

University of Northern Colorado

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

Colorado National Monument

Colorado National Parks

Memorandum for the Acting Coordinating Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park

Robert H. Rose

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/colm>

noted
SMH

at Yeager
File

June 2, 1947.

Carpenter

MEMORANDUM for the Coordinating Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park.

There follows a brief review of the major events and developments from the beginning of the 1947 fiscal year which have affected the Colorado National Monument.

Travel:

At the end of May, the total travel for the fiscal year amounted to 10,699 cars and 39,379 visitors. At the same time last year the fiscal year travel was 6,083 cars and 20,897 visitors. This is an increase of 18,492 visitors or 88.6%.

Approximately 60% of the travel was from Colorado with the other 20% being distributed among all the states except New Hampshire. Also, the following foreign countries were represented: Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Germany, San Salvador, Chile and India.

The outstanding characteristic of the monument travel is the heavy picnic use by local people both day and night. In fact, picnic use is heavier at night than during week days. 11,157 picnickers have been counted during the fiscal year in the headquarters campground. Probably that number and more have used the Shelter House and No Thoroughfare Canyon although exact figures are not available.

Much travel never passes the checking station at all. Many visitors enter the monument on foot at the Canyon mouths and many drive in for a short ways and turn around.

The heavy use in the headquarters campground indicates that additional space is required. The vegetation will not stand the present heavy use.

Personnel:

Monument personnel for the fiscal year consisted of: Custodian E. R. Finch, General Foreman H. E. Atchison, Park Rangers R. G. Dobbins and Charles E. Smith. Ranger Smith was transferred to Grand Teton National Park as a District Ranger on May 15, 1947.

During the summer of 1946, four per diem men were hired to help with maintenance and during the spring four truck drivers, one laborer and an equipment operator have been employed for road maintenance work. This

number is adequate for general maintenance of the road but will have to be increased next year if the necessary heavy maintenance work is done as planned.

Insect Infestation:

An epidemic of Matsucoccus and sawflies has spread throughout the monument. Spraying with miscible oil and lead arsenate was done during May in the campground-residential-utility area. \$1070 was allotted for this work. Approximately 12,000 pinon trees were treated. At the present time it appears as if the epidemic has been halted in the treated area; however, there may be another generation of sawflies yet this year. Probably spraying will have to be done each year for awhile.

Vandalism:

The Shelter House, located 18 miles from monument headquarters but only 4 miles from Grand Junction has received considerable misuse although actual damage to the building is slight. Damage was directed mostly to the table and bench combinations and to the trees which were damaged by pulling off bush and limbs or actual hacked down for fire wood.

Every practicable method has been attempted to control this but it is felt that nothing more can be done until such time as a ranger station is built at that end of the monument and full time personnel available there for protection and control.

About 15 juniper trees were cut for posts and some damage to vegetation has been caused by vehicles being driven off the highway.

Protection of this area would be improved if it were possible to have a checking station at each entrance to the monument with seasonal help to operate the two stations. This would require four temporary rangers from April to October. Until two stations can be provided, it would materially help the protection to employ two temporary rangers for protection work.

New Construction:

During March, a new telephone line was constructed from monument headquarters to the town of Fruita. This was a much needed improvement since the old line was in such poor condition that almost constant maintenance was required to provide even nominal efficiency.

Equipment:

Old, worn out automotive equipment required much repair work and caused many delays in work programs. On the 24th of May, a new International pick-up was received which relieved the pressure and gave the

rangers a patrol car again. A new dump truck has been ordered and should arrive soon. This will give relief to the road crew. However, many pieces of equipment are needed, including a new auto patrol (road maintenance); front end loader attachment for tractor, mowing machine attachment for tractor, power broom, etc.

Public Relations:

There appears to be a very satisfactory public relations situation in this area. The cattlemen are very cooperative along the stock drive-way. The town of Fruita cooperated by furnishing two men to assist with the building of the new telephone line. The people in Grand Junction seem genuinely interested in the monument. Newspaper items are all of a friendly nature and the average visitor seems pleased with the monument. There were no complaints during the year with the exception of minor oral objections to paying the entrance fee or dissatisfaction on finding the picnic area full.

There is considerable agitation at the present time for the completion of the Rim Rock Drive and a committee from the Chamber of Commerce has been appointed, by Under Secretary Chapman's request, to furnish him with information concerning the amount of work necessary to complete the Scenic Drive.

Forest Fire Protection:

Although the fire season was long and dry, only two lightning fires occurred which were suppressed with negligible damage. No man-caused fires occurred. This was due to good luck and the fact that rangers and custodians worked long hours of overtime in contacting visitors, putting out picnic fires and talking fire danger. The local newspapers and radio station also cooperated by running daily fire danger warnings during periods of high hazard.

General:

While many things which we wanted to accomplish during the year were not done, we feel that the important necessary contacts, protection, and maintenance were done.

/s/ B. R. Finch
B. R. Finch,
Custodian.

