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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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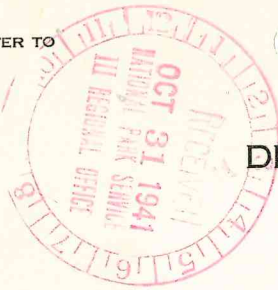
### US Dept of Interior (NPS) Hovenweep National Monument Square Tower Group: Hovenweep Memorandum

National Park Service of the United States

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IN REPLY REFER TO



*CC - sent to McLaughlin,*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Keeline Building  
Omaha, Nebraska

ROUTING  
J. McLaughlin  
Patricia  
Miller  
Carnegie  
McDermott  
file  
McClatchy - 1/7

October 29, 1941

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three:

Reference is made to Refuge Manager Kenneth F. MacDonald's letter of October 27 sending you a design for a buffalo corral for Colorado National Monument. I think you will agree that it is well planned, but there are one or two additional notes that might be added.

At several bison corrals, walkways are built on top of the fences exactly as in stock corrals. It will facilitate handling to use them. Gates can be opened and closed by ropes or long sticks. The sticks may be rake handles with an iron ring in one end attached to the gates (to the catches on the gates) so that a man on top can hold the handle and open and close the gates without trouble. These would be especially useful on the sorting pen where it is often necessary to handle the gates quickly. However, gates should have strong enough catches so that they would not be pushed open by a moving animal.

The truck containing crates is drawn up to the loading chute. The crate "door" is opened and a man stands ready to close it. When the animal enters the crate from the loading chute, the crate "door" must be dropped at once or the buffalo will back out. Of course the crate must be solidly on the truck so that when the animal hits it there will be no danger of toppling it off. The man who closes the crate "door" should not stand on the crate if he can help it because the buffalo may come in fast and jar him off. If you do not have plans for crates, I suggest that you write to Yellowstone for them.

Men experienced at handling cattle can catch the technique of moving buffalo best, but they should be cautioned against entering the corrals on foot - no matter how tame the animals appear.

An electric prod on a fairly long pole may prove useful, especially with an obstreperous bull that stands in the middle of the corral and refuses to be moved. It is sometimes useful in cutting out the animals and for prodding them up the chute.