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Colorado National Monument

Colorado National Parks

Letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service

E.R. Kalmbach

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UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON

 WILDLIFE RESEARCH LABORATORY
 (Control Methods and Food Habits)
 546 CUSTOMHOUSE, DENVER, COLORADO

JAN 7 - 1942

MESA VERDE NAT'L PARK

December 5, 1941.

	DISTRIBUTION
	Superintendent
1	Asst. Supt.
2	Chief Clerk
	Accts-Personel
3	Chief Ranger
2	Naturalist
	Storekeeper
	Mechanic
	Maint.-Foreman
	Electrician
	C.C.C. Office
5	Commissioner
	Engineer
6	Secretary
7	Files

 The Director,
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Green & Dr. Cottam

Dear Sir:

Miss May
Make
copy for

I was interested in the correspondence with Mr. Cahalane concerning the use of fire crackers in frightening coyotes, a fact reported by Charles E. Smith, Ranger on the Colorado National Monument.

Chas. H. M.
Done
1-8-42

The use of fire crackers for this purpose is a practice resorted to by a number of sheep outfits in Colorado and Wyoming. We have been aware of it for some time, and last June I endeavored to bring up to date certain previous information I had on the extent of their use by interviewing officials of the Western Fireworks Company of Denver, a concern that supplies fire crackers to a number of sheep outfits and distributing agencies. At that time I learned that the sales of this company to sheep men approximated 1,000 cases annually at a retail price of about \$4,000.

Among the Wyoming users and distributors are Bolton and Davis, Rawlins, Wyoming; Hadsell Sheep Company, Rawlins; C. S. Moler, Box Creek Livestock, Douglas, Wyoming; and Judson Gibbs, Rock River, Wyoming. In addition there are a number of Colorado users on the Western Slope.

Last summer Mr. Weldon Robinson interviewed Mr. Judson Gibbs of Rock River, Wyoming, who has devised a machine for firing a series of fire crackers one after another. Literature concerning this device was obtained at that time.

I doubt the
hating of the effect.
Even coyotes
will find out
a noise
would hurt them

Whereas the use of fire crackers has never reached outstanding proportions, where the fire hazard is low, I see no reason why they could not be used to advantage in the hands of a careful herder. One of the objects back of their use in place of firearms is to keep the latter out of the hands of careless herders. Where there are objections to reductional control of coyotes and where this method will provide adequate relief, I see no reason why it should not be encouraged.

Very truly yours,

 E. R. Kalmbach,
 Director.

I don't think
somebody took
action -

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington

*Mesa Verde
National Park*

719

December 2, 1941.

RECEIVED

DEC 8 - 1941

MESA VERDE NAT'L PARK

Dear Mr. Cahalane:

Several years ago automatic firing guns were tried in certain fields in California where band-tail pigeons and cottontails were damaging crops. At first they were quite successful, but in a short time, the birds and rabbits became accustomed to the noise and when they learned it was not injurious to them, they paid little attention to the firing of the guns.

There is no doubt that the noise and odor occurring from the firing of the cannon crackers would frighten away cougars for a time, but how long it would remain effective as a protection we do not know, or how long a time would be required between firing crackers is not known. Sheep men have tried these in different localities, but they have generally given it up so it is likely they have not found them to give protection.

It is worth giving a test and we can suggest to Mr. Kalmbach that he have Mr. Robinson run such a trial in some good lambing area near Denver where he could keep in close touch with it.

Very truly yours,

sgd. Dorr D. Green
Chief, Division of
Predator and Rodent Control.

copies to the following at the suggestion of Mr. Cahalane:

Region Three, National Park Service

→ Mesa Verde National Park

Colorado National Monument

c
o
p
y

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

Mr. Victor H. Cahalane, In Charge,
Section on National Park Wildlife,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

719

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

	DISTRIBUTION	
	Superintendent	
1	Asst. Supt.	
	Chief Clerk	
	Accts.-Personel	
2	Chief Ranger	
	Naturalist	
	Storekeeper	
	Mechanic	
	Maint.-Foreman	
	Electrician	
	C.C.C. Office	
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	Secretary	
	Files	

October 7, 1941

MEMORANDUM for the Coordinating Superintendent,
Mesa Verde National Park.

Reference is made to the memorandum sent you by Mr. V. H. Cahalane, In Charge Section on National Park Wildlife, dated September 17, in regard to the animal census report.

Mr. Cahalane requests a brief report on the use of cannon crackers to scare away cougars.

