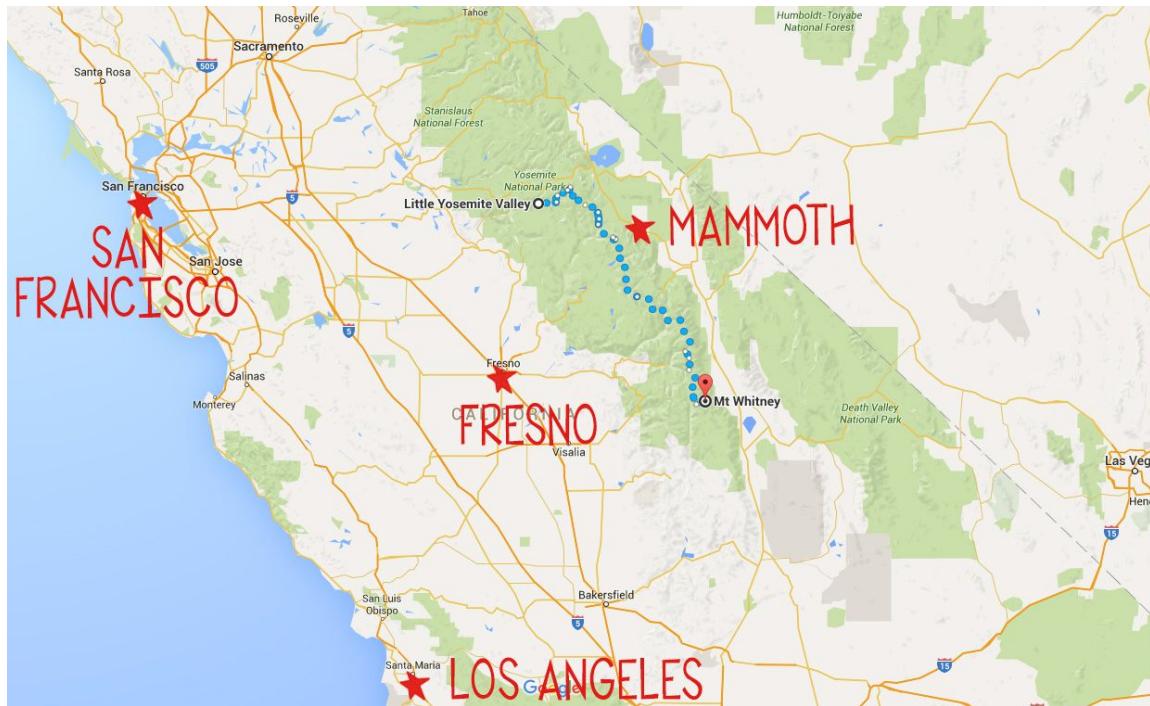


A scenic mountain landscape featuring a rocky foreground on the left, a calm lake in the center, and a range of mountains in the background under a clear blue sky.

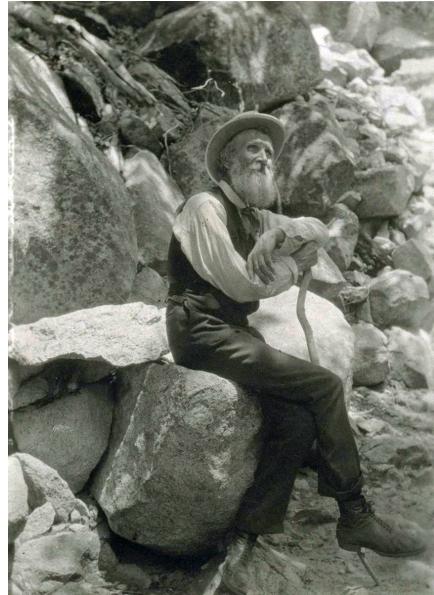
Through the Range of Light: Hiking the JMT

Cat Easdon

Where?



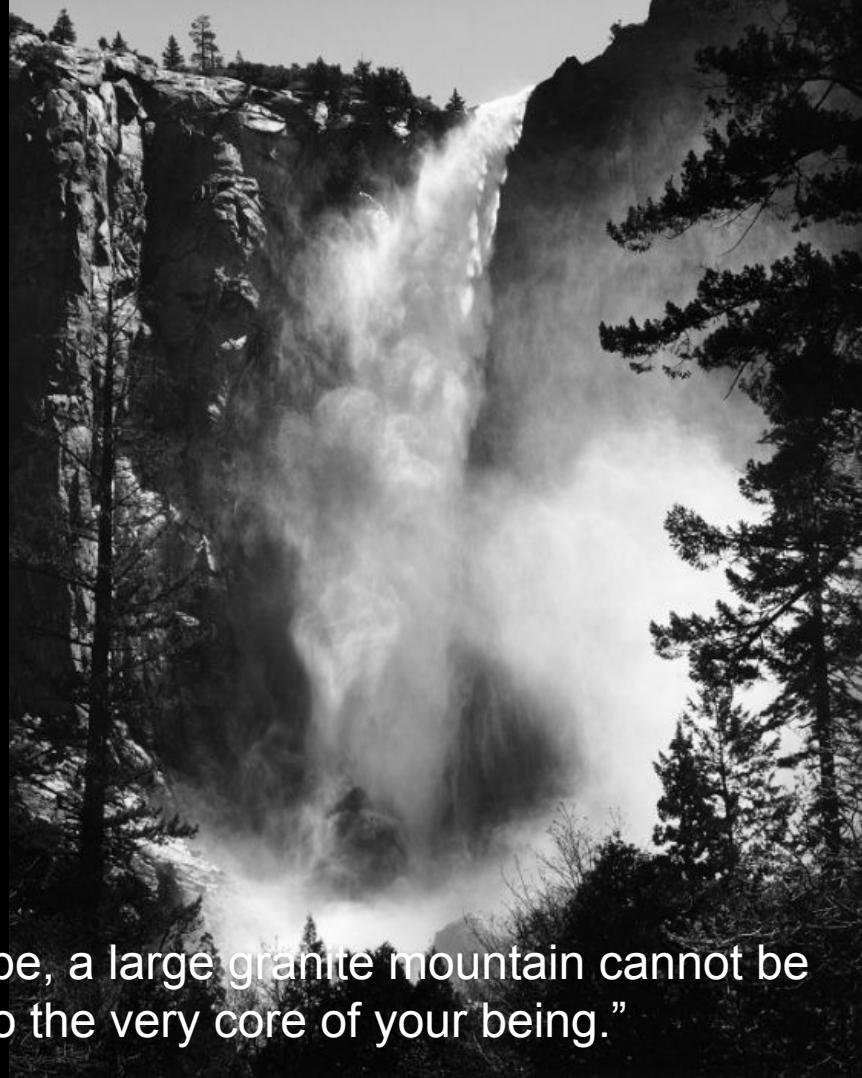
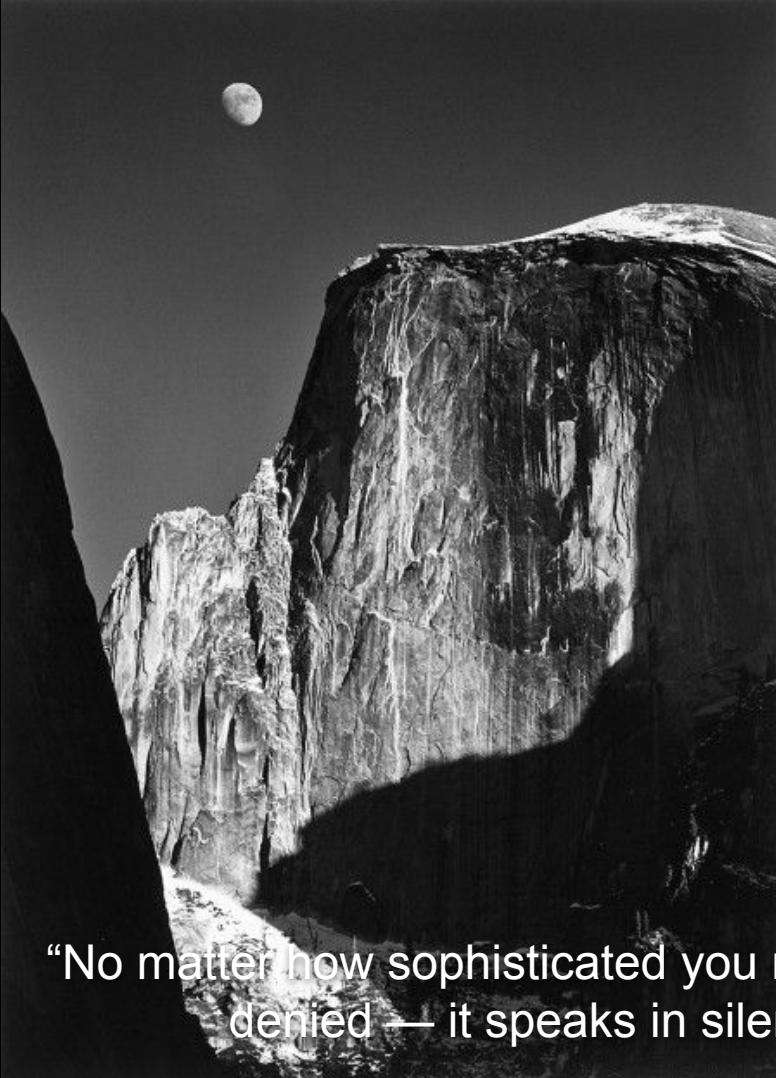
A few of the cast of characters



