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Colorado National Monument

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### Memorandum For Director of Colorado National monument

Ward Yeager

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May 20, 1948.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

*Rec'd  
6/7/48  
Yeager  
&  
Carpenter*

The attached "advance report of significant events for the 1948 fiscal year" for Colorado National Monument is submitted herewith as reported by Custodian B. R. Finch.

The outstanding need for this monument is additional facilities for the multitudes of picnickers and other day visitors. The demand now far exceeds our ability to provide for them without endangering basic monument values.

W. Ward Yeager,  
Acting Superintendent.

Enclosure -1848314.

cc: Region Three (2)  
Colorado.

(Copies of corrected sheets 1, 2 and 4 sent to Colorado 5/21/48)

WWY/iq

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT  
FRUITA, COLORADO.

*Mesa Verde*

May 10, 1948.

ADVANCED REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1948.

TRAVEL.

The outstanding characteristic of the Monument travel is the heavy picnic use by local people. This use is approximately 12,000 for the fiscal year to date in the headquarters campground area alone. With the present use extended through May and June, it will probably exceed 16,000 for the fiscal year. This campground consists of only one loop with 20 tables and fireplaces. Each table will accommodate only six people. In other words 120 people and about 30 cars is a capacity crowd. However, from 350 to 450 people crowd in each Sunday and holiday during the spring and summer and many are turned away. Also during the hot months of July and August, there will be from 100 to 200 people each night. This over crowd is compacting the soil and trampling out the vegetation. Moreover there is no place for large group picnics which are so popular in this area.

The shelter House at the No Thoroughfare Canyon Entrance is filled to capacity almost every evening with the surplus spreading out over the surrounding area. The Devil's Kitchen in No Thoroughfare and the mouth of Monument Canyon have always been popular picnic spots. Since there is no development at either place and the limited Monument personnel occupied at more pressing places, there can be only a very limited supervision at these places. Some damage is bound to be the result.

Another feature of the Monument travel which is hard to control is the heavy night use. Local people who want to escape the heat of the Valley spend the evenings on the Drive. Also hoodlums looking for a place to hold an all night party. With personnel insufficient for even an eight hour shift it is a problem to supply much protection or control, not to mention service or any interpretive program. It is only by donating long hours of overtime that even the pressing maintenance, sanitary, and control problems are cared for.

UNITED STATES  
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GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO  
Fruita,



ADVANCED REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1948

TRAVEL

Travel for the fiscal year 1948 including April 30 was 11411 cars and 42132 people. For the same period last year the travel was 9409 cars and 34207 people. This is an increase of 7925 people or 23.1 percent. If the travel for May and June continues at the present rate the total for the entire fiscal year will be approximately 55,000 people.

Approximately 75 percent of all travel is local with the other 25 percent being well distributed among the 48 states. With the exposed nature of the Monument with four entrances and the entire boundary closely surrounded by a large population, there is a lot of travel and use that can never be recorded. Our travel figures are based on the actual count either at the Checking Station or by patrol rangers. We feel certain that this is not more than two thirds of the actual travel at the best.

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May 10, 1948.

ADVANCED REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1948.

PERSONNEL.

With the opening of the Checking Station on April 15 until its close on November 1, 75% of both rangers' time is fully occupied with this duty. This station is in no sense a control station since it is not located at either of the four entrances, then there is only 25% of one ranger's time available plus that of the custodian for all the other activities.

During the prewar period there was such an abundance of emergency labor available here that an adequate force was not built up. Consequently, with the reduction in funds and personnel plus the advent of the 40 hour week and an increase since 1941 of 75.5% in visitor use of the area there has resulted a critical situation.

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May 10, 1948.

ADVANCED REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1948

PERSONNEL

Monument personnel for the fiscal year consisted of: Custodian Breynton R. Finch; Rangers Raymond G. Dobbins and William D. Guillet (After September 16. One ranger position was open during the main travel season of July, August and first part of September); General Foreman Atchison and Equipment Operator Rex H. Bowen.

