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Colorado National Monument

Colorado National Parks

Office Memorandum

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT *Brown*

TO : Superintendent Rose

DATE: June 21, 1949

FROM : Mahan

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

Attached hereto is the annual report for Colorado National Monument covering items taken from the monthly reports which might be considered important enough for inclusion in your annual report.

Please note that instructions contained in memo dated April 25th regarding submission of these reports was not followed, as to having only one topic on each sheet, due to the fact it is assumed they will be included in your ~~monthly~~ report.
annual



SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT-----COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT---F. Y. 1949

I. TRAVEL:

Travel for the fiscal year to date, June 18th, shows a total of 62,193 people. It is estimated that the total travel for this fiscal year will be approximately 64,400 people. The month of August, 1948 broke all monthly travel records with 11,533 people visiting the area during that month. On July 4th, 1948 there were 2,375 visitors and on Easter Sunday a total of 2,038.

II. FORESTRY:

Only one forest fire occurred during the fiscal year. It was caused by a car accident along the Rim Rock drive and burned .02 acres.

III. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Superintendent B. R. Finch attended the National Park Service Conference held at Grand Canyon National Park from October 2nd to 9th.

IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Mr. M. B. Brown and son of Grand Junction were arrested on October 18th for killing deer on the monument. The case was turned over to the Justice of Peace at Grand Junction and they were fined \$85.00.

V. WEATHER:

Extreme winter weather occurred this year with a total of 92.6 inches of snow falling at the monument. During the month of January 33.1 inches fell breaking all records for that month. A total of 6.74 inches of rain fell during the year.

VI. PERSONNEL:

Superintendent B. R. Finch transferred to Yellowstone National Park on February 23rd as Assistant Chief Ranger. Superintendent Russell L. Mahan transferred from Arches National Monument to Colorado National Monument on April 11th.

VII. INSECT AND TREE DISEASES:

Sawfly larvae made their appearance on April 14th and control measures were taken on April 30th and May 1st with the mist blower from Mesa Verde National Park. A good kill was made along the roads in the headquarters,

campground and utility areas but coverage was not complete due to lack of funds.

VII. WILDLIFE:

With the cooperation of the Fish and Wildlife Service a project has been started on two peach orchards in the Redlands to control deer depredations. With repellent furnished by the Fish and Wildlife Service, small peach trees have been sprayed with two types of repellent which have worked successfully on White Tailed deer on the east coast. From reports to date it works equally well with the Mule deer in this section and may eliminate complaints to the Service about monument deer raising havoc with the orchards in this vicinity.

Recent checks on the buffalo herd show approximately 35 head on the monument. This figure includes 3 new calves. They seem to have come through the heavy winter in good shape. No elk have been seen recently but it is estimated that 30 head wintered in the monument.

VIII. ACCIDENTS:

One fatal accident occurred during the year when Otto Scheid, a German exchange student from Weilheim, Germany, fell while trying to negotiate a precipitous slope in close proximity to the Rim Rock drive and plunged 500 feet to his death. His companion, Kenneth Hesler of Grand Junction, was rescued, unhurt, from a hazardous position by Rangers Guillet and Dobbins.

(in dup.)

Russell L. Mahan
Superintendent