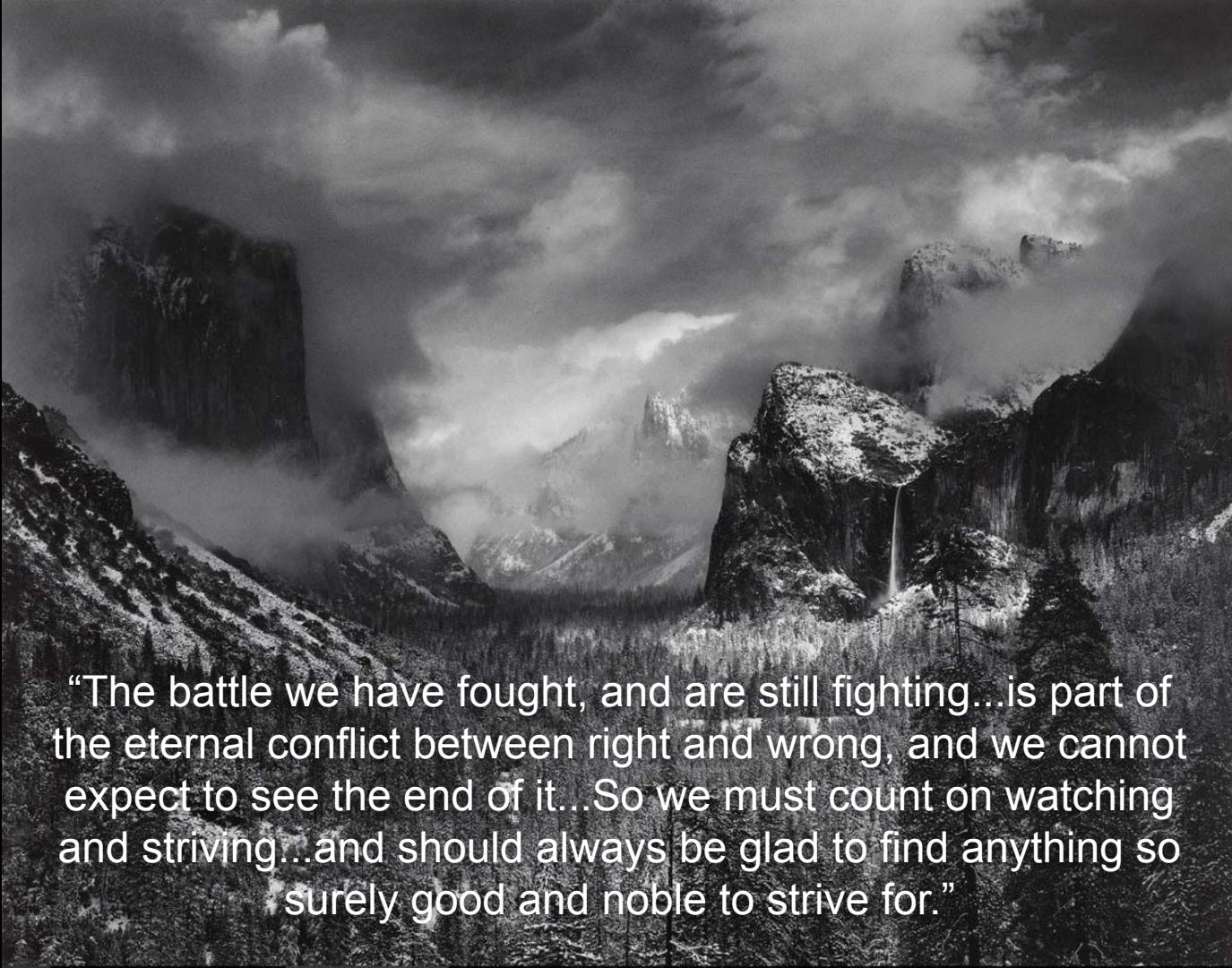
Theodore Solomon, "Little Joe" LeConte, Bolton Brown

Ansel Adams

John Muir (Gandalf)



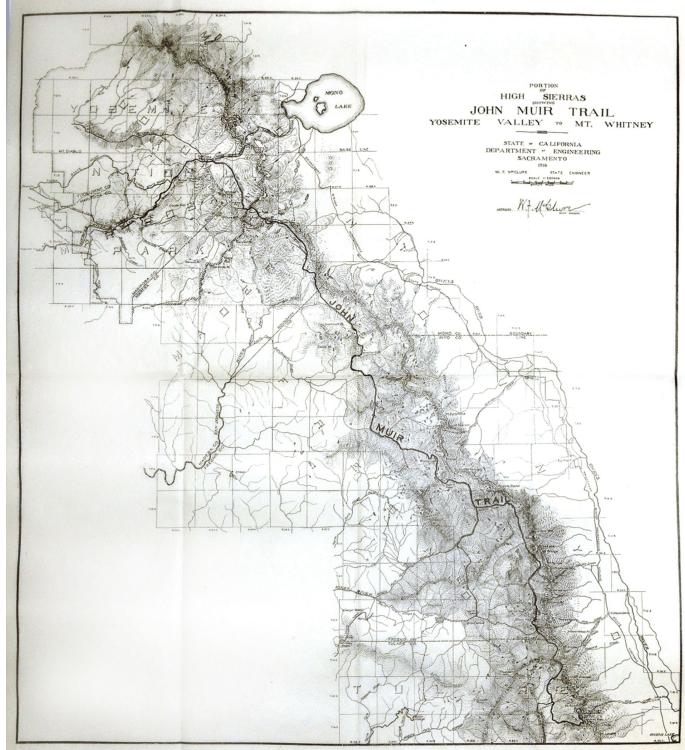
“No matter how sophisticated you may be, a large granite mountain cannot be denied — it speaks in silence to the very core of your being.”



“The battle we have fought, and are still fighting...is part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it...So we must count on watching and striving...and should always be glad to find anything so surely good and noble to strive for.”

