 1903 and 1905. The claims were filed by John S. Washburn.

We should like to know whether the Schneider diversion was near the recorded point--near the center of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10, whether Mrs. Schneider may have been a successor to John S. Washburn, and about when the Schneider water system was constructed. Whether there is any connection between the conveyed rights and the filings or not, we should also like to have a description of the Schneider water system if one can be provided without special survey or investigation.

In further explanation, I am now assembling a record of rights and preparing a report on my inspection of 1947. The data now being requested from time to time is to clarify the preliminary assembly and report. It is not intended to be final. We shall make other provisions for any extensive research which may prove desirable from the assembly and report as first completed.

A. van V. Dunn

A. van V. Dunn
Chief, Water Resources Branch

In duplicate



Docket Information

Number of Documents in Docket : 21

Documents Dated from : 01-03-1950 to 08-28-2025

Docket Compiled: 1/29/2026