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1938 Proclamation From President Franklin Delano Roosevelt Designating 203,965 Acres of Land to Dinosaur National Monument

United States Department of Interior; National Park Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 28, 1938.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

Dinosaur
501-08
AK

ROUTING	
<i>files</i>	

Through proclamation by President Roosevelt, 203,965 acres of land rich in scenic, archeological and scientific features have been added to Dinosaur National Monument, Utah, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today was advised by Arno B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service.

Comprising lands in Moffat County, Colorado, and Uintah County, Utah, the extension adds more than 318 square miles to the original 80-acre tract which constituted the Dinosaur National Monument, and brings a particularly fascinating region into the Federal park system.

With plans for recreation including saddle horse and pack horse trips of wide variety, road building in the Monument will be kept at a minimum, although motorists will be afforded opportunity to view panoramas of mountain and desert scenery from advantageously placed observation points.

The area lends itself particularly to popular education along the lines of geology, erosion, archeology, botany, and the natural sciences generally.

In extending the original boundaries of Dinosaur National Monument, power and irrigation rights are recognized, and an agreement has been made between the National Park Service and the Division of Grazing to continue existing grazing permits on certain lands within the Monument.

Much of the area is primitive wilderness, practically untouched by the works of man. Its principal scenic features are formed by the Yampa and Green Rivers, which flow through deep, narrow canyons with precipitous, queerly carved, delicately tinted sandstone cliffs. "Pats Hole," just below the junction of the two

ivers, is particularly picturesque. It was named for a hermit, Pat Lynch, who lived there from the late 60's until his death, about 1915, and who is said to have been a member of the crew of the "Monitor" of Civil War fame.

First to attempt passage of the dangerous Green River by boat was Major John Wesley Powell, who traversed it at the time of his first historic trip down the Colorado River in 1869. Other early explorers included Kit Carson and Jim Bridger. Powell named many of its topographic features, including Lodore Canyon, dark and forbidding with sheer walls 2,000 to 2,400 feet high. Yampa Canyon varies in depth from 1,000 to 1,600 feet. The Yampa is slowly cutting its way down through rocks which have been gradually elevated by earth's internal forces.

The canyon possesses an individuality different from that of any other national park area and is outstanding in its rugged beauty. The record told by its sedimentary rock walls is so clearly revealed that even the layman may comprehend the geologic story of the region.

Several hundred caves lie within the area, and these are believed to have been the most northerly location occupied by the prehistoric cave or cliff dwellers. These Indians did not build stone houses, however, as at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. The remains of their walls are constructed of mud and wattles. Comparatively few evidences of their tenancy are visible -- a few granaries or cysts of stone, places for grinding corn, arrowheads, and bits of pottery. On several of the cliffs pictographs were left by the cave dwellers. Some of these appear to be of very ancient origin. Others are believed to have been made in comparatively modern times by the Utes who are still associated with the name of the Yampa River.

Yampa is a Ute Indian word, signifying a plant commonly called wild onion, or squaw root. It is said that the Ute Indians who formerly occupied this region

were known to other clans of the Ute tribe as the Yampas because they used this plant so extensively.

Botanically the region resembles Mesa Verde National Park and Zion National Park. Some of the sagebrush is from eight to ten feet high. Trunks of the pinons or pinyon and junipers are two feet and more in diameter, and are apparently several hundred years old.

While the fauna of the region is not spectacular, studies made by the Colorado Biological Society indicate that there are probably several new subspecies within the new boundaries of the Monument. Bighorns are reported and beavers are known to exist there.