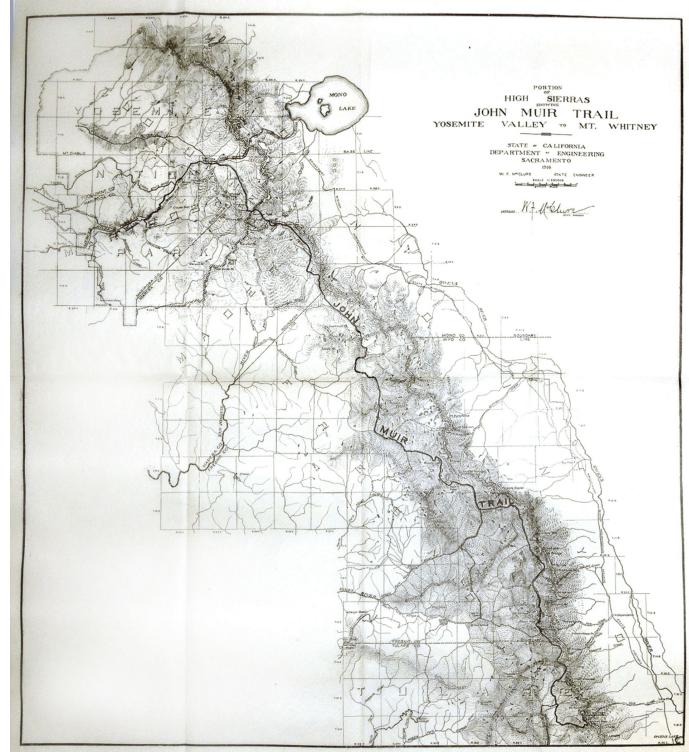
History

- 1848: **California gold rush** begins
- 1851: Mariposa Battalion enter Yosemite Valley pursuing Ahwahneechee
- 1860: California Geological Survey appointed to explore the range: Josiah **Whitney**, Clarence King, Joseph **LeConte**
- 1869: **John Muir** begins wandering the Sierra
- 1873: Mt Whitney first climbed
- 1884: **Theodore Solomons**, age 14(!), has a vision of a high-elevation trail following the crest of the Sierra
- 1892 onwards: Solomons, “**Little Joe**” **LeConte** and the **Brown family** scout for navigable routes



History

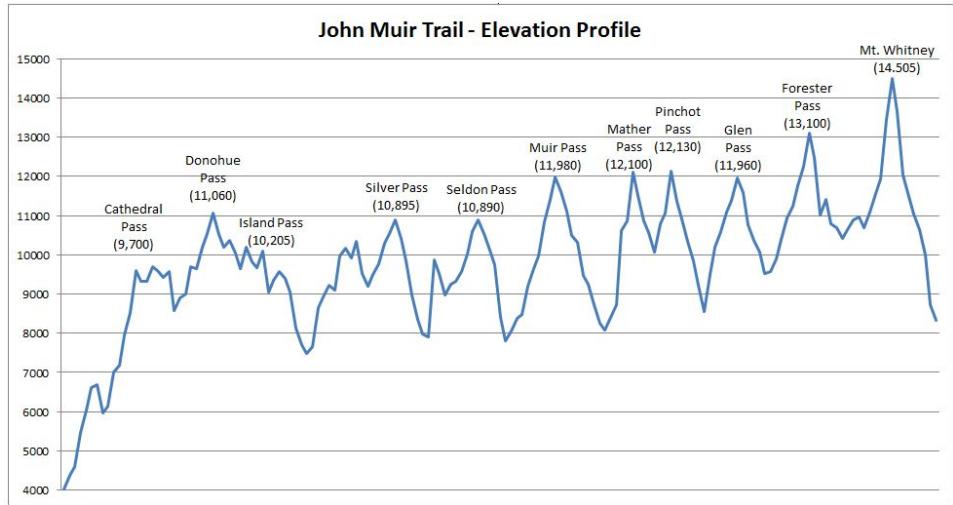
- 1903: John Muir goes camping with President Theodore Roosevelt and persuades him to **establish Yosemite National Park!**
- 1915: State funding procured in Sacramento. California Governor Hiram Johnson dedicates the trail to the late John Muir ***"for his inestimable service in making known to the world the wonders of the mountains of California."*** Dynamiting begins!
- 1916: Ansel Adams gets his first camera and visits Yosemite
- 1930: Trail officially opened
- 1930s: Adams helps lobby Congress to establish Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
- 1938: Golden Staircase completed

