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Memorandum for the Custodian, Colorado

Robert H. Rose

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September 9, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Custodian, Colorado.

Attached hereto is Acting Regional Director Davis' memorandum of September 4 transmitting a questionnaire from Acting Director Tolson, dated August 28, on effects of visitor use.

For your convenience I have designated the questions sequentially with letters A to L, inclusive. In your reply you can so designate your answers to the corresponding questions saving you a lot of work typing the questions. Also, I can add thoughts I may have.

Considering the splendid reports you submit on matters of this kind it is probably unnecessary to offer suggestions. I would consider it important to make your statements in short, concise sentences and each answer as a whole should be as brief as possible. This is the plan I intend to follow for Mesa Verde.

Robert H. Rose,
Superintendent.

Enclosure - 1847306.

In duplicate.

RHR/1q

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION THREE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

September 4, 1947.

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Chief Clerk	
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Gen. Foreman	
Mechanic	
Electrician	
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MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent, Mesa Verde.

Enclosed are two copies, one for Colorado National Monument, of Mr. Tolson's memorandum of August 28, contents of which are self-explanatory. Your comments and recommendations should be submitted to this office not later than October 10, 1947.

John M. Davis
John M. Davis,
Acting Regional Director.

Enclosure 2850419.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Chicago 54, Illinois

August 28, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

In surveying the effects of visitor use in those areas administered by the National Park Service most subject to damage, we suggest that you assemble data for the following areas in Region Three:

Big Bend National Park.
Bryce Canyon National Park.
Carlsbad Caverns National Park.
Grand Canyon National Park.
Mesa Verde National Park. ✓
Zion National Park.

Bandelier National Monument.
Saguaro National Monument.
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.
Colorado National Monument. ✓
Petrified Forest National Monument.
White Sands National Monument.

The following questions, together with other questions which may be raised in your Office, should be addressed to the administrative officials in charge of the areas:

A. Have camp and related activities made a serious impact on vegetative cover and resulted in soil erosion or other serious physical damage in designated camp grounds?

B. Are concession facilities and privately-owned establishments within National Park Service areas making too much of an impact in relation to use and diversion of water supplies, presenting problems of sewage disposal, and encouraging concentrations of people and related over-uses?

C. Is there a need for a review of "rim area" use and development with a view to preventing irreparable damage (changing the character of) and providing adequate facilities for public benefit in such an area as Grand Canyon?

D. What success are we having in properly protecting and adequately utilizing fragile features and delicately balanced geological and biological processes?

5 6. Are our objectives in biological work sufficiently well defined in areas in which the flora and fauna are particularly outstanding?

7. Are there instances of "pauperizing" of bears, deer, rodents, etc., which can be corrected?

6. What important historical or scientific objects or formations in place out of doors are deteriorating for lack of protection as "exhibits in place" or removal to a museum;

1. Features subject to weathering. Partially exposed or excavated fossils, especially significant geological formations, prehistoric and historic objects not sufficiently durable to withstand permanently the effects of weathering.

2. Features subject to deterioration under visitor impact due to physical contact such as constant handling of objects or walking upon formations, or because of a prevailing tendency on the part of the visitor to mutilate, deface, or displace.

H. Where are artificial walkways, railings, and other barriers needed to restrict visitors?

I. Have special studies been made, or are any planned, to determine the effect of visitor use on the preservation of the essential values of the areas?

J. Are there any sections or features of the areas from which visitors are excluded, or from which they should be excluded to assure preservation?

K. What programs of talks, signs, etc., should be instituted in order that visitor over-use or abuse may be reduced?

L. Do you have recommendations regarding visitor use and abuse which should be considered by the Director?

We shall depend upon you to organize the program of inquiry in Region Three and to devise means of following up on all matters requiring technical investigation or administrative action.

It is suggested that custodians and superintendents of the above-mentioned areas make full reply to these questions rather than confine their answers to a brief "yes" or "no." Compilation of all statements from field areas, together with your comments and recommendations should be submitted to this Office not later than November 1, 1947, for the use of the Director's Committee on Interpretation and Information and the Advisory Board.

(sgd) Hilary A. Tolson

Acting Director.