

# Disappearing Yosemite glacier a symbol of climate change

By Brad Branan, Sacramento Bee

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK – When naturalist John Muir explored Lyell Glacier in Yosemite National Park about 150 years ago, the river of ice stretched as far as 10 football fields between the peaks of the Lyell Canyon, a glacier one might expect to see in Alaska, not California.

Today, it's a sliver of the natural feature Muir called a "living glacier." Over the last 130 years, the glacier has lost 78 percent of its surface, shrunk from about a half square mile to 66 acres.

Stand on the glacier and it's hard to hear anything except the sound of melting water rushing underneath. A big patch of bedrock is exposed in its middle.

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