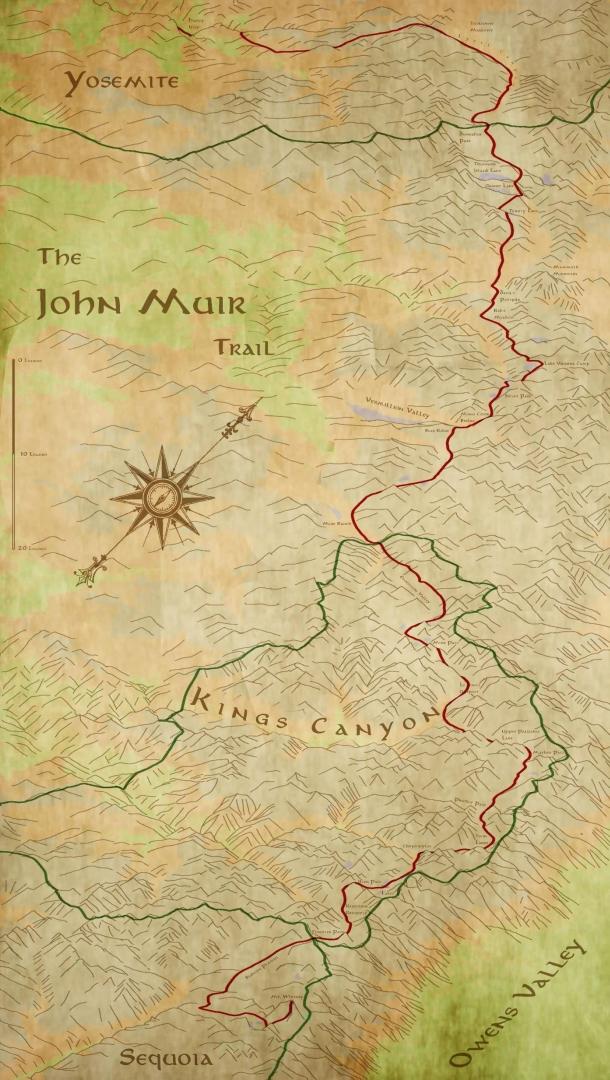




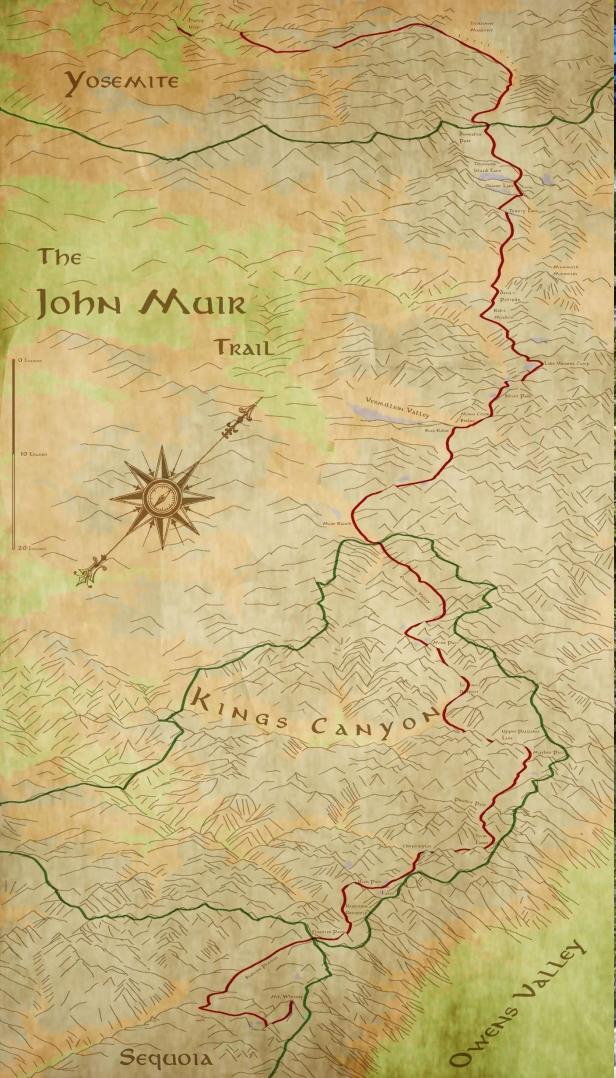
Le route

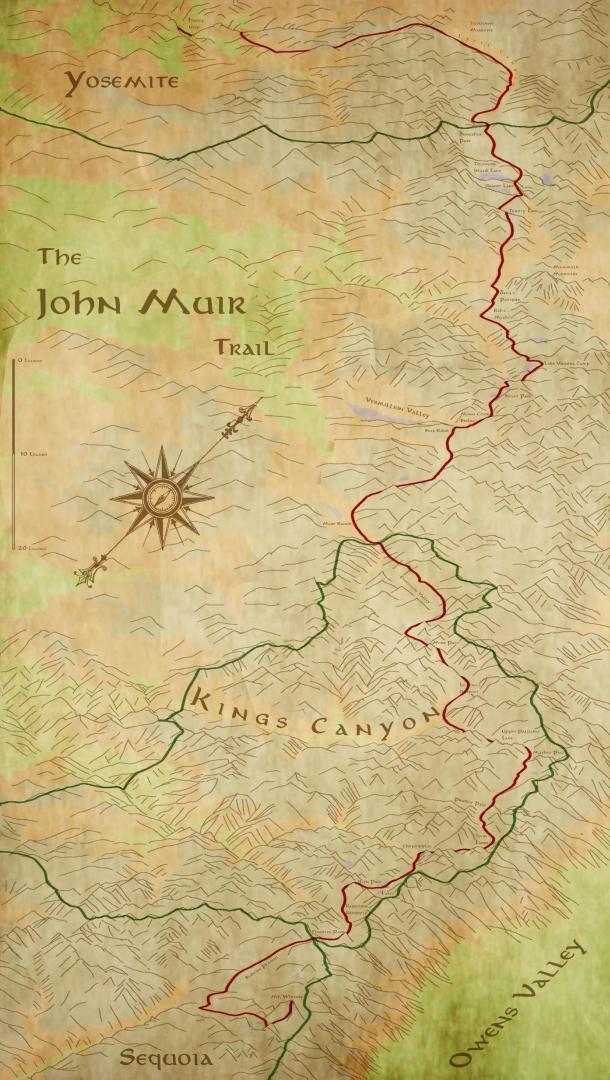
- 211 miles (340km), plus detours
- 14000m total ascent
- 9/10 mountain passes
- Mostly wild camping
- 10 days with no resupply
- High! 2000-3500m, last 30 miles all >3000m
- Highest point Mt. Whitney (4421m)
- FKT: François D'Haene did it in 2d 19h 26m!! (supported)

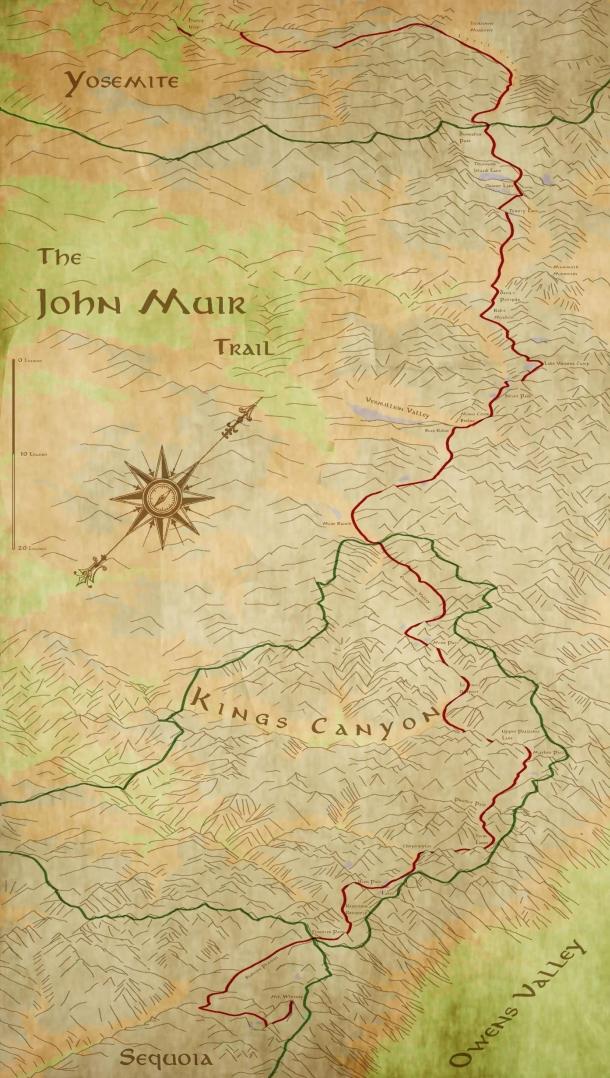


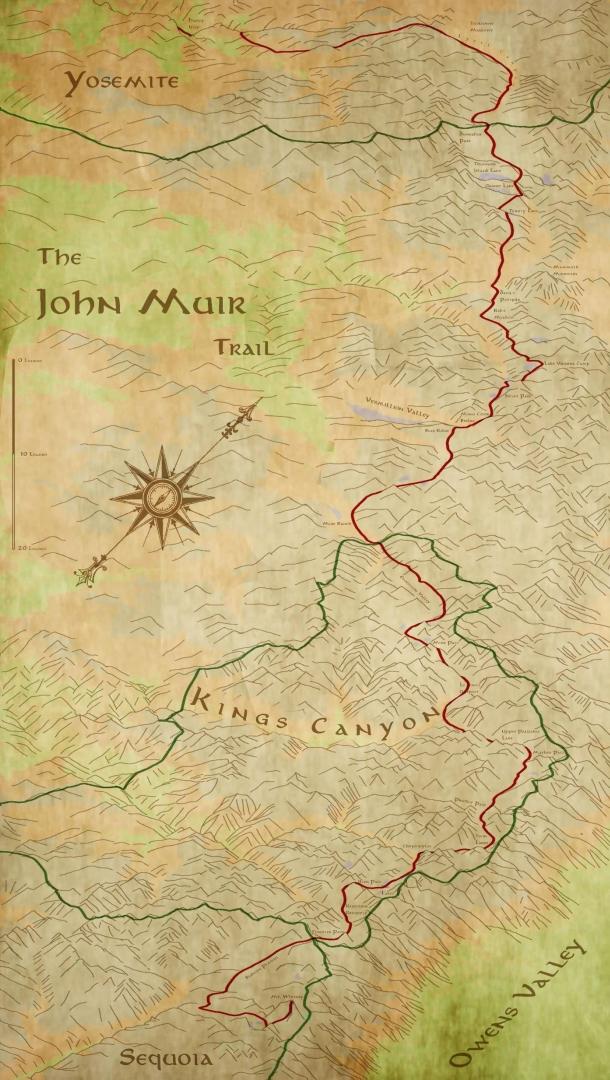


- ~240 miles
- 21 days (~4 rest)
- July 25th - Aug 14th 2015
- Only one trip to hospital (pretty good by my standards)
- “Solo” hike - but spent 0 nights camping on my own??