Since the General Foreman and Equipment Operator are paid from the Roads and Trails Account and have more than they can do on road maintenance, the rest of the maintenance of buildings, water and sewer lines, boundary fences, sanitation, campground and shelter house cleanup, hauling and sawing of wood, maintenance and minor repairs to equipment, and janitor duties falls on the two rangers and the custodian. This is a full time job in itself but is complicated with Checking Station duties, protection, law enforcement, office work, warehousing, public relations, wildlife management, insect control, and contact duties.

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May 10, 1948.

ADVANCED REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1948

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations continued to be satisfactory. There were no complaints during the fiscal year. Even the growing dissatisfaction with the long delay in finishing the road and improving the picnic facilities is still in a friendly mood.

Cattlemen are scrupulously cooperating along the driveway and are doing their best to prevent trespassing of live stock. One sheepman even went so far as to offer to put two extra wires on the Monument fence along his allotment on the north and west boundaries if we would furnish the wire. This would make our present inadequate fence sheep proof. It was fortunate that the wire was available.

We feel proud of the success of our public relations program considering the little time which we have to devote to it and the complex nature of the local situation.

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May 10, 1948.

ADVANCED REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1948.

VANDALISM.

When the wide open nature of the Monument which is surrounded on all sides by a large population is considered, vandalism is not a major problem. We contribute this to our public relations program rather than our protection activities which are entirely inadequate. It is only with the itinerant fruit workers and the low income element in Grand Junction that we have any serious problems. The taking of dead wood is the chief problem. However, a few trees were cut along the Scenic Rim Rock Drive near the south Glade Park Entrance.

The Shelter House continues to have much misuse and abuse but the building itself has not sustained very serious damage. It is mostly the grounds surrounding it which have suffered the damage. The mouths of the major canyons along the eastern boundary are receiving heavy use and a few trees have been cut for fire wood. Since there are no developed picnic areas there and since it is impossible to supply fire wood, this is not surprising.

Vandalism in the Headquarters campground is very rare since it is close enough to receive protection. However, the impact of the heavy visitor use is showing up. Unless this area is enlarged so that the use can be spread out, there will be nothing left but sand in a few years.



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INSECT INFESTATION

The spraying against Matsucoccus and the sawfly which was done last year in the Campground-Residential-Utility area resulted in about a 98% kill of the matsucoccus and 100% kill of the sawfly larvae. However, another generation of sawfly larvae is again making its appearance and plans are underway for beginning spraying here again. The unsprayed areas are being seriously damaged by these two insects.

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FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

There were no man caused fires this fiscal year. No doubt this is partly due to good fortune but we like to think that our educational program did a lot as well as the long hours of overtime spent in putting out roadside fires and moving picnickers to the campground. Also a mid-night patrol was run along the highways to see that no fires were burning.

Only one lightning storm caused fire was discovered. That was confined to one juniper tree.

The transfer of the Mesa Verde National Park building fire control truck to the Monument will help a lot with all fire control problems. This truck has been converted into a combination building and forest fire control unit.

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WILDLIFE

The bison herd has now increased to 26 animals. It will be necessary to make another reduction in the herd next winter.

Only a few elk have been observed this winter. It is believed that the main herd has moved into the Finyon Mesa country.

Porcupines again became active in orchards along the Redlands this spring. Orchardists have reported many apricot trees stripped and killed by porcupines. Most of the animals have apparently come out of the monument as tracks leading under the bison fence have been discovered. No porcupines can be seen during daylight hours and the several night patrols which have been made along the boundary fence have produced no results, as no porcupines have been killed. It is hard to find time for many patrols along the boundary. It takes the best part of a night to make one patrol along the fence. This is all overtime work since it seems impossible to lay a man off during the day to take up night duty unless some important detail is slighted. However, the orchardists appreciate the support we have been giving them.

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MAINTENANCE

Major items of maintenance which were completed during the year were:

1. Replacement of a section of the Fruita water line which was taken out by an avalanche.
2. Resurfacing of the Trail of the Serpent's
3. Hauling of gravel and the filling of sunken places along the Rim Rock Drive.
4. The building of a new brick chimney, the rewiring, reflooring, replumbing, lowering of ceiling, building new foundation and complete redecorating of Ranger Residence #2.
5. The complete over haul and repair of the table and bench combinations in the campground.
6. The repair of the bison fence along the east boundary.
7. Repair of water line to Campground (temporary only)