



2012 Yosemite Forum

Sponsored by Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

An interactive lecture series designed to bring evolving knowledge of the Sierra Nevada to the public and the park.

From Catastrophic Birth: The Civil War Origins of Yosemite Park

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The Civil War had just entered its fourth year, in the early summer of 1864, when Abraham Lincoln signed legislation reserving the Yosemite Valley as a public park, “to be held inalienable for all time.” This talk asks how the context of America’s deadliest war influenced the creation and understanding of the nation’s first federally-recognized natural park. By exploring the sometimes surprising connections between New York City and the Sierra Nevada, it reveals how the valley was made to serve the Union war effort as it came to symbolize the hoped for national rebirth out of tragedy. Viewing the early photographs of Yosemite alongside those of the Civil War illustrates just how tightly the cultural representations of the two intertwined.

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Auditorium, Yosemite Valley
Noon to 1 p.m.

Yosemite Forum is a partnership among:

- ☞ Yosemite National Park, Resources Management and Science Division
- ☞ USGS, Western Ecological Research Center, Yosemite Field Station
- ☞ University of California, Sierra Nevada Research Institute
- ☞ The Yosemite Conservancy