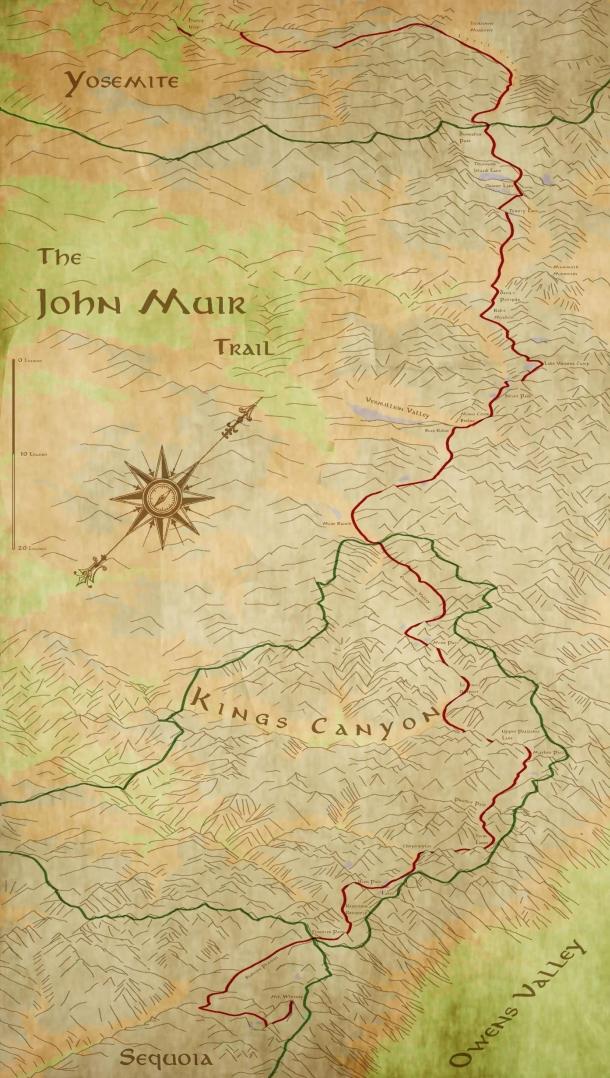


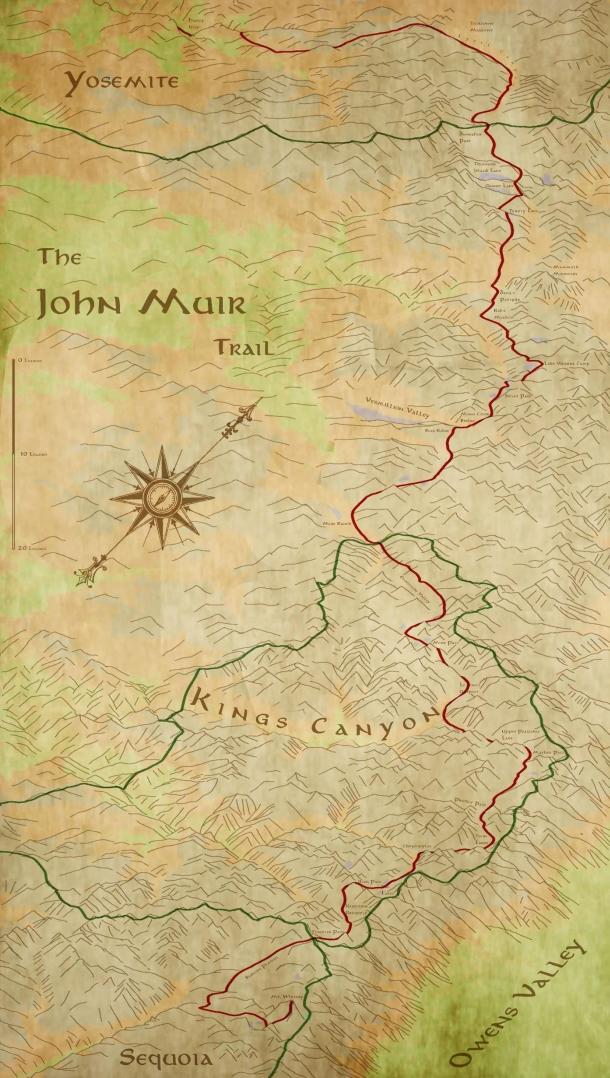








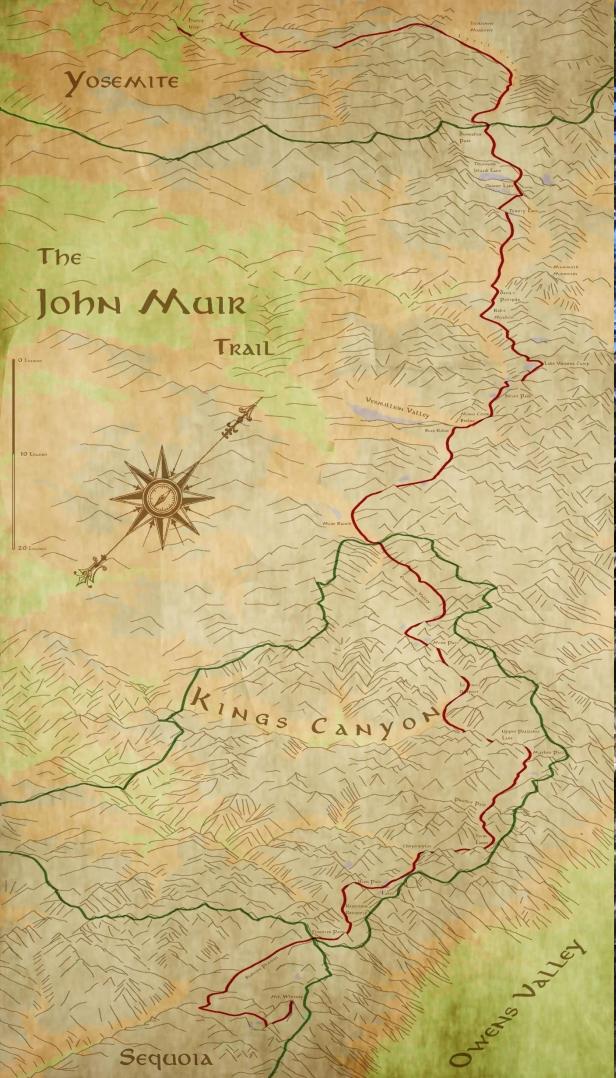


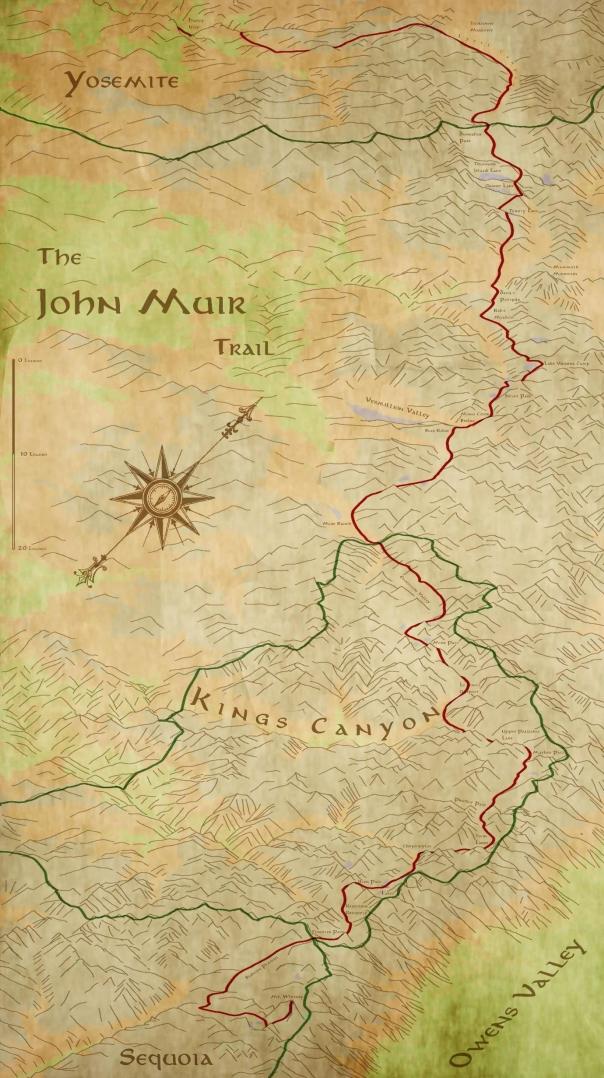


