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## 1942 War Preparedness Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park

Lawrence Merriam

*Regional Director of the National Park Service*

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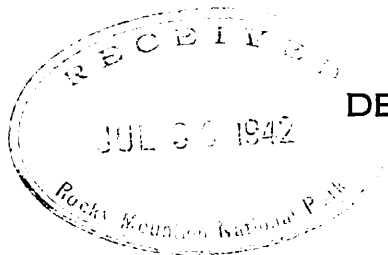
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UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 REGION TWO  
 OMAHA, NEBRASKA

|    |                    |  |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 1  | SUPERINTENDENT     |  |
|    | ASST. SUPT.        |  |
| 5  | CHIEF CLERK        |  |
| 3  | GENERAL SUPERVISOR |  |
| 2  | CHIEF RANGER       |  |
| OR | U. S. COMMISSIONER |  |
| 4  | NATURALIST         |  |
|    | ENGINEER           |  |
| 7  | ARCHITECT          |  |
|    | SHOP               |  |
|    | WAREHOUSES         |  |
|    | BOOK STORE         |  |
|    | PURCHASING CLERK   |  |
|    | PERSONAL CLERK     |  |
|    | TIMERKEEPER        |  |
|    | FILES              |  |

July 29, 1942

**MEMORANDUM for the Director:**

Associate Director Demaray's memorandum of June 9 requested submission, not later than August 1, of an inventory of strategic facilities on Service lands in the eleven far western states, in accordance with Office of Land Utilization Memorandum No. 21.

For Region Two of the National Park Service we are supplying reports from the Superintendents of Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Rocky Mountain National Parks, relating to Service areas located in the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Montana, among the eleven western states designated. In addition to the enclosed reports we offer the following observations and suggestions.

Rocky Mountain National Park - From a broad point of view there is no doubt that watersheds contribute to the functional operation of many facilities and industries essential to the war program. Irrigation for farm lands, municipal water supply, and power are largely dependent upon the water supply originating from extensive watershed areas. It appears, however, that watershed values are more or less of an intangible category rather than of the tangible class as outlined in the Office of Land Utilization Memorandum No. 21. This in no way alters the recognized need for protecting the watersheds from forest fires, contamination and subversive acts by enemy agents.

The greatest threat to watersheds is destruction by forest fires. Specific protection zones have been designated wherein Rocky Mountain National Park recognizes the responsibility for initial action on fires as a safeguarding measure in preventing fires occurring outside of the Park to reach such size and momentum as to sweep across the Park boundary, causing untold damage to forests and facilities both within and outside of the Park. These protection zones are included in the watershed boundaries shown on the attached map.

In all probability the Grand Lake-Big Thompson Diversion Project now under construction is the major project of the strategic facility class in that vicinity and a responsibility for cooperative protection is recognized by the Service, especially in relation to protection of the adjacent watershed areas within the Park against damage by forest fires.

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Biosaur National Monument - The watershed values of the Yampa and Green River drainages are recognized but unfortunately personnel and facilities at the Monument are too limited to provide any measurable degree of protection during fire emergencies.

Other Service Areas in Region Two - As in the case of Rocky Mountain National Park, these other areas also play an important part in the war program because of watershed values which contribute water for many industries and operations. Again protection of these areas against damage by fire, contamination of water resources and subversive acts are the major problems. Linked with this problem of protecting these areas are the protection of radio and telephone facilities, tool caches, look-outs, trails and roads which are essential to forest protection operations.

Highways within the National Park Service areas in Region Two are not classed as defense highways and commercial hauling on park roads is not generally permitted as pointed out in Superintendent Rogers' memorandum. However, as a measure to effect a saving in mileage, one exception has been made by the Secretary of the Interior, as cited in Secretary Ickes' letter of July 6 to Mr. Grever. In this instance authorization was granted to the Husky Refining Company to transport gasoline across park roads in small semi-trailer units at such times, for the duration of the war, when road base conditions would permit. However, we do not consider that this exception places any roads in Yellowstone within the category of major or defense highways.

(SGD.) LAWRENCE C. MERRIAM

Regional Director.

Encl.

cc-Supt., Yellowstone  
Grand Teton  
Rocky Mountain ✓