Mr. Kenneth Thompson, the sheepman who uses this method was contacted and the following information gained: Four inch cannon crackers were used and thrown around the bed-ground. Mr. Thompson has been using cannon crackers whenever he has been bothered by predatory animals for over a period of four years. He reports excellent success from the use of them against coyotes, bob-cats, and cougars. He contends that the smell of the powder and the noise of the explosions are very helpful in keeping his herd free from attack.

One instance was reported to the writer by Mr. Thompson that seemed interesting. He was lambing at his home ranch one spring and did not have any crackers on hand at the start. He was experiencing a great deal of loss due to predatory animals, which decreased considerably upon the arrival of the cannon crackers.

A rancher not using cannon crackers on a neighboring allotment reports a heavy loss at lambing time this spring while Mr. Thompson's loss seems to have been small. No exact figures are available for comparison however.

The above is submitted for what it is worth, and it is realized that due to lack of true figures not much can be gained in the way of the true worth of the cannon crackers.

Charles C. Smith

Acting Custodian

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In duplicate

OCT 10 1941

MESA VERDE NAT'L PARK

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

719
September 17, 1941.

DISTRIBUTION	
Superintendent	2
Asst. Supt.	2
Chief Clerk	
Accts.-Personel	
Chief Ranger	1
Naturalist	
Storekeeper	
Mechanic	
Maint.-Foreman	
Electrician	
C.C.C. Office	
Commissioner	
Engineer	
Secretary	
Files	

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent,
Mesa Verde National Park.

This will acknowledge, with thanks, Chief Ranger Faha's memorandum of September 8 and the two transmitted copies of the annual animal census report for Colorado National Monument, as prepared by Ranger Charles E. Smith. The care and thought that Mr. Smith has put into his estimates and comments are much appreciated.

We noted with interest the attempt of a local sheepman to scare away cougars with large cannon crackers. If this enjoyable pastime is extended over any considerable period of time, we would appreciate having a brief report from Mr. Smith on the success or failure of this method.

Victor H. Cahalane

Victor H. Cahalane,
In Charge,
Section on National Park Wildlife.

cc: Regional Director, Region Three, NPS.
Regional Biologist McDougall, Region Three, NPS.
Custodian, Colorado National Monument.
Fish and Wildlife Service.

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1941

MESA VERDE NAT'L PARK

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION THREE
Santa Fe, New Mexico

719

May 5, 1938

MEMORANDUM TO: ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR

I have just read the monthly narrative reports for March 1938, covering Mesa Verde National Park and the national monuments that are under the supervision of Superintendent Nusbaum. I note that in the report on Colorado National Monument, Ranger James Luther States:

Mountain lion tracks have been seen in three different localities of the monument. It is feared that they have taken up along the rim rocks and they will have to be exterminated in order to protect the deer and elk calves which cannot get away from the lions in the box canyons."

I wish to call attention to the fact that mountain lions are in much greater need of protection than either deer or elk, and that if there really are mountain lions in Colorado National Monument, they certainly should not be exterminated, but should be given every possible protection.

W. B. McDOUGALL
WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN

cc - original
Supt. Nusbaum

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1938.

Mr. Jesse L. Nusbaum,
Superintendent, Mesa Verde National Park,
Colorado.

MAY 3 1938
715
C. H. M.

Dear Mr. Nusbaum:

In the March report of Colorado National Monument submitted through you by James Luther, Ranger-In-Charge, we notice reference to an apparent increase in the number of mountain lions within the monument. Mr. Luther expresses fear that these animals "will have to be exterminated in order to protect the deer and elk calves."

Apparently Ranger Luther has absorbed the attitude of some of the local people and we hope that you will bring to his attention the fact that extermination of predators is in direct contradiction to the established national park policy of protection for all forms of wildlife. A statement of wildlife policies can be found in the National Park Supplement to Planning and Civic Comment, October - December, 1936. One statement having direct application is quoted from Page 19 of the booklet:

"8. No native predator shall be destroyed on account of its normal utilization of any other park animal, unless the latter species is in immediate danger of extermination, and then only if the predator is not itself a vanishing form."

He would also find Fauna No. 1 a useful reference in familiarizing himself with the wildlife policies of the Service, in order that he may more intelligently meet the arguments of local people who, in many cases, seem to regard the national parks solely as reserves for the protection of big game animals. The peculiar local situation at Colorado National Monument arising from introductions of elk and buffalo makes it all the more important that the wildlife situations within the monument should be tactfully handled. Your close association with the problem will enable you, I am sure, to steer Mr. Luther along the right course.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. Bryant,
Assistant Director.

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

MAY 1 - 1938

By *Victor H. Cahalane*
Victor H. Cahalane,
Acting Chief, Wildlife Division.

RECEIVED

Copy - Luther - 5/3/38