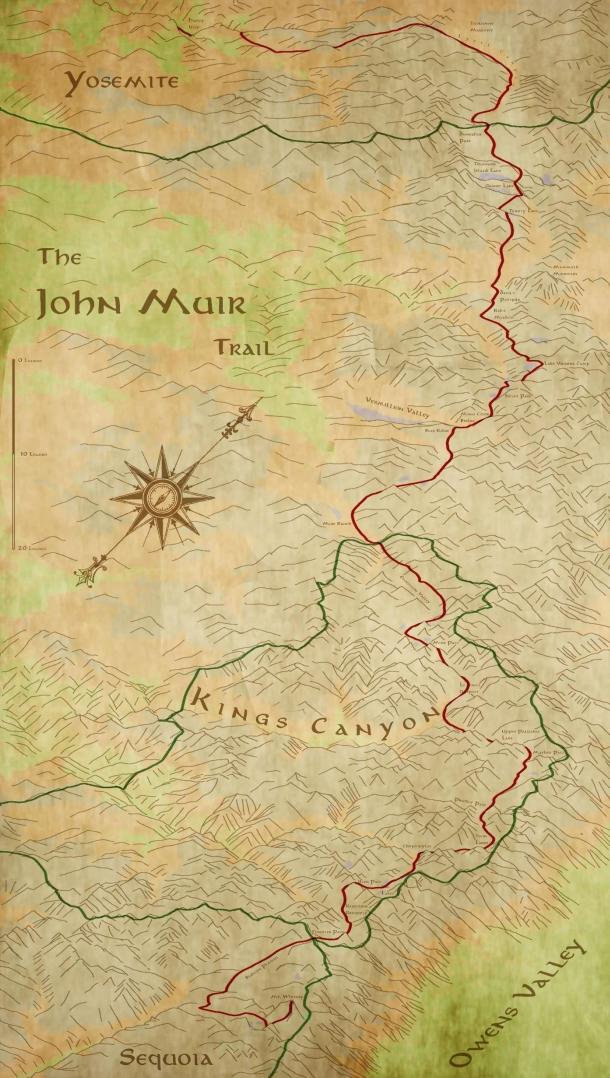




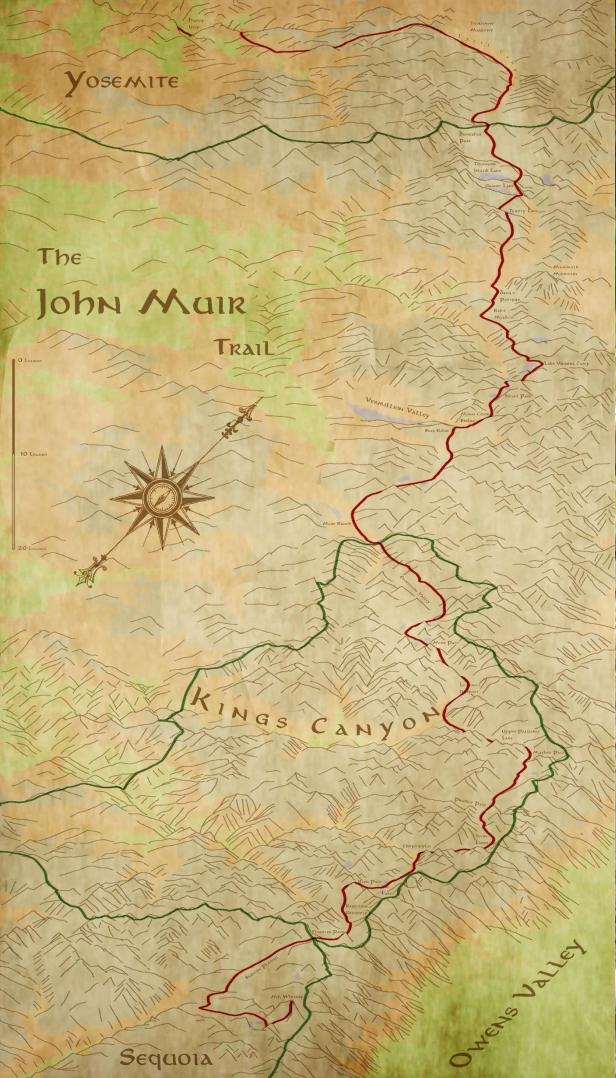


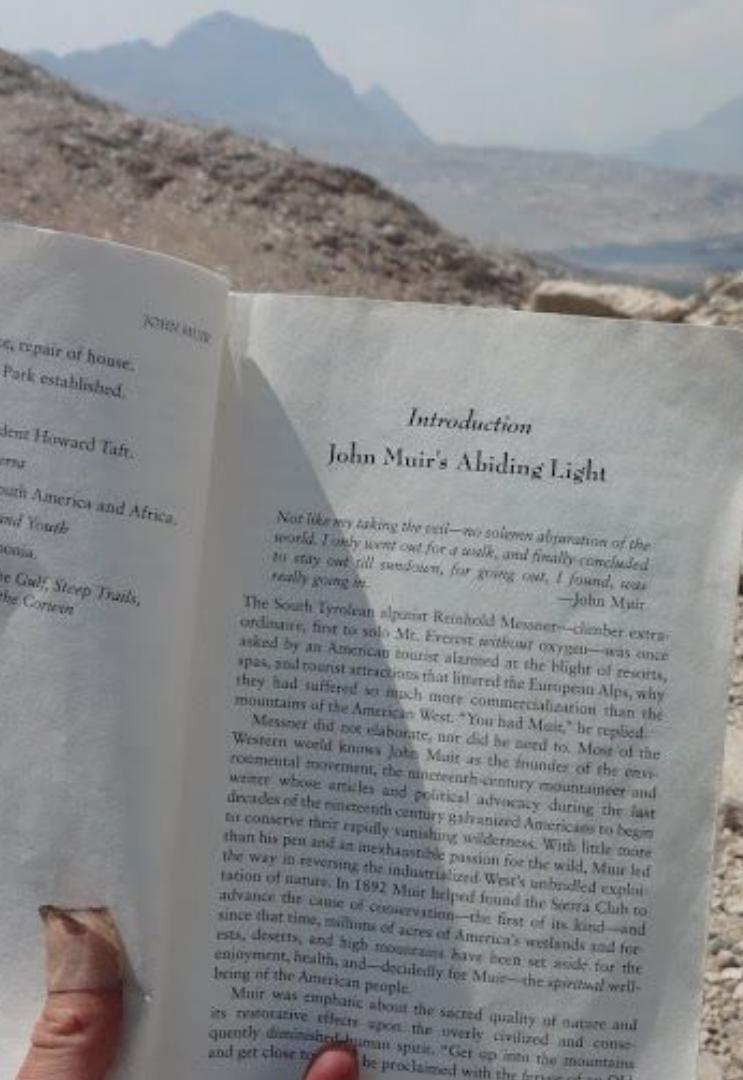
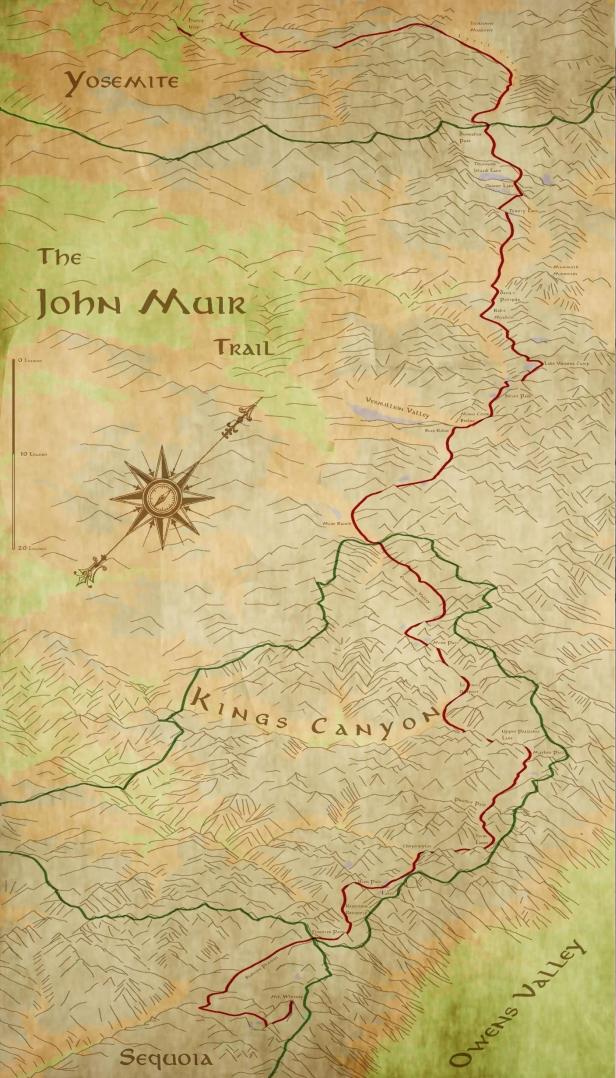