Approved for Distribution

(800) ROBERT H. ROSE
Coordinating Superintendent.

Colorado National Monument

27-0104
File

COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

FISCAL YEAR 1947

*Carpenter
yubger*

There follows a brief review of the major events and developments from the beginning of the 1947 fiscal year which have affected the Colorado National Monument.

Travel:

At the end of May, the total travel for the fiscal year amounted to 10,699 cars and 39,379 visitors. At the same time last year the fiscal year travel was 6,053 cars and 20,887 visitors. This is an increase of 18,492 visitors or 88.5%.

Approximately 80% of the travel was from Colorado with the other 20% being distributed among all the states except New Hampshire. Also, the following foreign countries were represented: Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, Germany, San Salvadore, Chile and India.

The outstanding characteristic of the monument travel is the heavy picnic use by local people both day and night. In fact, picnic use is heavier at night than during week days. 11,157 picnickers have been counted during the fiscal year in the headquarters campground. Probably that number and more have used the Shelter House and No Thoroughfare Canyon although exact figures are not available.

Much travel never passes the checking station at all. Many visitors enter the monument on foot at the Canyon mouths and many drive in for a short ways and turn around.

The heavy use in the headquarters campground indicates that additional space is required.

Personnel:

Monument personnel for the fiscal year consisted of: Custodian B. R. Finch, General Foreman H. W. Atchison, Park Rangers R. O. Dobbins and Charles E. Smith. Ranger Smith was transferred to Grand Teton National Park as a District Ranger on May 15, 1947.

During the summer of 1946, four per diem men were hired to help with maintenance and during the spring four truck drivers, one laborer and an equipment operator have been employed for road maintenance work. This number is adequate for general maintenance of the road but will have to be increased next year if the necessary heavy maintenance work is done as planned.

Insect Infestation:

An epidemic of *Mattsuococcus* and sawflies has spread throughout the monument. Spraying with miscible oil and lead arsenate was done during May in the campground-residential-utility area. \$1070 was allotted for this work. Approximately 12,400 pinon trees were treated. At the present time it appears as if the epidemic has been halted in the treated area; however, there may be another generation of sawflies yet this year. Probably spraying will have to be done each year for awhile.

Vandalism:

The Shelter House, located 18 miles from monument headquarters but only 4 miles from Grand Junction has received considerable misuse although actual damage to the building is slight. Damage was directed mostly to the table and bench combinations and to the trees which were damaged by pulling off bush and limbs or actual hacked down for fire wood.

Every practicable method has been attempted to control this but it is felt that nothing more can be done until such time as a ranger station is built at that end of the monument and full time personnel available there for protection and control.

About 15 juniper trees were cut for posts and some damage to vegetation has been caused by vehicles being driven off the highway.

Protection of this area would be improved if it were possible to have a checking station at each entrance to the monument with seasonal help to operate the two stations. This would require four temporary rangers from April to October. Until two stations can be provided, it would materially help the protection to employ two temporary rangers for protection work.

New Construction:

During March, a new telephone line was constructed from monument headquarters to the town of Fruita. This was a much needed improvement since the old line was in such poor condition that almost constant maintenance was required to provide even nominal efficiency.

Equipment:

Old, worn out automotive equipment required much repair work and caused many delays in work programs. On the 24th of May, a new International pick-up was received which relieved the pressure and gave the rangers a patrol car again. A new dump truck has been ordered and should arrive soon. This will give relief to the road crew. However, many pieces of equipment are needed, including a new auto patrol (road maintenance); front and loader attachment for tractor, mowing machine attachment for tractor, power broom, etc.

Public Relations:

There appears to be a very satisfactory public relations situation in this area. The cattlemen are very cooperative along the stock driveway. The town of Fruita cooperated by furnishing two men to assist with the building of the new telephone line. The people in Grand Junction seem genuinely interested in the monument. Newspaper items are all of a friendly nature and the average visitor seems pleased with the monument. There were no complaints during the year with the exception of minor oral objections to paying the entrance fee or dissatisfaction on finding the picnic area full.

There is considerable agitation at the present time for the completion of the Rim Rock Drive and a committee from the Chamber of Commerce has been appointed, by Under Secretary Chapman's request, to furnish him with information concerning the amount of work necessary to complete the Scenic Drive.

Forest Fire Protection:

Although the fire season was long and dry, only two lightning fires occurred which were suppressed with negligible damage. No man-caused fires occurred. This was due to good luck and the fact that rangers and custodian worked long hours of overtime in contacting visitors, putting out picnic fires and talking fire danger. The local newspapers and radio station also cooperated by running daily fire danger warnings during periods of high hazard.

General:

While many things which we wanted to accomplish during the year were not done, we feel that the important necessary contacts, protection, and maintenance were done.

Robert H. Rose,
Coordinating Superintendent.

In duplicate.

cc: Regional Director, Region Three.

/rc