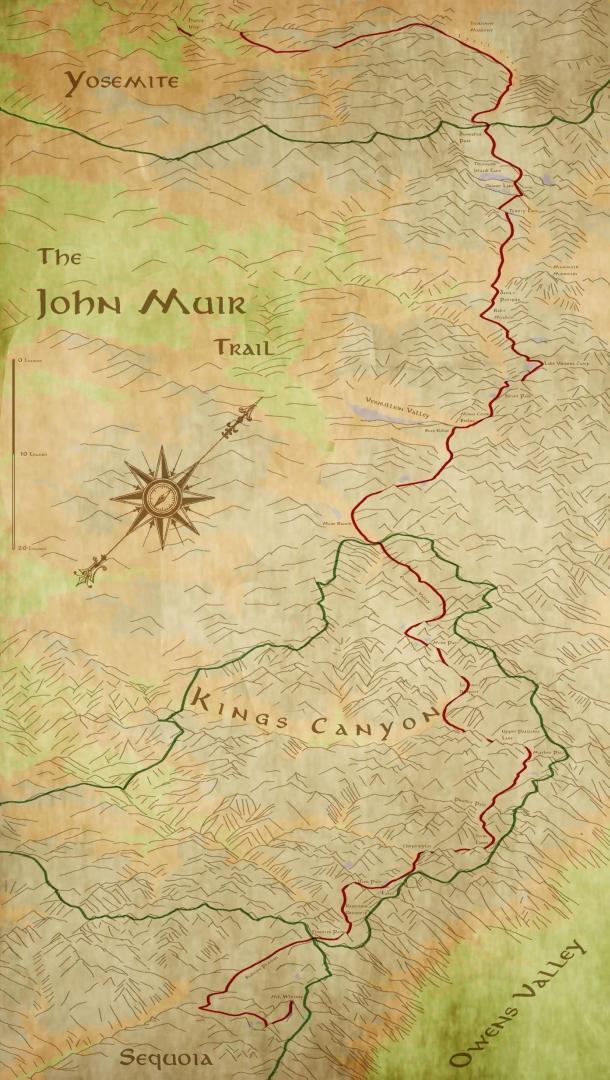




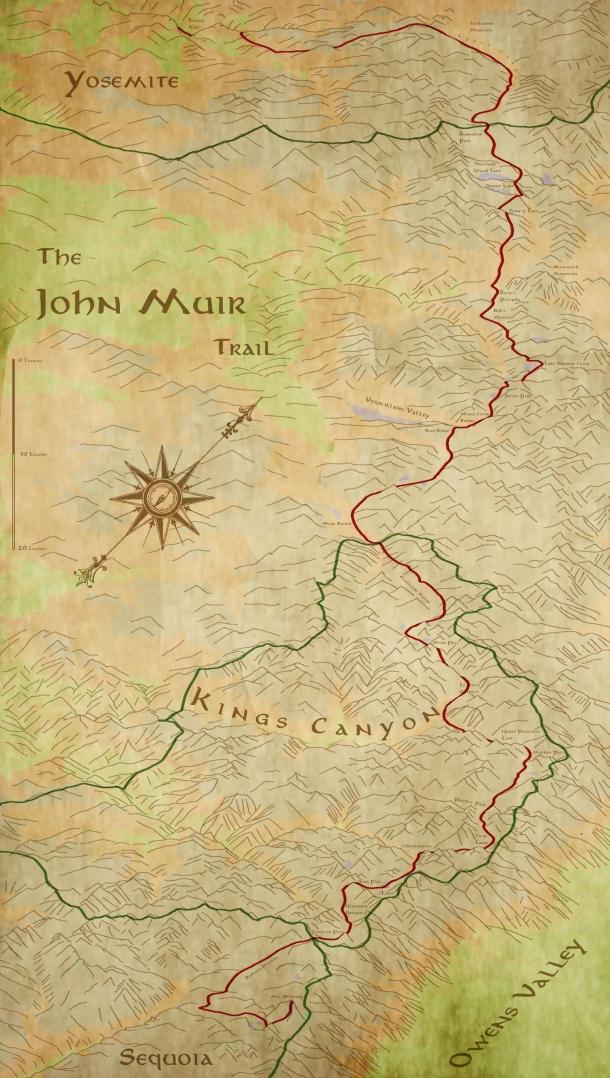


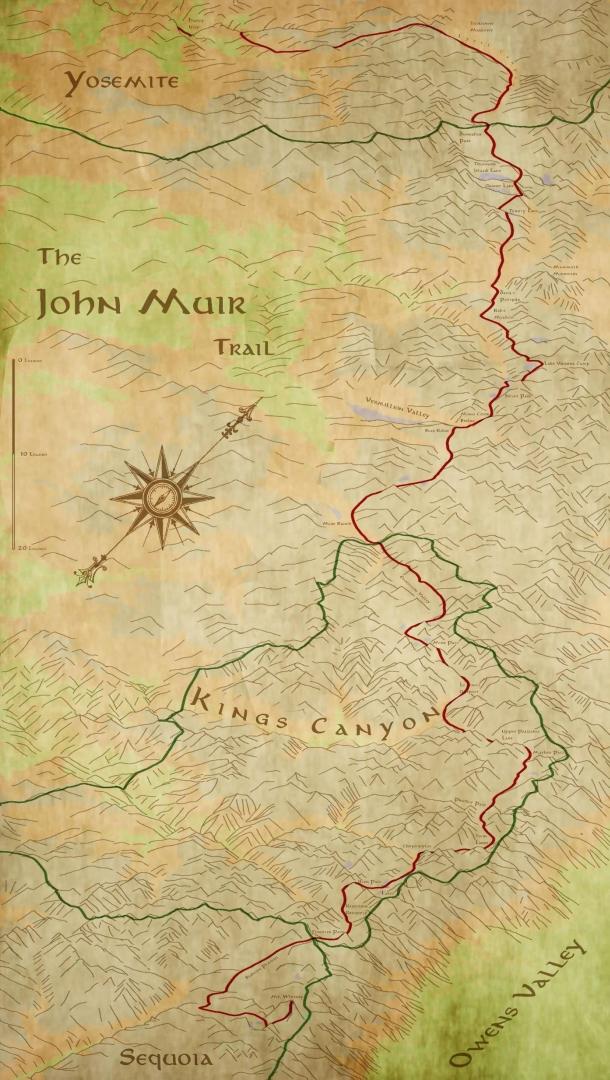


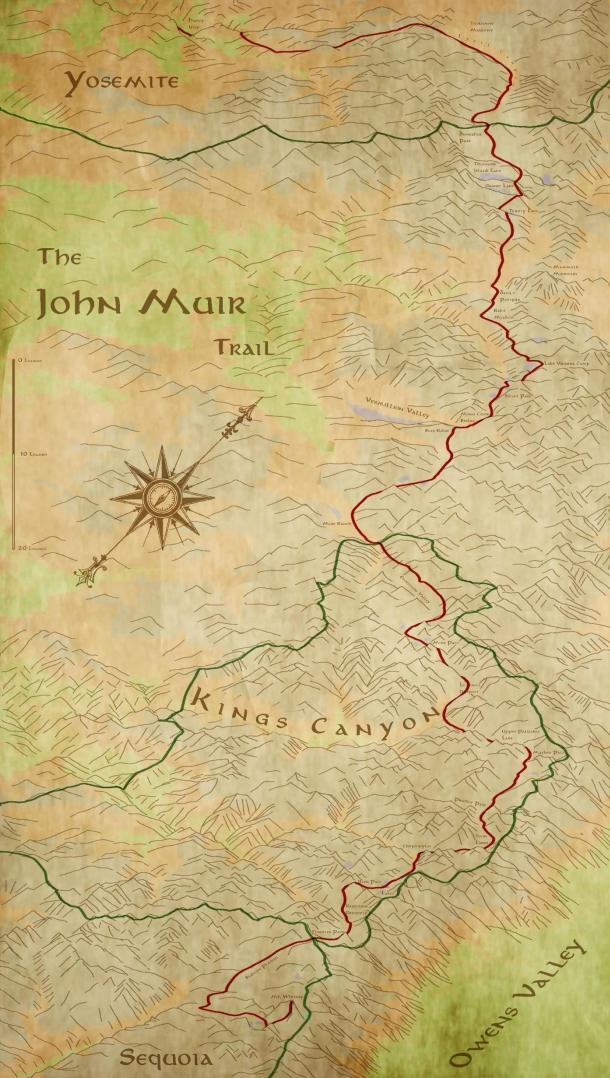




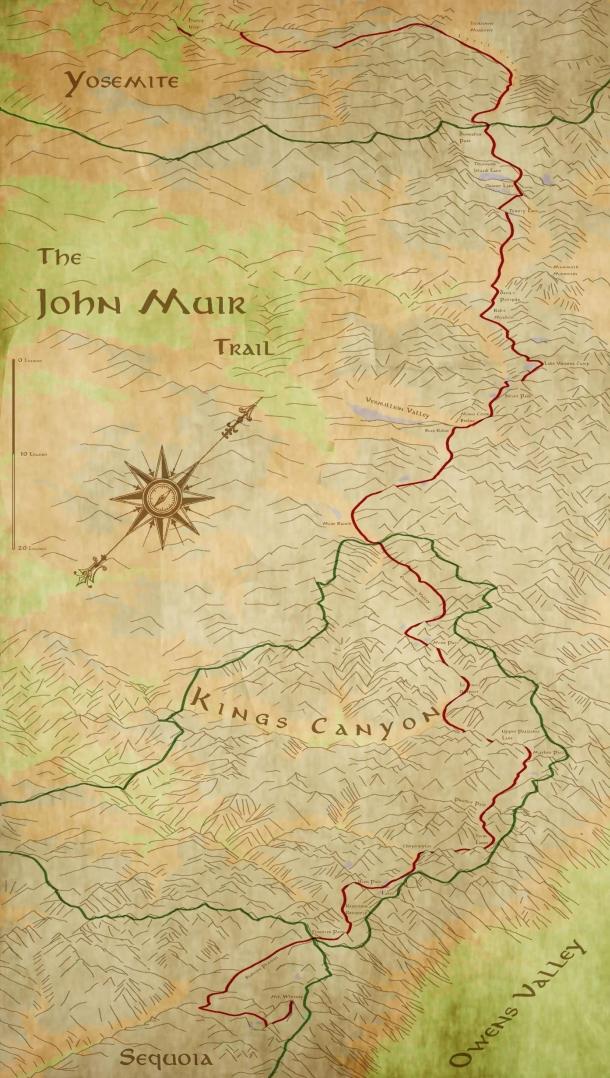








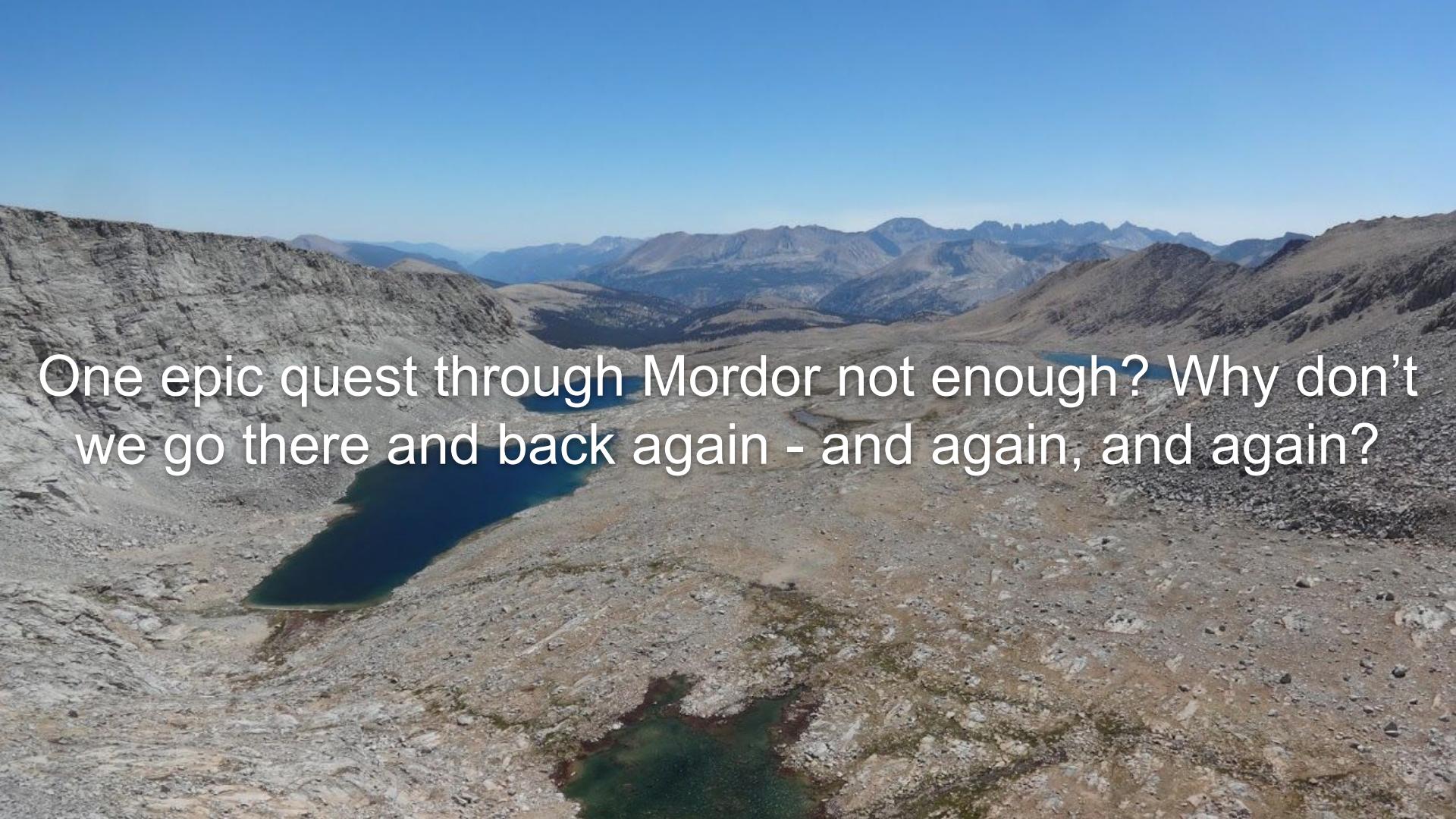










A wide-angle landscape photograph of a rugged mountain range under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a bright blue alpine lake sits in a rocky, sparsely vegetated basin. The mountains are composed of light-colored, possibly granite, rock with sharp, jagged peaks. The terrain appears dry and rocky, with some sparse green vegetation in the valleys.

One epic quest through Mordor not enough? Why don't we go there and back again - and again, and again?

The Triple Crown

— Pacific Crest Trail — Continental Divide Trail — Appalachian Trail

